

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, December 2, 2024, in person at 2405 N. Triphammer Road and via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

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

Public in attendance at the meeting- Shiobhan Hull, Susan Piliero

Zoom: none

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

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. 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 next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from November 14 & 18, 2024. Hardaway was not present at the November 14th meeting, so they needed to be approved separately.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from November 14, 2024

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

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

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from November 18, 2024

Hardaway made a motion to approve the minutes. 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

Siobhan Hull, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), gave a presentation on Lansing Non-Pipes Alternative Program. She explained that population growth in the Ithaca/Lansing Area has resulted in low gas-line pressure since the 2010's. Steady decline in the percentage of Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) led to reliability concerns. A gas moratorium was instituted by NYSEG in February 2017 in Lansing. There have been no new gas connections in Lansing since then. This is due to safety and liability concerns. The originally proposed solution was to increase gas levels by expanding the gas pipeline and/or installing gas compressors to increase pressure along the line. This idea was met with significant pushback from Dryden residents. NYSEG then shifted to a different plan to decrease the amount of gas used in Lansing. NYSEG issued a call for project proposals, which ultimately yielded the Lansing Non-Pipes Alternatives (NPA) Program. The Lansing NPA program was approved in June 2021. The current package of projects are residential heat pumps, education and outreach, commercial ground source heat pump (GSHP), energy efficiency and community GSHP. There are different incentives that are available. Hull stated that they are unsure if the incentive program will extend past June 2025.

Hull feels that the residential heat pump program is the most relevant for Lansing. Earth Sensitive Solutions is a geothermal heat pump system engineering and consulting firm that is able to offer incentives for people to switch off natural gas. There is a tiered incentive system. CCE is tasked with getting information out. CCE also offers free home energy advising. Heat pumps use electricity. The three contractors that Earth Sensitive Solutions deals with are Halco, Vanhee and Dailey Electric. The incentive is based on how much gas usage deduction there is. You must totally disconnect from gas to receive the incentive. Once you disconnect from gas, you cannot get it back.

Hull presented the different incentives that were available to bring the total project down. Bullmer asked what the \$48,000 estimate was based on. Hull stated that this is just a basic example. The cost depends on the size of your house or the type of system you would install. There are NYSEG gas incentives, NYSEG clean heat rebates, Federal and State tax credits that help to decrease the cost of a heat pump.

Hardaway stated that the Village will help get the word out by posting her slideshow on our website and doing an article in the spring newsletter. There was already an article in the Fall Newsletter. Hardaway stated that Climate Smart Task Force meets monthly, and they can discuss this and see if they have any more ideas on how to get information out to the public.

Greenwald asked if NYSEG does not renew the program, are they then going to think about moving forward with building the pipeline or the gas compressor installation. Hull thinks it may be a possibility. Greenwald thinks it would be nice to have both alternatives.

Bullmer explained how these types of programs work overseas. The cost for this type of system in Germany is 32,000 euro. In France the same system is 18,000 euro. The difference is subsidies and grants. He feels that the taxpayer's money is being used to line the pockets of contractors with incentives. Greenwald thinks people should have choices. Hull stated that as the program comes to an end, it would be nice if the municipalities would contact NYSEG and let them know what they would like to see.

Yen feels this is a complex topic and the more information that they get out will help residents to be more informed.

Planning Board Topics

The Planning Board would like to have a joint meeting with the Trustees to discuss future planning items. After consulting with the Planning Board, it was decided that the meeting will be January 13th during the Planning Board meeting.

Resolution #7112- To Schedule a Joint Meeting Between the Board of Trustees and Planning Board for Monday January 13, 2025, at 7pm.

Hardaway made a motion to schedule the joint meeting. 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

Mayor's Comments

Hardaway had nothing to report.

General Comments

Greenwald stated that she called the Village of Dryden and spoke with the clerk about their experience with General Code. They had a positive experience with them. The Village of Dryden budgeted \$10,000 to get their code updated and they ended up spending \$17,000. Greenwald was unaware that General Code did our original update 20 years ago. She likes that it is searchable. Dake asked if there was an annual fee to update the Code. Greenwald will look into this. General Codes can be found online at generalcode.com. How it works is the Village of Lansing Code would be on their website and we would have a link on our webpage to go there. French finds it very user friendly.

Greenwald also spoke with another company, Collier, who has more of a zoning focused. They were pretty expensive. Greenwald stated that the most important thing she learned when talking with them was that when applying for grants, they look at your Comprehensive Plan and how it fits your Smart Growth Program. When updating the Comprehensive Plan, Greenwald would like to look at what parts of the Smart Growth Program we are interested in and make sure they are incorporated. There are also local efficiency grants. It was suggested that we update our Comprehensive Plan then apply for grants. Pro housing wants to see an increase in the number of available units. Greenwald stated that we may or may not want to be pro housing. Hardaway thinks these topics would be a good discussion for our joint meeting. Pro housing community plan and smart growth can be discussed as one of our future goals.

Lorraine Capogrossi, Planning Board member, is joining the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Yen stated that Thursday, December 19th at 5pm is the next Climate Smart Communities meeting. She also reported on some of the Town of Lansing news items including greenway grants and their 2025 budget overview.

Adjournment

Motion- To Adjourn

Hardaway motioned to adjourn. 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 meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer