

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held by the Town Board of the Town of LaFayette on March 11, 2002 in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building on Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Gregory J. Scammell, Supervisor
Norman F. Paul, Councilor
Sandra Smith, Councilor
David Knapp, Councilor
Thomas Bailey, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent
Ralph Lamson, C.E.O.
Karyn Connolly, Town Attorney

1. Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Scammell asked for a moment of silence for firefighters Timothy “T.J.” Lynch of Manlius and John Ginocchetti of Cazenovia who gave their lives to the community at this weeks fire in Pompey.

2. The Town Clerk took the Roll. All were present.
3. Councilor Knapp led in the Pledge to the U. S. Flag.
4. **Councilor’s Knapp moved and Bailey seconded the motion to accept the February 25, 2002 Town Board Meeting Minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Residents.

Councilor Knapp said as a resident and a member of the Optimist Club he would like to make a presentation. Every year the Optimist Club gives some Certificates of Appreciation to people who help the Optimist Club or the community in general. He presented Leon Cook with a Certificate of Appreciation for all he does at the parks and everything else.

Leon said thank you and he really appreciates it.

B. NYS Governor George Pataki: Miscellaneous topics.

“Fallout From September 11th...The scope of the disaster to the world’s financial and trade center cannot be underestimated. Thousands of businesses were harmed and tens of thousands of jobs were lost. The fallout in business investment and profits, capital gains, and consumer spending has spread throughout the State and across the Nation. Tax revenues have been decimated. New York State is facing a budget shortfall in this and the upcoming fiscal year totaling \$6.8 billion. That figure represents more than 25 percent of the total amount we collect each year in personal income taxes...”

Supervisor Scammell noted New York States’ credit rating has improved.

C. OCRRA: Waste-To-Energy Plant update.

“OCRRA has maintained a steady communication process with the community’s elected leaders on all matters related to trash and recycling. We will continue that process with this update. Please be assured that OCRRA plans to continue to provide reliable and cost-effective trash disposal service to the 33 Onondaga County Municipalities that we serve. Recent news about OCRRA and the Waste-To-Energy Plant was precipitated by the dynamic financial problems of Covanta Energy Corporation. Since December 27, 2001, the credit rating experts at Moody’s have downgraded Covanta three times. Each downgrade was to a progressively lower non-investment rating. They have Covanta on review for further downgrade. As a result, OCRRA sought financial guarantees from Covanta. And Covanta failed to provide those guarantees. This led to OCRRA’s action to terminate the contract with Covanta. OCRRA needs to be certain that the Waste-To-Energy Plant will always operate in the safe, reliable, and environmentally correct way it has historically operated. The financial guarantees would have allowed OCRRA to retain comfort with Covanta. Absent those guarantees, we take steps to control the plant via contract termination. Through either a replacement operator or its Transfer Stations, OCRRA will provide long-term disposal options for the community’s non-recyclable trash...”

D. NYS Office of Real Property Services: Residential Assessment Ratio.

Supervisor Scammell noted for the time frame of 7/1/2000 through 6/30/2001 of sales, the Town of LaFayette’s Residential Assessment Ratio is at 95.05.

“...The Residential Assessment Ratio was established as the median ratio in the list of ratios of assessment to sale price sorted in ascending order. The ratios in the list were calculated by simply dividing the total assessed value by the total selling price of each sale...”

Councilor Knapp asked if this is the same as our Equalization Rate.

Supervisor Scammell would say it is.

Karyn said she would say yes but she can check it out and get back on it.

Councilor Knapp said it seems like at an earlier meeting it was stated if we were above either 95 or 97, they round it up.

E. Onondaga County Legislature: Agenda.

“...15th District – Mr. Kinne. Requesting the Onondaga County Commissioner of Personnel to coordinate a review of compliance by County officers and employees with the Onondaga County Residency Requirement...”

F. Voting Machine Service Center: New voting machine problems.

Supervisor Scammell said this was a letter sent to Mary Jo. It states voting is not without its problems along the way. There’s an article attached about Florida.

Councilor Knapp said the letter is from the company who services our current machines. He thinks some of the more common problems with the newer proposed election machines are storage, batteries and moisture, etc.

Councilor Paul believes money was also an issue.

G. Association of Towns: Brochure & resolutions.

Supervisor Scammell said the resolutions are in here along with some other information. He had an Onondaga County Supervisor's Meeting this week. They discussed the speed limits. Some wanted to set it themselves and others didn't.

Councilor Knapp asked if we were liable if we set the incorrect speed limit.

Supervisor Scammell said right now we can't but he if this does go through, he doesn't think so.

Councilor Paul noted you never see anyone from our area on the Resolution Committee.

Supervisor Scammell said he doesn't know how they pick the members for this Committee.

H. Fiscal Policy Institute: NYS 2002-2003 budget.

Supervisor Scammell said this will be sponsored by the New York State United Teachers on Thursday, March 7, 2002 from 2pm to 4pm. It's about Balancing New York State's 2002-2003 Budget. The date has passed for this briefing but Supervisor Scammell can try to get information about if for anyone who would like it.

I. Lawrence Motors: Used police vehicles.

J. NYS Public Service Commission: Environmental Disclosure Consumer Guide.

"...Over the next few months, the Commission will implement its Environmental Disclosure program. Electric customers in the state will receive their first-ever Environmental Disclosure Label with their electric bills, showing the mix of fuels used to generate their electricity and the air emissions that result. For the first time, consumers will have the ability to take environmental impacts into account when choosing their electricity suppliers..."

Councilor Knapp asked if there were options...you can pick your carrier but can you pick the source too?

Supervisor Scammell doesn't believe you can. You can pick a supplier that they contract with that might only supply energy by solar power, etc. You might be able to find someone who was generating electricity the way you feel better about but that power will not be tagged for you home. A copy of the Environmental Disclosure is attached.

K. Family Ties Network: 2nd Hand Smoke.

"You may have heard about a local initiative to strengthen the clean indoor air act to protect workers and the public from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in public places and worksites in Onondaga County. The need for this public health policy is urgent and we need your help. The same diseases that strike those who smoke also plague nonsmokers who live or work where there is secondhand smoke; heart disease, cancer and respiratory infections to name a few...Now, Onondaga County has an opportunity to do something about this problem. On Thursday, March 4th at 10:00 at the Onondaga County Courthouse, County Legislator Bob Warner will introduce a bill that would eliminate secondhand smoke from most public places and worksites in the county. You are invited to attend this press conference..."

Karyn said this was introduced.

Councilor Knapp said they didn't vote yet. They are just discussing it now.

L. Syracuse Post-Standard, 3.6.02: CNY Unemployment figures.

“Unemployment in the Syracuse area rose in January to its highest level since 1995 as the Central New York economy continued to feel the recession. The unemployment rate in the four-county area reached 6.3 percent in January, up from 5.3 percent in December and 5.4 percent in January 2001...The area lost 100 jobs in January compared with the same month last year. Most of the bad news was produced by the manufacturing sector, the hardest hit by the recession...The last time the unemployment rate got as high as 6.3 percent was February 1995. It also hit 6.3 percent in January of that year. The last time it exceeded 6.3 percent in a January was in 1994, when it was 7.2 percent. Job losses were not the only reason for the rise in unemployment. There were 7,400 more people in the work force in January than there were in January 2001...Despite the net loss of 100 jobs, the area’s job total of 343,400 in January was the second highest job count for any January on record...”

Councilor Knapp said Cortland was at 10.1 percent for the same time period.

M. Other. – None

6. **SPECIAL REPORT:** None.

7. **REPORTS:**

A. Departmental (4th Monday).

1) Animal Control.

- Update ordinance to dogs only and change from animal control to dog control.

2) Building & Zoning Code Enforcement.

- Muraco properties.

3) Highway Superintendent.

4) Justice.

5) Library Director.

6) Recreation Director.

7) Town Clerk.

8) Town Supervisor.

B. Committee (2nd Monday).

1) Communications and Technology.

- Web site project status (MF).

Supervisor Scammell said Mike Forte sent an email stating the subdivision regulations are on the web along with the latest Town Board meeting Minutes. He suggested putting a calendar on so people could see upcoming meeting dates, deadlines for applications, etc.

It was suggested Pat Keefe could send the disk with the LaFayette News on it to Mike to be posted on the web. Mary Jo will ask her about this.

2) Emergency Response.

Leon said they had a Safety Meeting a week ago with Tom Rezsnyak and he was very very concerned about us filling this report out. We should limit ourselves to a minimum. They call it the Hazardous Material Plan and it's to say what the town's going to do in case we have a hazardous material spill. They have another Safety Meeting on the 19th of March and Councilor's Paul and Bailey will be attending this meeting. They will fill this paperwork out first and then have Mary Jo type it up. Supervisor Scammell will have to sign it and we will send a copy in, keep a copy in the Town Offices and another copy at the Highway Garage. They have a Safety Meeting at the Highway Department with Tom Rezsnyak the 15th and 26th to catch up on all these safety meetings that they were behind on. Otisco was trying to set up some kind of deal with an instructor to come in and teach what they have to have. They couldn't get anyone so Leon got Mr. Prescott from Empire Safety to come. His cost is \$700. He said we can go together with other towns. They are going to hold it the 27th and 28th of this month. Otisco has to have these classes in by the 28th.

Councilor Paul asked what he is covering for \$700.

Leon said it's an 8 hour course which covers personnel protective assessment, Hazmat, Hazcom, Lock out and Tag out and a short time on trenching. The Village of Tully has 3 attending, the Town of Tully has 5, Otisco has 6 and we have 8. There's 22 people. It will cost the Town of LaFayette \$256 to take this class. Mr. Prescott will charge the Town of LaFayette and the other departments will pay us for it.

Councilor Paul asked if Leon was supposed to be filling out the papers for mileage for documentation for next year for the county contract. It's going to be kind of skimpy this year.

Leon said it's going to be a bad year for us to ask for more money. They are filling out the necessary paperwork. Last year we got hit and this year it was easy. They will have to have tailgate safety meetings a couple of times a month at the Highway Dept. He will hold these in the morning. These meetings are just to remind the men about the meetings they have already had and the things they have talked about. It's something the law requires us to do so we just have to do it. It's to all our benefit.

Councilor Smith asked Karyn what legally we are responsible for regarding the Hazmat. How far do we have to take it?

Councilor Knapp said basically if something spilled over on Route 81, do we have to do more than rope off the area, etc?

Karyn will check on this.

Councilor Bailey is in the process of compiling a list of plans for the facilities in LaFayette to use in case of an emergency.

3) Employee Policies and Benefits.

- Benefits package evaluation (disability, health insurance, other).

4) Environmental and Conservation Advisory Board.

5) Highway.

- New EPA ditching/storm water management requirements (SPDES).

6) OCCRA Liaison.

- Inter-municipal trash district - exploratory study (Feb/Mar, 2002).

Councilor Knapp said they have set the dates for informational meetings in each town. Tully is scheduled for the 27th, Fabius the 28th, Pompey April 3rd and LaFayette April 4th at 7:00 p.m. They have put together an ad for the papers and to put up around town. Each town will be putting an article in their collective newspapers. There's a little question and answer thing in there about it and a little survey the residents can fill out and send back. Everyone is invited to these meetings.

Leon asked where they would be holding the meetings.

Councilor Knapp said at the Town Hall on meeting House Road in Tully, at the Town Hall on Route 20 for Pompey and Fabius will hold their's at the Apulia Firebarn. LaFayette's will be held here. They are all at 7:00 p.m. They are putting some final touches on things now.

7) Physical Plant.

- Library ceiling leak.
- Community Center sign lettering.

8) Recreation and Youth.

a) Bailey Park.

b) LaFayette Beach.

- Neighbors' concerns.
- Lacrosse program facilities: evaluation and re-siting, plans for next season (DK).
- New facilities: On hold until Spring, '02 (status/progress reports to CNYCF) (SS).

Councilor Smith said she will be starting soon to contact people in the Park and Beach area to get information from them. YCIP is going to be building the bathhouses at the Beach.

Supervisor Scammell asked if they had a start date.

Councilor Smith said she will be getting in touch with Dan McConnell to see when they will be starting.

9) Safety.

Councilor Smith said everything on the list has been corrected.

10) Senior Transportation and Housing.

- Transportation survey: MCOA.

Supervisor Scammell said he has not heard anything back about the survey which he would presume has been completed.

11) Service Awards.

Councilor Knapp said they have some information on how far the investments have dropped. He and Councilor Paul would hope they realize the Town does not guarantee anything regarding the investments. Councilor Paul believes they can change their investments once a year.

Mary Jo said the list of qualified firemen was sent today to Penflex with the necessary authorizations.

12) Water.

Supervisor Scammell said there's a drought all up and down the east coast. It's as close to us as Madison County.

Councilman Knapp said Skaneateles Lake is very low.

Councilor Bailey said New Jersey has a state of emergency in some places.

13) Zoning Review.

- S. U. Links program survey.
- Empire Zones feedback.

Supervisor Scammell said we have sent a letter and have not heard back yet.

Councilor Knapp said he saw Dale Sweetland who said they are reserving 5 acres for everyone and they just don't give it to us. If you have a project, you present it to the county and they decide if you can get it.

- Digitized zoning map.
- Industrial zones to business zones update.
- Misc. review: Communications/Cell Towers & Private (single horse) horse stables. Inter-municipal contact.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ACTIVE PROJECTS:

A. Litigation and other legal matters.

- Onondaga Nation land claim.
- Transfer LaFayette Beach from LCC to town (on hold until Summer/Fall, 2002).

B. Other Active Projects.

1) Accounting services & annual IRS requirements for LCC, LFD, & LPL (MT).

Mary Jo believes Marshall has been in contact with the organizations/accountants regarding this matter.

Councilor Knapp said it would be nice if they could tell us the other services they provide besides just the 990's.

2) Town litter campaign. SS.

Councilor Smith said they are going to try to tie it in with Earth Day.

- 3) Neighborhood Watch. SS.

Councilor Smith said John is too busy working on the school budget to work on this now.

Supervisor Scammell said he is going to drop it from the agenda at this time as there wasn't enough interest to pursue it town wide.

- 4) Town of LaFayette urn & tile display case (on hold until H. Salladin's return).

Supervisor Scammell said he will be meeting with Herb on this as he has returned from his vacation.

- 5) Security System.

- 6) Town border signs (DK).

Councilor Knapp has several folks interested and sketching something together.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Hazardous Materials Response Plan.

B. Other.

10. There were no suggestions for improvement & positive contributions.

11. Councilor's Knapp moved and Paul seconded the motion to audit and pay the following bills:

HIGHWAY FUND	# 6390 THRU # 6401
GENERAL FUND	# 6402 THRU # 6437
SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND	# 6438
TRUST & AGENCY FUND	# 6439

Motion passed unanimously.

12. Councilor's Knapp moved and Bailey seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk