

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at LaFayette Town Hall and live on Facebook.

Present: William McConnell, Supervisor  
Melanie Palmer, Councilor  
Jerry Marzo, Councilor  
Nate Loughlin, Councilor  
Carole Dwyer, Councilor (remote attendance via Zoom)

Deputy Supervisor: Mark Distler  
Recording Secretary: Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk  
Attorney: Jeff Brown  
Budget Officer: Marty Knapp  
Others Present: Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement  
Steve Robson, Highway Superintendent  
Dave Prince, Parks & Rec  
Jessica Rice, Library Director  
Sean Doolittle, LaFayette Fire Dept.  
Ashlie Carrier, LaFayette Ambulance & TOL Facilities Manager  
Steve Pitoniak, Safety Manager  
Several residents

1. Supervisor McConnell called the meeting to order.
2. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn took the roll. Councilor Dwyer absent at first then later joined via Zoom. All others present.
3. Pledge to our U. S. Flag led by Councilor Marzo.
4. Motion to accept regular meeting of March 12. 2024 Town Board minutes

**R-37-24 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to accept the March 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn. Motion carried 4-0.**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Donation to the LaFayette VFW for the Memorial Day Parade  
Supervisor Mconnell stated that the VFW is looking for monetary support as we have done in the past in the amount of \$500.00.

**R-38-24 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to approve the VFW's request for support in the amount of**

**\$500 for the 2024 Memorial Day Parade. Motion carried 4-0**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

B. Resignation of Justice Court Clerks JoAnne Smith & Katie Romancik

**R-39-24 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to reluctantly accept the resignations of Justice Court Clerks JoAnne Smith and Katie Romancik effective June 1, 2024. Motion carried 4-0.**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

C. Cardiff Water District Update - Deputy Supervisor Distler provided an update since the March meeting. He said that project funding requests were submitted to Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand and Congressman Williams. He also reminded the Board of the income survey and letter that was sent out, and that door knocking will be conducted this month for those who did not respond. He reminded them that the income survey results will help the Town better position itself for funding.

Deputy Supervisor Distler stated that a bond is needed for the next funding source (WIA) due in mid-June. He said that a bond resolution will need to be introduced at the May meeting and a public hearing needs to be held at the June meeting. Shortly after the May meeting, the Town can expect an engineering report for the water district upgrade, including the upgrade cost estimate needed for the bond resolution.

Supervisor McConnell explained the difference between bond and the possibility of a bond anticipation note (BAN). He said both are required by the grant application even though the goal is to get the project 100% funded by grants

D. Letter of Support, Onondaga Man Marathon - Supervisor McConnell informed that he was contacted by Mark Wilson in 2023 about his intent to have a race "The Onondaga Man", much like the previously held "Iron Man", on June 1, 2024, and was looking for approval to support this race via his letter of support, which is included in the packet. The race will go through a portion

of the Town of LaFayette Board members in attendance were in agreed to provide support.

**R-40-24 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to authorize Supervisor McConnell to sign a letter of support for the Onondaga Man Triathlon in June 2024. Motion carried 4-0.**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

E. Apple Fest Field Facilities Improvements - Councilor Nate Loughlin advised that the former Toolon fields located on the Apple Festival property is primarily being used by the LCC for lacrosse & soccer. He is looking for financial support from the Town to purchase netting to keep balls from going into the road to protect kids and cars. He mentioned that later he will propose funding to update the bathroom facilities. This funding would come from our remaining ARPA fund of \$223K. Councilor Loughlin advised that they would be going with the lower of the two quotes he received from Sports Builders, not to exceed \$5k.

**R-41-24 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$5,000.00 of ARPA Funds for netting for the sports fields at the Apple Festival grounds. Motion carried 4-0.**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

F. Community Center Kitchen Layout - While attending the meeting via Zoom, Councilor Dwyer advised that the design of the renovated kitchen at the Community Center is complete. She mentioned the design involves: continuing the flooring from the main floor through the kitchen, replacing all the appliances, adding white cabinetry and stainless steel shelving. She will continue to work with C & S throughout this project. Supervisor McConnell advised that Amidon Construction should be starting work on the front porch next week, and showed photos of the newly renovated and ADA compliant bathrooms.

G. Introduction - John & Kate Morgan - John and Kate Morgan, owners of the LaFayette Inn, spoke to the Board about their interest in owning and operating

the planned rehabilitated Crossroads Building for use as a restaurant and hotel. They said they are talking with Hanover about partnering on the project but need two more months to make their final decision. They answered some questions from the Board. One such question was about the stabilization work to be conducted under one of the NYS grants.

Deputy Supervisor Distler then presented a few slides about the 2024 schedule for the project including a breakdown and schedule of the stabilization work, assuming the Morgan's decide they are willing to pursue an agreement before the May meeting. He explained that work is proceeding right away and slightly ahead of an agreement is because the grant funded work, as required by the grant, needs to be completed by November.

6. COMMUNICATONS FROM THE PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER - After some mention from the community about a soon-to-be proposed wind energy project mainly in the Town of Otisco on top of Bear Mountain, Supervisor McConnell said he was notified of the project by the Otisco supervisor who said hisTown was not in favor of the project and recently approved a resolution in that regard. He also said that the wind energy company is going to be at the Town of Tully board meeting the next day to inform the community about the project.

Some community members expressed concerned about a State RAPID Act that reportedly would ignore local laws and input for the project. Supervisor McConnell asked LACC Chairperson Distler to explain what he knows so far. He said that the project falls under the State's jurisdiction (Article X), which requires an environmental impact statement and local public input (via hearings). He said he had not heard about the RAPID Act before that evening and would research it for the Board's education.

7. BOARD ACTION- No Town Board actions at this time.

## 8. REPORTS

### A. Departmental

#### 1. Town Supervisor

a. March Monthly report - advised that we are almost 20% under spent on the Highway Budget, Court fines are doing well, General fund - the NYCLASS interest on pace to the be above what we budgeted.

b. Transfer of appropriations- No transfers at this time.

2. Attorney - Nothing further to report.

#### 3. Highway Superintendent Report April 2024

Roads: Miscellaneous general maintenance to our roads, shoulders, ditches and culverts will continue through the spring as weather permits. All snow removal equipment is ready and preparations for summer work have begun.

Snow and ice ops have been performed 10 times since the last town board meeting. On April 3, 2024 we encountered some storm damage due to heavy rain. All roads impacted have been cleaned up.

Highway Business: Our annual PESH (Public Employee Safety & Health) training will be completed on April 18, 2024. This training seminar will include multiple surrounding towns at the same time. The Town of LaFayette Highway Dept. also completes a bi-weekly training called "Tool-Box Talks and Video's". This safety program was implemented in the spring of 2021 and Thomas Kurtz was appointed as our Town of Lafayette Highway Department safety officer. Some of Tom's duties are to make sure that all highway employees are using PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) at all times in the shop as well as in the field. He also preforms our bi-weekly Tool-Box Talk and video training that touches on topics of work that we will be doing in the near future.

4. Town Clerk

a. Monthly report for March 2024

b. Update - Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn advised that Library president Ruthanne Shute inquired about our incident reports and wanted to be sure we were utilizing the same forms. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn advised the Town Board about the forms we are utilizing, although we have not had to use them in quite a while.

c. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn also advised that Donna & Dave Knapp purchased a new vacuum for the Town Hall and the donated one we received graciously from the Brodt's will be put at the Community Center as there is very little carpeting there (only the throw rugs int the doorway). A voucher has been submitted for their reimbursement.

5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES

a. March 2024 Building Permits - Written report is on file with Town Clerk

6. Justice Court - March 2024 Justice Reports

Judge Perrin had 140 and turned over \$11,435.00 to the Town of LaFayette for March 2024.

Judge Shute had 150 cases and turned over \$10,360.00 to the Town of LaFayette for March 2024.

7. Parks - report is on file with the Town Clerk

8. Library Director - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk

9. LCC - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk

10. LaFayette Fire / Ambulance Department - report is on file with the Town Clerk

11. Dog Control - report is on file with the Town Clerk

B. Committee Reports

1. LACC (Mark Distler) - report is on file with the Town Clerk, Chairperson Distler requested the Board to approve another 1-year term for Kelly Wypych and Amy Roe.

Mr. Distler also asked the Board to approve Payton Kremers for a 1-year term as Chair, spanning June 2024 to June 2025.

Mr. Distler also said the Town has been notified of its eligibility for a Clean Energy Community grant for \$10k and free energy audit, as discussed at the February meeting. He said there is some paperwork to complete before we get the official grant award, and that he will notify the Board when the energy audit is scheduled for the Community Center. He reminded the Board that the grant may be used for insulation provided it is a recommendation from the energy audit.

**R-42-24 Councilor Loughlin moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Kelly Wypych for another 1-year term to the LACC. Motion carried 4 – 0**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**R-43-24 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Amy Roe for another 1-year term to the LACC. Motion carried 4 – 0**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**R-44-24 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Payton Kremers as the Chair of the LACC. Motion carried 4 – 0**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Nate Loughlin                      Councilor                      Voted                      Yes**

2. Safety & Facility Maintenance (Ashlie Carrier & Steve Pitoniak) - reports are on file with the Town Clerk.

9. NEW BUSINESS -  
 a. Executive Session -

**R-45-24                      Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to move into executive session at 7:38 pm to discuss matters regarding the employment history of a particular employee. Motion carried 4 – 0**

**William McConnell                      Supervisor                      Voted                      Yes**  
**Melanie Palmer                      Councilor                      Voted                      Yes**  
**Jerry Marzo                      Councilor                      Voted                      Yes**  
**Nate Loughlin                      Councilor                      Voted                      Yes**

**R-46-24                      Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to move out of executive session at 8:08 pm. Motion carried 4 – 0**

**William McConnell                      Supervisor                      Voted                      Yes**  
**Melanie Palmer                      Councilor                      Voted                      Yes**  
**Jerry Marzo                      Councilor                      Voted                      Yes**  
**Nate Loughlin                      Councilor                      Voted                      Yes**

10. Motion to audit & pay bills

<b><u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Check #'s</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>21564-21566-21589, 21591,21595, 21597, 21600, 21605, 21607, 21609, 21613</b>	<b>\$83,872.33\$</b>
<b>Highway Fund</b>	<b>21566, 21567, 21596, 21598, 21599, 21601- 21605, 21608, 21610 - 21612, 21614</b>	<b>\$28,809.24</b>
<b>Library Fund</b>	<b>21566 &amp; 21567</b>	<b>\$2,600.28</b>
<b>Cardiff Water Dist</b>	<b>21590</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>LaFayette Fire Dept</b>	<b>21563</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>

**R-47-24**      **Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 4 - 0.**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**R-48-24**      **Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm. Motion carried 4-0**

<b>William McConnell</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melanie Palmer</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jerry Marzo</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nate Loughlin</b>	<b>Councilor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk