

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, held at the Village of Lansing 2405 N. Triphammer Road.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, 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:

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Courtney stated that they have been on the low, there have been a few water breaks, he has done a couple of sewer inspections and some snow plowing. It's been a dry month. There are some sewer issues going on at Esty Drive. They subdivided the property at 46 Esty Drive, which was allowed because of the sewer expansion. Dondi and Courtney are working on sewer standards for pump station issues. This will be coming to the Trustees to approve through local law. The Twin Glens pump was decommissioned, and the service guy went through all the alarms with them. It ended up being a stuck float, so they were able to get it back on line. No one is hooked to that sewer line, so they had time to trouble shoot.

Courtney wanted to talk about the salt brine that was discussed at the January 3rd meeting. Salt Brine doesn't work for town or village situations because you need a metered amount to go down. Our snowplows have too many starts and stops and slow movement at times, therefore you can't regulate how much is going down. Salt is the best way to go. The Village tries to be cautious as to how much salt we use. When we plow in the Village, we have to use rubber instead of steel blades because we have manhole covers and storm sewer.

Courtney asked if there was any response to the sewer letter sent. Hardaway stated that he heard from Mayor Woodard of the Village of Cayuga Heights. She requested a copy of our last agreement which was provided to her. Hardaway stated that we need to discuss what our next step will be if we do not get a response. Per our agreement, they are required to respond within 30 days. The rate can be changed after 90 days per 8-a of the agreement. Courtney spoke with Cross about the availability of units. The Village has 347 sewer units available. Hardaway stated that it is up to the Village of Lansing to permit units from this amount. It will basically be first come first served. If a developer has started planning for a project and has not purchased units, there may not be any available. There are limitations to our sewer. Greenwald asked if we should think about development. East Pointe Phase 2 is moving forward with borings and test digs. For that 130-unit project to move forward, Borg Warner will need a lot line adjustment. They are coming to the Planning Board on January 28, 2025. The Planning Board should keep in mind that there are restrictions with sewer units.

Courtney stated that garbage is an issue when residents putting it out days early. With strong winds the trash gets blown everywhere and we are seeing broken glass and trash all over the place.

Bullmer stated that people need to pack their recycling correctly. Dake suggested that Bullmer write an article on recycling for the Spring Newsletter since education is the first step in solving the problem. Ainslie stated that this issue used to be in leases at East Pointe apartments. Dake suggested an alert on SIREN when it is recycling day and high winds are expected. An alternative would be to fine people. Bullmer stated that one problem with LED streetlights is that there are bright spots and dark spots, so you don't see the recycling laying in the roads where it is dark.

Hardaway asked Courtney when Dart Drive streetlights would be installed. Courtney stated that they have everything and will install when the temperature gets above 30 degrees. Graham Road lights were activated.

Hardaway asked what happened with the complaint regarding lighting of the Northwood/Warren sign. The Solomon Group has placed calls about the lights. Courtney does not see an issue. Hardaway asked Courtney to monitor it. Hardaway thinks we may need to add a streetlight at the intersection.

Courtney has notified NYSEG that we have a lot of streetlights out in the Village. The 150-watt lights that we are having converted to 50-watt LED still have not been converted. Once they are converted it will save the Village money. Courtney stated that they have a certain amount of time to fix the issues, and he will keep on top of that.

Zavaski stated that he pushed up salt yesterday.

Dean stated that he is keeping the sidewalks and trails clear. He picked up 80 holiday trees in the last two days. This number keeps going down each year with people buying artificial trees.

Zavaski & Dean left the meeting to plow.

Scott stated that the 1203 report and the annual MS4 report are due by April 1st. Scott is still working out some bugs with fire inspections. R-2, hotels and assembly areas are now on a yearly inspection cycle. This year's inspections should go a little smoother than last year. Scott has been doing fire inspections for a year now and it seems to be going well.

Scott attended the annual Code & County meeting which included Tompkins County Planning and Assessment. One of the topics of discussion was the county taking over address assignment in every municipality, but it was decided that each municipality would continue to do their own. Another topic was whether to have a County Stormwater Manager. It seems that each municipality does not have an issue with the field work but the paperwork that is required by DEC is extensive. There will be continuing discussions on this topic.

Another discussion was about whether we should have contractors get countywide licensed to work in the county, similar to getting licenses for electric and plumbing in the City of Ithaca. One of the questions was do we want a standardized test for contractors to take. The State already has the draft tests if we wanted to use them. Scott is for it because he has seen too many contractors that have no idea what they are doing. Scott will keep Hardaway informed on these discussions. Scott is in the 2nd part of a 4-part series for Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

wetland changes. Existing wetland maps are now being used only as guidelines. New rules require an application to DEC, and they will determine if there are wetlands and what setbacks are needed. DEC will let us know once an official change is made. The ultimate responsibility is for the code officer to let the developers know about the DEC wetland process.

There were no Planning Board meetings to report on.

Dake stated that we started using the Siren Program to communicate with Village residents. We have informed them of water main breaks and of holiday tree pick up. Dake plans to include an article on SIREN in the Spring Newsletter. Hardaway will add a SIREN sign up link at the top of our webpage.

Dake informed the board that Chapter 609 requires municipalities to maintain an official “.gov” website and post specific information that would be of interest to their residents, including hours of operation, public hearing notices and an annual financial report. We have all this information on our current website, but we will have to transfer to “.gov”. Dake sent an email to Wade at NYCOM and he stated that Chapter 609 is going to be amended in a couple of weeks to extend the December 21, 2025, deadline for compliance. The process of converting to .gov will take several months. NYCOM will be doing training on this subject soon. Hardaway doesn’t think there is a charge for a .gov website. The government will control the hosting company which should provide more security. Currently we are with inmotion.

Water/Sewer payments are due by the 20th. There is no meeting on January 20th since it is a federal holiday.

The following is the schedule for budget discussions:

February 3rd -start our Budget talks

February 13th - continue discussions at the noon meeting

February 17th-there is no meeting (Presidents Day)

March 3rd and 13th-continue discussions

March 17th -finalize budget and set a public hearing for April 7th.

The budget needs to be approved before April 15th.

Dake asked if there were any questions before approving vouchers. Greenwald and Hardaway had questions which were answered.

Resolution #7118- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 8 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$63,070.51 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 8 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$245,212.42 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 8 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$11,953.16 is hereby approved for payment.

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

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

Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye

Motion-To Approve December 12, 2024, Minutes

Trustee Hardaway moved that the draft meeting notes, as reviewed and revised by the Clerk/Treasurer and the Board, are hereby adopted as the official minutes. Trustee Bullmer seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Hardaway stated that Dake informed him that we have a problem with a potential homeless person hanging out in the foyer. Hardaway will look into getting a remote lock on the front door and our different options. Ainslie stated that no matter what it costs, we need to protect our employees. Courtney informed the Trustees of another incident that happened in the village. Hardaway asked the staff to keep if informed of any future incidents.

Greenwald stated that grant applications are being accepted again. This is the same funding we received this year to do the bulb planting. The Board would like Greenwald to see if we can get the grant again this year. It was suggested that we consider doing banners, trees or bulbs again.

Greenwald is looking to get updated maps to be included in the updated Comprehensive Plan. She contacted Tompkins County, and they suggested that she contacted GIS. GIS told her that they only have two people in our office. The Unique Natural Area map can be obtained through DEC and Scott can get that. Greenwald will also call TG Miller for maps. Darby Kiley should also have updated maps. Cornell Cooperative Extension may also have some suggestions for more sources.

Yen stated that she received a link from John Dennis with his PowerPoint from the January 6th meeting which she shared with the Trustees. She still has concerns with the impacts of mining. She asked if the Trustees wanted to pass a resolution on this subject and no one was interested. Individuals can submit a concern until January 19th.

Yen asked if we are tracking our energy usage and if we were reducing our usage. Hardaway has been entering our usage into Energy Star. There has been more energy usage. One of the factors affecting our usage is the weather. Our administration building is new and well insulated. Hardaway gathers data from NYSEG every July and it goes into the energy portfolio manager. It goes up and down with no drastic changes. Hardaway will make a report and send it. The village is proactive and does the right things before it is required.

Motion- To Adjourn

Hardaway moved for adjournment. Trustee Yen seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer