

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at the Village of Lansing 2405 N. Triphammer Road.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees Susan Ainslie, Pat Gillespie, Carolyn Greenwald, Kathleen Yen; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Code & Zoning Officer, Mike Scott; Supt. of Public Works, John Courtney; MEO, Chris Zavaski

Zoom: none

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

Courtney stated that Hardaway is working on setting up a meeting with the Town of Lansing and Village of Cayuga Heights to discuss the sanitary sewer agreement.

Courtney didn't have a chance to talk to Michele Palmer about administering a grant. Some grants are complex and he didn't know if we should hire a grant administrator for the Uptown /Craft Sidewalk Project. Greenwald stated that Palmer is working with the TOL and she just met her. Greenwald likes the fact that she works closely with TG Miller. Greenwald stated that we could also do it ourselves. Dake stated that the Village will need to check her rates and see if anyone else does this same type of work. Courtney thinks this is a very specialized service. NYCOM and NYSDEC can be other sources that we can check for others that do this type of work. Hardaway stated that he looked at her website which was very professional. (Templeton Landscape Architecture & Planning of Ithaca) It looks like Palmer is very experienced and would be a good candidate. Greenwald will call them.

Greenwald stated that she asked Palmer when she thought we could do the work. Palmer told her that you can do the work first and hope for the best or wait for the green light to do the project. We probably won't get the grant money until September. Courtney stated that we want to go out to bid now. Greenwald will call the grant office. Dake wondered why this is so much more complicated than when we did the N. Triphammer Road project with both federal and state funding. Dake stated that she did all the submissions for that. Hardaway stated that he was afraid this would add a large administrative workload on to Dakes already busy schedule. Dake stated that she would have to be the one to gather all the information anyways.

Courtney has been reviewing the vehicle policy. He does not like that all the responsibilities and liabilities are on the driver. Dake pointed out that our insurance is totally different than the policy. Courtney stated that legal already reviewed it. He feels it is not good for the employees and that there also need to be responsibilities on the Village.

Courtney asked if anyone got anything from surrounding municipalities for the spoils policy. Yen said she got samples from NYCOM. This is a delicate situation because there are not a lot of places you can dump spoils. When you add a letter of permission, it makes it difficult to get rid of spoils. Courtney stated that Tompkins County dumps anywhere they can. Courtney feels that the way it

is written we may have to start paying to get rid of material. A spoils policy needs to be for the Village benefit. Courtney feels this policy has morphed into a disadvantage to the Village. Greenwald suggested that Yen and Gillespie take another look at the policy. Courtney feels that the attorney is adding legal ease that is complicating it. Courtney has made some edits and will forward them to the Board.

Yen asked if this is something we are using now. Courtney stated that we have a property release. That is what we give to people when the Village contractors use a person's property for storage of equipment or stockpiling of stone. Yen asked Courtney to send her the property release that they are currently using. Courtney stated that Dubow developed it many years ago and it morphed by adding sections to it. Dake request copies of these releases because she has never seen them. Courtney stated that the engineer does them and they go into the capital project file for the project. Dake is concerned with record retention and if those files are in the DPW Office they need to be noted. Courtney's main concern is what the neighboring municipalities are doing. Yen will meet with Courtney & Scott to work on further amends.

Courtney stated that during the last pay period there was an abundance of overtime but not much this pay period. Hardaway stated that we have had some extreme weather.

Courtney stated that we're the only municipality that hasn't had a water main break in months. Our proactive approach makes a big difference. We plan for safety.

Zavaski stated that he has been plowing and maintaining the equipment. Dean is out taking care of the sidewalks.

Scott stated that yesterday was the annual county code meeting. Last year they were pushing for Tompkins County to be responsible for managing street numbering. It got rejected because the county did not get funding to hire a part time person to do it. Currently it is the code officer's responsibility. Courtney stated that Cortland County does all the number assignments in Cortland County.

Scott stated that at the annual meeting they also talked about having a common court system for just building code violations. They are looking at what the cost would be to have this type of system. City of Ithaca and Town of Dryden came up with the idea. They are going to figure out how much it would cost each municipality to have this system and who would give permission to do this. Hardaway thinks it is an interesting idea. Hardaway thinks there needs to be a good presentation to get approval from Tompkins County for this. Scott stated that we do not have as many violation issues as some other municipalities do.

Scott stated that there is a state registry for short term rental and Tompkins County also has a registry. There is some confusion on whether one should register with the state and/or the county.

Wetland maps are guidelines and you turn in your tax parcel application. If you did not hear back in 90 days then there were no wetlands on the property. NYSDEC is so backlogged that now you must submit a letter to NYSDEC requesting that they review it.

Scott stated that another interesting topic was modulars. The state is responsible for all code requirements regarding modulars. As a local code officer we look at how it is put together. Now you have to be a registered code officer to inspect these modulars before they leave the factory.

They also talked about a county-wide registry for HVAC. City of Ithaca recommended it because they already have to have registered electricians and plumbers. Scott does not see this proceeding. There is a national test that can be used for this.

Greenwald sent Scott contact information on the gentleman they met with at NYCOM from NYS Building Standards and Codes. He may be a good resource for the group.

Lastly, at the annual code meeting they had someone from the Department of State recommending that when using the energy code for plan review that we have an outside service review it. Scott disagrees with that. He would like to keep it in house. NYS does provide you with a sheet of what you have to look for.

Scott will start the annual 1203, complete the annual MS4 and update our stormwater maintenance plan.

Dake stated that she is just returning from vacation and has not had a chance to go through the pile on her desk. Vouchers were completed last week before she left for vacation. Hardaway asked if anyone had any questions on the vouchers.

Resolution #7233- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 8 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$52,398.87 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 8 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$137.57 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 8 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$209,870.04 is hereby approved for payment.

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Pat Gillespie-Aye
Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye

Greenwald stated that the Town of Lansing got an estimate from TG Miller for a trail from the Lansing Schools to Myers Park. When Greenwald first joined the trail committee the cost was \$500,000 but now it is up to \$800,000. This just shows how much the costs have increased in 3 years. Greenwald stated that she raised the issue of the town building the trail using their DPW Department. They will be looking into that.

The Greenway Committee will be meeting January 26th. Greenwald stated that she had asked them for beautification grant ideas. Hardaway thinks they are a good source for coming up with potential projects.

Greenwald would like to do a resolution in February to form the Commercial Area Advisory Committee (CAAC). Hardaway recommended that when you have a meeting there should be prior notice of a resolution. Yen suggested that we make sure quorums are defined based on membership.

Greenwald stated that Tompkins County Cooperative Extension (TCCE) asked us to do a press release on the grant we received. Jerry made a first draft and Greenwald made some edits. Dake stated that there was already an announcement of the award in the paper. TCCE still wants the Village to do our own press release. Hardaway suggested we put it on our website and send it to our listserve. Yen stated that we should include the statement that NYSDEC requires.

Gillespie stated that he attended the Joint Youth Commission meeting on Tuesday night. Commission members were concerned by the decrease in intern scholarships being offered by the Learning Web. There was also concern that Joshua Jahani, our volunteer for the Village, has not been responding to emails. Gillespie will reach out by Cornell email. If there is no response Hardaway will also try.

Yen reported that Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) is meeting on the 28th from 3-5pm. The CSC Taskforce meets the last Thursday of the month from 1-2pm. Environmental Management Council met and discussed the Dryden Unique Natural Area Sites letter which is on the Tompkins County website. NYCOM emailed the State of the State initiatives. There is a survey through the city where GIAC is looking into the need for 24/7 childcare. Contact Kay Moore, program coordinator for the HEAP Program, for information and a link to the survey. The Water Resources Council is scheduled to meet next Monday 26th at 4:15pm.

Hardaway stated that our Charter Cable Franchise Agreement has gone through approvals. He would like to set a public hearing using the document approved by Attorney French for the first meeting in February. Charter has accepted our revisions. Courtney stated that he is having maintenance issues. The agreement is all about fees not the maintenance aspect.

Resolution #7234-To Set a Public Hearing Regarding Granting a Cable Television Franchise Agreement by and Between the Village of Lansing and Spectrum Northeast, LLC an Indirect Subsidiary of Charter Communications for Monday February 2, 2026, at 7:36pm

Mayor Hardaway moved to set a public hearing. Trustee Greenwald seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Pat Gillespie-Aye
Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye

Dake will place the required legal ad in the Ithaca Journal.

Hardaway is working on setting up a meeting with the Town of Lansing (Tol) and the Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH) to discuss the 2019 Intermunicipal Sewer Agreement. We rejected the TOL proposed changings. Hardaway stated that he doesn't have a signed copy of that agreement. Dake will send him a signed copy of the Intermunicipal Wastewater Transportation and Treatment Agreement from April 2019.

Courtney asked if Brent Cross got any information on the unit counts. Hardaway does not have anything on the unit count. Brent Cross is in Florida and will be retiring from the VCH soon. He will have to zoom into the next meeting. There were 12 people invited and Hardaway has received seven responses. Courtney and Dondi, TG Miller engineer, will work on getting technical items that they wish to see added to the agreement. Hardaway is trying to set up a meeting for Tuesday 20th at 1:30 here at the Village office. We will offer them the window of opportunity to submit changes. Courtney stated that Cross was sending a letter because technically they are over on Cherry Road units. Courtney will present that at the meeting.

Greenwald is still waiting for feedback on the Comprehensive Plan and hopes to set a public hearing at the first February meeting. Greenwald asked Scott to look over the wetland section one more time.

Hardaway is happy we have found a potential grant administrator. He was impressed with Palmer's website and experience. We will get other estimates before we commit. Courtney suggested hiring on an hourly basis rather than a percentage.

Hardaway stated that he was a consultant in Texas, and he learned that best policy is not necessary the best practice. We need to be practical. Dake stated that when we have developed policies in the past, we have gotten the staff involved because they are the ones that deal with the policy on a daily basis. Hardaway stated that we are small enough that we can do good things quickly. Hardaway stated that he is proud to be working here.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Pat Gillespie-Aye
Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer