

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held December 12, 2005 in the Meeting Room at the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor
Sandra Smith, Councilwoman
David Knapp, Councilman
Thomas Bailey, Councilman
William McConnell, Councilman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Gilligan, Town Attorney
Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent
Ralph Lamson, CEO
Marshall Taylor, Assessor/Clerk
Jim Nakas, Chairman Planning Board
Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Pete Paul, Dep. Supervisor
Lewis Kibling, 2345 Tully Farms Rd.
Elton Fairbank, 6448 Newell Hill Rd.
Adrian Shute, 5681 Rte. 20
Deb Knapp Miller, Newell Hill Rd.
Jerry Doolittle, ZBA
Bruce Donohue, 204 Deer Run Rd.
John Freie, 1940 Deer Run Rd.
John Lytle, 4193 Apulia Rd.
Heidi Smith, Dodge Rd.
Doug Drum, Thunder Rd.
Austin Olmsted

1. Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. The Town Clerk took the Roll. All present.
3. Pledge to our U. S. Flag led by Town Councilor Tom Bailey.
4. **Councilmen McConnell moved and Knapp seconded the motion to accept the November 28, 2005 joint public hearing and regular meeting minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk. Voting was as follows:**

Supervisor Scammell	Voted	Yes
Councilwoman Smith	Voted	Yes
Councilman Knapp	Voted	Yes
Councilman Bailey	Voted	Abstained
Councilman McConnell	Voted	Yes

Motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. **Residents.**

1) **Bruce Freund: Watson & Irwin properties.**
The Board will return to this later in the meeting.

2) **Other.**

B. **Onondaga County Legislature: Proposed Real Property Tax Exemption for Firefighters/Volunteer Ambulance Workers.**

Councilman Knapp asked if the School Board passed this.
Debbie Knapp Miller said they did.

C. **Onondaga County Legislature: 12.06.05 agenda.**

D. **Onondaga County Board of Elections: Elections administration.**

Supervisor Scammell asked Mary Jo about this.

Mary Jo said the Board of Elections will be taking over our old machines and they would like the custodians to clear the machines. We used custodians from the Board of Elections this year as we had none from our town. She will contact them to see if we can use them again for this. They are also looking into consolidating polling sites where possible.

Councilman Knapp said because they will be servicing these machines from a central location they would like to have them all consolidated for service purposes. They might want to consolidate District 2 with District's 3 and 5 here at the Town Offices.

Councilman Bailey asked if this will have an impact on the inspectors.

Mary Jo said the Republican and Democratic Party Chairmen will continue to recommend the inspectors to the Board of Elections.

Councilman Knapp said the Board of Elections will pay the inspectors. He would recommend that District's 1 & 4 not be consolidated as they are at different ends of the Town.

E. **Onondaga County Department of Finance: Deadlines for file changes.**

Supervisor Scammell said he has passed this on to Theresa Mech and Kitty Rienhardt.

F. **Central New York Business Journal: Business of the Week – Paetec.**

G. **Other.**

The Town Board returned to Mr. Freund's questions above. He submitted an ad for Watson's Greenhouse.

Ralph Lamson said he didn't see anything in violation that they were selling. They are not in violation by having an open house either.

Supervisor Scammell asked him about the Irwin property being used for a quarry/tree chipping/organic recycling business.

Ralph Lamson said some of the people he has talked to say it has been used for this purpose for well over 30 years. Bob Irwin told him he started the business in 1949. That was before any zoning was around here so he is not in any violation.

Supervisor Scammell said Bob Irwin told him in 1905 Sentinel Heights Road was built using gravel from this site. There is no money involved in the work he does for the Town. The gravel for Winacre Drive was also taken from this site.

7. **SPECIAL REPORT: FOCUS 2010. Town Councilor Bill McConnell.**

Councilman McConnell said the LaFayette Town Board approved an initiative that was brought forth during the September 23, 2004 Town Board Meeting to build a strategic plan for our town.

This plan is entitled FOCUS 2010. A Strategic Plan for the Town of LaFayette.

The purpose of FOCUS 2010 is to take a five year look-ahead and define what our community's needs are, build a prioritized list of these needs, and then design a plan to achieve them through a variety of means to include grants at the state and federal level.

FOCUS 2010 was designed as an apolitical process in order to eliminate opinion-based decisions for our community.

FOCUS 2010 provides a snapshot of hard data, facts, and subjective thoughts from the most important sources in our town: the Citizens of LaFayette.

This effort used the 1991 Strategic Plan that was built by many of our dedicated citizens as a foundation to initially build upon. The scope of FOCUS 2010 is limited to a five year look-ahead so we may bring realistic initiatives and solutions to our town government to consider and to act upon versus something that is so long in the future that it is just a thought and not an action.

Ideally, this plan will be completely updated every five years to ensure our community needs are accurately identified as time moves along.

This project collected ideas, desires, and needs from our community through three methods. Utilizing three methods ensured that we received a great amount of community input.

First, a steering group comprised of 19 citizens was formed to identify community needs from their personal perspectives and backgrounds. This group includes members from the town government, school board, business owners, retired citizens, and also community members at large. Their primary purpose was to bring forth our community needs from their view points and to eventually provide a comprehensive, concise, and forward-looking plan to the Town Board in December 2005. They also designed and shaped a town survey that was sent to 1,934 homes and businesses during September 12, 2005.

The FOCUS 2010 Steering Group Members include the following: Bill McConnell, Chairman, Travis Field, Vice Chairman, John Beardslee, Ranier Brocke, Brad Bush, Jerry Doolittle, Elton Fairbanks, Karl Field, Connie Foote, Lewis Kibling, Margaret Klotz, John MacDaniel, Jamie McElhannon, Debbie Miller, Jim Moltion, April Palmer, Pete Paul, Regina Reinschmidt, and Al Weaver.

Second, one town hall style meeting was held and was open to the general public at large and any town official who wished to attend.

This town hall meeting was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2005, 7-9 p.m. at the Community Center in LaFayette. This meeting focused on the concerns of our current and future local business owners. However, many other areas of concern were voiced too. This meeting was lead by the Chairman of the Steering Group. Numerous members of the Steering Group and the Chairman of the Town of LaFayette Planning Board were in attendance to listen to the public. Originally they planned for 3 town hall meetings but decided to only have one because they received so many subjective comments.

Third, we had the opportunity to partner with the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University (SU) and they served our community at no cost. Their survey focused on the critical inputs from the Steering Group and the Town Hall Meeting. The results were collected by SU and the results were presented to the Steering Group for review and validation. This allowed us to have a third party source so answers would not be tampered with.

FOCUS 2010 is an effort to look forward with progressive ideas to ensure that we maintain a quality of life that serves all of us well.

Our rural character along with the beautiful setting of the town is a primary reason many of us call LaFayette our home. However, there are areas that we must improve upon to ensure the long-term needs of our community are met or exceeded. New and existing business support, recreational opportunities, and senior citizen care and support are the initial areas that the Steering Group has recommended to be researched and acted upon.

The Steering Group reviewed the survey results, the data findings, and the subjective comments, and made the following recommendations to the LaFayette Town Board:

First and foremost, our community's voices are loud and clear when stating that they wish to maintain LaFayette's rural character while seeking both controlled residential and commercial growth.

In particular, 77% of the respondents favored the town actively soliciting new businesses. 94% of the respondents favored small businesses that provide modest employment opportunities as well as specific services and/or products. Also 65% of the respondents stated that they would be in favor of 1-2 larger businesses that would provide employment opportunities, tax revenues, and produce a product of service that may reach beyond the township.

Overwhelmingly, the type of businesses mentioned specifically by respondents were a need for a grocery store and a drug store.

Therefore, recommendation 1 is as follows:

The LaFayette Town Board should commission an Economic Development Committee at the 2006 Organizational Meeting.

This Committee should be charged with a responsibility to research, formulate, and develop a master economic plan for LaFayette. This plan should work towards attracting business opportunities that favor our rural and small-town character while fulfilling community needs and exploring new opportunities.

This Committee should be chaired by a Town Board Member and include a member of the Planning Board, possibly a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and members of the community at large.

Second, our community appreciates and encourages controlled residential growth. This growth represents the primary source in the increase of the town's tax rolls thus assisting in leveling or slowing their individual tax rates.

However, issues such as the threat of uncontrolled development that may diminish the town's rural character, zoning restrictions in the Hamlet, desires to preserve farmland and open spaces, water and/or sewer concerns in areas such as Barker Hill, Jamesville, Cardiff and the Hamlet require that a master plan be developed.

There were also great concerns within the Steering Group and also from the survey respondents to ensure the survivability and support of our local farms and agricultural enterprises. These businesses represent our historical past and operate today in increasingly smaller numbers. Local, county, and state assistance should be pursued to ensure that these all-important enterprises succeed today and tomorrow.

Therefore, recommendation 2 is:

The LaFayette Town Board and Planning Board shall develop a Master Plan that works hand-in-hand with town businesses and land owners to protect LaFayette's rural character while addressing the Town's current and future needs and concerns.

The Town of LaFayette should also consider adding an Agriculture Committee to its forum to assist these grass roots businesses.

Third, the community responded strongly in support of more adult-oriented recreational opportunities that included mid-to-senior-aged citizens.

Although there was a 56% majority of citizens that want the LaFayette Community Council to offer more recreational opportunities and 59% who are supportive of a community center concept, the subjective comments for both questions were overwhelmingly in support of more lifetime type activities.

Ideas for activities such as walking, biking and nature trails, swimming, an ice rink, youth day camp, yoga, horse shoes, bingo, and exercise classes resonated throughout the survey.

The community center concept bore great support for ages ranging from youth all the way to our senior citizens. A community area of concern is to utilize existing town and school infrastructure to build strong programs that satisfy our community without increasing taxes. The use of school facilities was echoed time and again and as well as the utilization of Stafford Park and/or other town and private land may offer potential use. The hope of building one overall facility should be investigated for its scope and cost within the next five years then brought forth as a possibility.

A sports center business and a potential Southern Onondaga County YMCA/YWCA are both sources of recreational and business opportunities for the town that the Economic Development Committee could consider.

Therefore, Recommendation 3 is:

The Town of LaFayette Recreation and Youth Committee and the Recreation Director explore the ability to build a community center concept with existing town infrastructure and offer a wider variety of community recreational opportunities.

Fourth, senior citizen issues rose to the forefront on two key concerns derived from the survey and Steering Group.

One, there truly is a need and a desire for senior citizen assisted living facilities and smaller retirement homes to ease the burden of homecare during later retirement years.

The desire is to allow senior citizens to downsize their homes and remain in their hometown of which they had lived the majority of their lives.

There is a need for a small business or service to assist with common, every day issues such as home and property maintenance.

Two, public transportation is lacking in the area of frequency and destinations. There is a volunteer service on Tuesdays. They are looking to extend that service.

Therefore, Recommendation 4 is:

The town of LaFayette Senior Citizen Transportation and Housing Committee investigate opportunities with an Economic Development Committee and target these areas of need.

These are their recommendations at this point. The Steering Group took great interest in the stark contrast between the objective responses and the subjective comments for some of the questions within this survey.

The group was given the objective statistical data for review and then the subjective written comments were also given two weeks later for review and comment. This allowed the group to better understand their neighbors' views, and also derived the following themes:

- 1) Attract the 'right' businesses to support today and tomorrow's community while encouraging and controlling residential growth.
- 2) A proactive and well-thought out plan for the utilization of LaFayette's landscape is required for the long term health of our community. Land owners' real estate value, business prosperity, and community needs must be balanced in a fair and equitable manner.
- 3) Build upon our history, culture, and location to raise our community pride while incurring the positive effects of tourism. We should investigate and implement ways to celebrate our history which could result in business revenue and a better sense of community.
- 4) Don't raise my taxes; utilize them better or I'm unable to live here.
- 5) Retain our senior citizens within our town and provide servicing enterprises that encourage "people taking care of people". This could be both private and public oriented.

This summary has provided a short review of the survey highlights, the views and recommendations of the Steering Group, and the voices of the community at large.

From his point of view, the Steering Group deserves a warmhearted thank you for its focus, diligence, and hard work throughout this comprehensive process. Their inputs and guidance should serve LaFayette well not only for the next five years but long into the future.

Our community members who participated in the Town Hall Meeting and responded to the survey are saluted for their participation and concern for the issues at hand. Their views and thoughts are well respected. The commitment should be made to work the issues presented through this study and survey with positive, proactive, and progressive leadership.

It's the hopes that the LaFayette Town Board should begin working these issues today. Each day a new challenge rises up and we must carefully craft the town's future in order to maintain survivability of its core and its character for generations to come.

He had a couple of special thank you's. The Steering Group has been outstanding. There are 60 copies of the report on hand for anyone who would like one. 40 of these copies were donated by Xerox. Mary Jo did the remaining copies.

He thanked the Board for pushing them ahead tonight on the agenda. He introduced the Steering Committee that was present and he asked if there were any questions from the Town Board or the Committee.

Supervisor Scammell thanked Councilman McConnell for taking this on. This is remarkable. It's not an easy thing to do to take on a chore of this size. He really appreciates it and the work they all did. He thanked Councilor McConnell very much for his leadership.

Councilman Knapp asked Kevin Gilligan how we would proceed if we were to start a new committee.

Kevin Gilligan said you would do it with a local law and it could be done at the Organizational Meeting or sometime after that.

Councilman Knapp said it can be done with a simple majority vote.

Kevin Gilligan said yes.

Supervisor Scammell asked what Councilman McConnell enjoyed most about putting this together.

Councilman McConnell said working with the people. As it went on and on, he felt Syracuse University did a great service with the survey but then the pressure was on the Steering Committee to shape the questions and review the data. One of the most interesting parts was the 1,896 comments.

Debbie Miller said it was very interesting and it was great bringing people together to look out for the interests of LaFayette.

Councilman McConnell said every piece of data Syracuse University took in is within the report. The summary and the introduction will be in the next Town Newsletter in January. He asked if any of the Steering Committee had anything they would like to say.

Doug Drumm asked now that all of this information comes in, what happens? If it says 67% of the people would like a sewer in the Hamlet, do we do it?

Councilman McConnell said we only have approximately 5 responses from the Hamlet where the others came in saying yes but not at a cost to them. Now we need to determine what it would require to get to where we can for the people who want it and what the cost would be to do it. You take this information and investigate and then find a solution.

Jim Nakas thanked Councilman McConnell for generating this document. There's a note of contention in it that needs to be read and studied by all the Boards and the community at large. There are a couple of things he would like to address. One is the idea that people want to maintain LaFayette's rural character and seek business and growth. This is impossible. They are at opposite ends. Every subdivision will create loss of wildlife, etc. The only way to actively do this is to actively set "green space" aside. You must actually create it.

Councilman McConnell said the report does say they want to keep the open spaces. He agrees with the majority of what Jim Nakas says. With growth of 15 houses a year in our community, we have to continue this but how do we control it so we don't get overridden in areas? How do we maintain the active farms in the area without losing them to development?

Jim Nakas said his second thought is that everyone wants a grocery store. The reason Leo closed up his shop is because nobody shopped there. If you are going to have a grocery store that size, you will be facing a lack of diversity, products and high prices. It had nothing to do with the town government, people just didn't shop there. As far as the idea that the town is not business friendly, in talking with Mary Jo in the last 13 years we have not denied one business application that has come before the town. He has been on the Planning Board longer than 13 years and he can't remember one being denied. You can go back a long way in history on this.

Councilman McConnell said one idea that was brought up was a niche type business.

Supervisor Scammell asked if by green space he meant within a subdivision.

Jim Nakas said no. He means where the town creates a green space wherever they feel an area is worth saving so people can enjoy it and not have it threatened with the idea of development.

Supervisor Scammell asked if it would be an acquisition of the land.

Jim Nakas believes you would have to acquire the land or have it donated.

Councilman Bailey said with respect to the formation of an Economic Development Committee, is there any existing strategic plans in the neighboring towns?

Councilman McConnell said Fabius just completed a master plan this year. The concept is how to partner with our neighboring towns or how to attract a business to do this and share the services with the neighboring towns.

Councilman Knapp thinks Tully completed their plan last year.

Councilman Knapp asked Lewis Kibling what he sees as our main problem with having a grocery store here.

Lewis Kibling said density.

Councilman McConnell said Lewis Kibling works for Aldi's. He is a Real Estate Director.

Councilman Knapp asked if there's a target number.

Lewis Kibling said they need 50,000 people/store. He doesn't know about the smaller supermarkets. He would say they need a good 5,000-10,000. There are company's that can do demographic studies for you. He's been with his company for 20 years and they generally do it themselves. It's a competitive business. There's a lot to it.

Councilman Knapp asked if there are any chains out there that supply in the smaller market.

Lewis Kibling said a Big M or something like that might. There are niche stores in other states that sell wine, etc. In New York State you can't sell wine in a local grocery store.

John MacDaniel said one thing they talked a lot about was looking ahead to trying to have facilities for our aging so when they reach a point in their life they can still stay in their home or have residential facilities so they can stay in the community. Because of our rural location, it becomes hard for them to stay here. It makes economic sense to

have facilities for that part of our population as it may be the key part of our population in years to come. This would include assisted living, etc.

Councilman McConnell said when you get into the senior situations, there are various levels. The levels are available as you might need them more and more.

Bruce Donohue asked how many active farms there are in LaFayette.

Councilman McConnell said the report listed 5.

Councilman Knapp said it would depend on your definition of active. Actually milking cows we are probably down to 5. There are several that have a lot of agriculture activity going on but there's not the old conventional dairy farming going on.

There were no further questions or comments.

8. **REPORTS:**

A. **DEPARTMENTAL:** (4th Monday).

1) **Building & Zoning Code Enforcement: Ralph Lamson & Jack Sutton.**

Ralph Lamson said they issued 6 Building Permits last month. Three were for new houses, 2 were for garages and 1 was for a wood stove. The total collected in fees was \$1,112.

a) **1970 Junk Yard Ordinance review. Process comparison, towing, "firm up".**

Supervisor Scammell said he sent a letter to everyone on the Junk Yard Ordinance but no one has responded.

Ralph Lamson said he doesn't know how severe the Board wants to go. In the city junk cars are ticketed and towed away after a certain time period.

Councilman Bailey said they did discuss this about a year ago. They do go on the property in the city and put an orange ticket on the vehicle. The clock starts ticking as soon as the ticket is put on the car. They have 30 days to get the vehicle off the property. If it's not removed, it's towed and the cost to tow it goes on the property owners tax bill.

Ralph Lamson said they have a police officer going out and enforcing this on people's property. He would not be comfortable walking on some peoples property to tag a car.

Councilwoman Smith said for the difficult ones, we have a contract with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept. Would that help?

Kevin Gilligan said the CEO would go with the officer to the property.

Ralph Lamson doesn't know if we want to get into something like that.

Supervisor Scammell said the dilemma he sees is a growth in the junk car inventory.

Ralph doesn't think it's gotten any worse in 10 years. They come and go. Some people are chronic abusers of it. He doesn't think changing the Junk Yard Ordinance will stop it.

Supervisor Scammell asked the Town Board for their input.

Councilman Knapp said if it's a way to streamline the process, it would be good.

Councilman Bailey thinks it would be good if we can get voluntary compliance with the owner. This could also be a health issue. It goes beyond aesthetics.

Councilwoman Smith said if they know the vehicle is going to be towed, they might comply.

Ralph Lamson thinks the people that are going to comply will comply and this won't matter to those that won't.

Councilman McConnell asked Ralph what his biggest challenge is.

Ralph said the time to deal with them all. They all take time.

Councilman McConnell said when he identifies a junk vehicle on someone's property he sends a notice.

Ralph Lamson said a letter is sent. They are advised to contact him within 2 weeks. If they have a reasonable excuse, they keep an eye on it.

Councilman Knapp thinks there's a state law that says you can have an unlicensed vehicle on your property that could be classified a junk vehicle.

Ralph said there's a time-frame in our local law that covers someone having a winter vehicle.

Councilman McConnell asked him what he would like the Town Board to do to support him.

Ralph said if you hire someone else to do just zoning, it's a thankless job. The balance of doing building inspections which are kind of enjoyable, helps out. He doesn't know a way to put more manpower into that aspect of the job.

Supervisor Scammell asked if the Board was trying to step this up, would he like he and Jack to put more time in it?

Ralph said he would kind of wonder about someone who would like to come in and just do zoning issues.

Supervisor Scammell said he does routinely get folks telling him they are displeased with the junk vehicles in the town. They are not isolated complaints or complaints from the same people.

Ralph said they generally put more time into the zoning issues through the winter months as building seems to slow down during this time of year.

Marshall Taylor asked if we could have an ordinance stating any vehicle without a license plate on it in the town will be towed away.

Supervisor Scammell asked if Pete Paul knew what they do in the Town of DeWitt.

Pete Paul said they come out and give you 5 days and after the 5th day they put some kind of sticker on it and if it's not taken care of, they tow it.

Kevin Gilligan asked who does it.

Pete Paul said the Zoning Officer.

Kevin Gilligan said a law enforcement officer would have to be with him.

Supervisor Scammell asked if the charges would be able to be charged back to the property owner.

Kevin Gilligan said yes. You would have to come up with the money at first and eventually could put it back on the property owner.

Ralph said you could be looking at 200 vehicles. This could be quite expensive. He would recommend getting something written up for the next newsletter.

Councilman McConnell said on Route 20 past the Colgate Hamlet area, there used to be a car scrapper. Would something like this be of interest?

Ralph doesn't think this has ever been done or looked into.

Pete Paul thinks they did it a long time ago with a company out of Canada.

Councilman McConnell said if we could find a company that might take the vehicle off someone's hands and maybe put a few bucks in their pocket, it might be an incentive.

Pete Paul said they have recently changed the rules regarding the amount you're allowed for donating a car.

b) Junk vehicle status – prioritized (multiple vehicles & long standing (apparent) violations) spreadsheet listing (in process).

1. **2300 – 2330 Route 11 South, across from LaFayette Rural Cemetery, multiple autos & properties.**
2. **Route 11N (just north of town offices) – 2 autos, visible from LPL parking lot.**
3. **2805 Route 11A. Business in A-R.**

2) **Dog Control:** Sue Snavlin & Madeline Despres.

- **2006 shelter/veterinarian.**

Supervisor Scammell said we will be out of a shelter and vet clinic at the beginning of the year. Mary Jo said she would call Quarryside.

Councilman Knapp asked about the new Tully group.

Supervisor Scammell said Tully has not been able to secure them yet. 37 dogs were picked up this year that were actually boarded.

Councilman Knapp asked about the SPCA. Are they the place of last resort?

Councilman Bailey said they tend to be overwhelmed.

Supervisor Scammell said he talked to the group in North Syracuse. They didn't get into the pricing, etc. He has a call into the SPCA in Cortland too.

Councilman Knapp thinks we definitely may want to look at a two-tier system. The stray whose been running around with apparently no owner, boarding may be for 5 days and not 10.

Supervisor Scammell said Ag. & Markets said actually it can go to 3 days. Another option discussed was that the DCO keep the dogs at the DCO's house. The shelter needs to be heated to 50 degrees. It was discussed if the Highway Dept. can be converted in some part for this.

Councilman Knapp asked if Jim Moore has any facilities that could be used for housing dogs.

Councilman Bailey will contact Town & Country.

Marshall Taylor suggested calling Cornell to see if they are interested.

- **Dog logs – 2005.**

3) **Highway Superintendent:** Leon Cook.

4) **Justice:** Malcolm Knapp & Maureen Perrin.

- Justice Clerk replacement (2006).
- Written Reports October.

- 5) **Library Director:** Scott Kushner.
- 6) **Recreation Director:** Regina Reinschmidt.
- 7) **Town Clerk:** Mary Jo Kelly.
 - Written Report for November.
- 8) **Town Supervisor:** Greg Scammell.
 - a) **Intermunicipal Shared Services/Cooperation & Consolidation, 2005 Onondaga Citizens League study.**
 - b) **Apulia Road property – flooding & ice buildup: Awaiting SEMO grant application.**

Supervisor Scammell said he sent a letter to Mrs. Taylor advising her what her options are.

- c) **Written Report for November.**

Councilman Knapp moved and Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion to make the following transfers:

GENERAL FUND

To:	A1110.4 Justices	Contractual	\$1,000.00
	A1410.2 Town Clerk	Equipment	340.00
	A5010.4 Supt. Of Highways	Contractual	60.00
	A7310.4 Youth Program	Contractual	2,000.00
	A8989.4 Water Systems (North Laf)	Contractual	
	<u>3,000.00</u>		

TOTAL \$6,400.00

From:	A1110.1 Justices	Personal Services	\$1,000.00
	A1410.4 Town Clerk	Contractual	340.00
	A5132.4 Garage	Contractual	60.00
	A7310.2 Youth Program	Equipment	2,000.00
	A1620.4 Buildings	Contractual	<u>3,000.00</u>

TOTAL \$6,400.00

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmen Knapp moved and McConnell seconded the motion to authorize the Supervisor to make all of the end of the year transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

B. COMMITTEE (2nd Monday).

- 1) **Communications & Technology.**
 - a) **Town Website: December, 2005 Website status.**

- b) **Transition to Digital Towpath.**
 - **Parallel operations.**
 - **Website – townoflafayette.org (now is townoflafayette.com). Secure additional .gov?**
 - **Town email addresses (tolxxxxx@aol.com to tolxxxx@??) – conversion & new.**
 - **File transfers.**

2) **Emergency Response.**

- a) **LFD exhaust vents – AFG grants.**

- b) **Onondaga County Department of Communications - OCICS MOU.**

- c) **Susquehanna RR brush fires created by grinding .**

Councilman McConnell spoke to a representative of the Susquehanna Railroad who would like to come out and discuss the problems with the Board. He would like to take us for a ride on the railroad to point out some of the problems. They don't grind the tracks. They believe the problem is from overgrowth.

Councilman Knapp knows one year the breaks stuck.

Councilman Bailey would recommend inviting a member of the LFD too. He can get the report on the most recent fire.

Supervisor Scammell asked how far the railroad owns from the tracks.

Kevin Gilligan said they will probably be able to tell the Board this when they are on the train. The problem is that their own area is getting overgrown. It could be a railroad maintenance issue on their track.

Councilman McConnell had hoped to visit with their representative and put an article in the next newspaper about what is being done.

- d) **NYS PSC – TSP (Telecommunications Service Priority).**

3) **Employee Policies & Benefits.**

4) **Environmental & Conservation Advisory Board.**

- **2006 assessment.**

5) **Highway.**

- a) **Long term capital equipment forecast.**

- b) **Road maintenance schedule.**

- c) **Spring Cleanup Program – Wood disposal options/DEC burning permits, Clifton Recycling.**

6) **Physical Plant .**

a) **LaFayette Community Center: Ice buildup solution over kitchen area**

Councilman Knapp has contacted Fred Groth and he will be talking to the library about the window. He is waiting for a semi warm day to work on the Community Center.

b) **Heating/Cooling system alts & new temperature controls, Ph. 1 report, Clay Smith, P.E.**

c) **Energy usage reduction program .**

d) **A/C repair.**

Supervisor Scammell said we went on emergency heat at the town offices. One of the units has frozen up.

Councilman Knapp asked what emergency heat is.

Supervisor Scammell said it moves us to electric heat.

e) **LPL – leaking window).**

7) **Recreation & Youth .**

a) **Marion Bailey Park.**

1. **BSA Scout Stephen Kuhns – Eagle project, install grills.**

Councilwoman Smith said she spoke to Stephen Kuhns about the installation of the grills and he said it wasn't part of his presentation.

Councilman Knapp said he will take care of this in the spring.

Councilman McConnell said to take it off the agenda and he and Councilman Knapp will take care of it.

2. **BSA Scout Peter Slowick – Eagle project.**

3. **Pavilion YCIP(?)/Local estimates.**

Councilman McConnell will get some estimates for a pavilion.

Councilman Knapp said he thought the Christmas Tree Lighting went extremely well and we had a great crowd. He thanked Mary Jo for getting everything lined up. It went pretty smoothly.

Supervisor Scammell thanked Councilman Knapp and Mary Jo for working on this.

Mary Jo will put an article in the next Newsletter about this.

b) **LaFayette Beach.**

1. **Survey/transfer LaFayette Beach from LCC to town.**

2. **Roof over sandbox (Herb Salladin). Bids. DK.**

3. **Repair lacrosse box.**

c) **Fred Stafford Park.**

1. **Lacrosse facility – estimates (\$5K – materials only), (re)location possibilities.**

- **Tully-\$12k – materials only (all volunteer labor).**
2. **Geese & feeding – signs.**
 3. **Clapboards on backside of bathrooms need repair.**
 4. **Polypropylene netting – Gary DePalma.** Estimates for additional (Jack’s Shack, Beach) netting projects. \$2100 for Stafford Park Pavilion. DK. Remove light?.

8) **Safety .**a) **LPL 7.26.05 inspection follow-up.**b) **Box Lacrosse 8.29.05 inspection follow-up.**c) **Stafford Park concession building 6.24.05 inspection follow-up.**d) **LaFayette Beach 6.24.05 inspection follow-up.**

Councilwoman Smith said she had an electrician come and just about everything is done. She has to get a couple of parts to finish everything up.

Councilman Knapp asked who she got.

Councilwoman Smith said Bill Flynn. He was very thorough and very affordable.

9) **School District liaisons.**

- **JDSB – PP follow-up.**

10) **Senior Transportation & Housing .**11) **Service Awards .**

- **Tax exemptions – letter to LFD/JFD/LCSD sent.**

12) **SOTS & OCRRA Liaison .**13) **Water .**a) **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Jamesville Reservoir – Preliminary Restoration Plan complete, seeking nonfederal (NYSDEC) cosponsor for 33% share of \$7.2M.**b) **Northeast LaFayette Water and Smokey Hollow Service Improvement districts. Financial assistance letter to Congressman Jim Walsh complete.**

John Lytle was present.

Supervisor Scammell said Art Fritz, John Lytle and himself had a meeting with Congressman Walsh today.

John Lytle said they spent about 45 minutes or more there. They were very well received. The area they are talking about is a unique situation. They don’t know when

the water will be shut off. Congressman Walsh recognized this and seemed very interested in trying to do something. We are on the short end for any budget considerations for 2006. The earliest there would be any word would probably be somewhere around the middle of 2007.

Councilman Knapp asked if they would get word in 2006 about funds available in 2007.

John Lytle said Congressman Walsh wouldn't commit to this. He would commit to work towards some kind of grant help if they are available. He has given this to one of his Aides to work with them. There is nothing further they can do as far as Washington folks. He also recommended they talk to the folks next door in Rural Development. It's a positive sign. We don't know what might come out of it but they are hopeful.

Councilman Knapp asked Kevin Gilligan how this would work if they need to get this up and running in July 2006. Say it gets going and we get some funding in 2007, can they go back and readjust funds then?

Kevin Gilligan said he isn't sure. There are a lot of rules about spending money before the grant is committed. You could go back a couple of years and refinance it. It's going to be dependent to some degree on where that money comes from and what the controls are.

John Lytle said he thinks one of the strategies they would like to pursue is to run a bond through the town. They would like to see if there is a bond through the state. They are looking to see what kind of loans they can get. Depending on what's available and if they start the project, if these loans will allow a payout if they should get funding.

Marshall Taylor asked if the grants include everyone or just those folks who voted to be in the district.

John Lytle said that is all up for discussion at this point.

Marshall just wondered if they bond or get grant money if it would be for everyone who wanted water or only for those who are in the district.

John Lytle said they would eventually have two water districts eligible to use the funds. As the money would eventually come in, it would be administered by the Town of LaFayette. He thinks the fairest thing is to get the lowest possible cost for everyone involved. Another question is what we do with the folks in E who might not be part of the district. They are trying to make it work for everyone involved in both the districts.

- c) **Hamlet drainage study – request submitted to NYS DOT.**
 - **NYS DOT notified of subsidence behind M. Amidon's property.**

14) **Zoning Review .**

- a) **Jamesville Reservoir Preservation District/JRPA change.**
- b) **New instruction sheet for subdivision, variances & controlled site approval (note riparian rights/drainage, SOCPA meets every 3 weeks, public notification of neighbors, applicants without counsel/surveyor/engineer, meeting frequency, include Onondaga County subdivision filing requirements, riparian rights) .**

Supervisor Scammell said Mary Jo has worked on writing up instruction sheets.

- c) **Corridor Plan.**
- d) **Digitized zoning map, correction & amendments.**
- e) **Density (rezoning from A-R to Rn), noise (from neighboring businesses).**

9. **LITIGATION & OTHER LEGAL MATTERS.**

A. **Onondaga Nation land claim & land rights.**

B. **William May mobile home on Jamesville Reservoir. County court rules in town's favor.**

Kevin Gilligan said he will be before the Zoning Board of Appeals tomorrow night and in front of the Judge after that.

Ralph Lamson would doubt he can meet the setbacks for the trailer.

C. **Robert Shute – Route 11.**

Kevin Gilligan said there has been no movement on that case. We are still waiting for a decision from the DeWitt Court Judge.

D. **Lynn Hutton – Summer Ridge Road work.**

Kevin Gilligan said we are waiting for the mortgage release. All the other documentation has been handed in.

E. **LaFayette Housing Associates/Festival Gardens: Real Property Tax Law Section 581-a.**

Kevin Gilligan said there's been no movement on this.

F. **Harco Leasing – Lease.**

Kevin Gilligan said this has been completed.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ACTIVE PROJECTS:**

A. **FOCUS 2010 - Strategic Plan survey summary report.**

Supervisor Scammell said Councilman McConnell did a great job.

B. **2006 Town-wide property revaluation.**

Supervisor Scammell will try to put an article in the upcoming Newsletter on this.

C. **SPDES.**

D. **Current IRS 990's: LFD(current), LPL(current) & LCC.**

E. Energy Conservation.

F. Crime coverage.

Councilmen Knapp moved and Bailey seconded the motion to have Tom Chartrand provide us with an audit letter of certification for crime coverage. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Other.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals members & alternate members pay.

Councilmen Knapp moved and Bailey seconded the motion to pay the Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board Members \$125/year. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Other.

Supervisor Scammell said he talked with the library this week. Over a period of time it came about that the Town was going to take over paying for the 990's to be done. It has created a problem as during the time when the Town was going to take the payments over and it was put in the budget for the Library to pay for them, somehow they seem to be a year's payment behind. He told them that we can look into this in 2006. We are off by a cycle that isn't anyone's fault.

Councilman McConnell said after we see what is left over in surplus this year, if possible, he would rather get rid of the bill this year and get back on cycle.

Councilmen Knapp moved and Bailey seconded the motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay the outstanding bill in his discretion and if there is enough money left in the surplus or in the contingency account at the end of the year to do so in the amount of \$4,201.60. Voting was as follows:

Supervisor Scammell	Voted	Yes
Councilwoman Smith	Voted	No
Councilman Knapp	Voted	Yes
Councilman Bailey	Voted	Yes
Councilman McConnell	Voted	Yes

Motion passed.

Councilman McConnell said he spoke to Mr. Murraco today. He has agreed to come out Wednesday morning and meet with Councilman McConnell on the corner building. Mr. Murraco said he would prefer to donate the building and land if possible. Councilor McConnell will go through the building with him to see what the possibilities might be. This will be a fact finding meeting. If anyone else would like to attend, they will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Supervisor Scammell said he is cautious about taking this step before knowing what the overall numbers might be. For him, he needs to know some sense of what the

numbers are. Potentially we could end up with a building we have to demolish ourselves. We might agree to rehab the building and be short in funding.

Marshall Taylor said right now they have a sewage system that won't pass. What can the Town do differently from Mr. Murraco? How much do we spend to accomplish this?

Councilman Bailey asked if the DEC would back off a little knowing it isn't a fully used apartment building?

Councilman McConnell said he personally can't make a commitment one way or another without knowing if it's feasible to use it for anything.

Supervisor Scammell said there will also be ongoing maintenance costs.

Marshall Taylor said with SPDES, we could end up putting a sewage line in if they determine one must be done for the Hamlet area. He thinks there are an awful lot of unknowns.

Councilman McConnell said he and Supervisor Scammell agree. They both need to know the costs involved. Councilman McConnell said he needs to know what the possibilities are too. He will summarize their meeting in an email to those who can't attend.

Ralph said the DOT may be looking at turn lanes. If people want to keep this as a rural community, he thinks the Town might want to get in touch with the DOT ahead of time and tell them they are not in favor of this. If you put a couple of turn lanes in, it will ruin the rural community aspect in the center of town.

Supervisor Scammell said there will be public hearings on this.

Ralph said it just might be easier if you contact them ahead of time. If they put in two lanes, it will ruin the center of town.

Debbie Miller said the other concern with having the turn lanes is walkers to school. That would be a safety issue.

Leon Cook said it was partly the Town Board that got them going on this because of drainage in the Hamlet.

Councilman McConnell said the Board wanted the drainage investigated but not the two lanes. That came as an outgrowth.

12. Suggestions for improvement and positive contributions.

Supervisor Scammell said Eleanor Moltion passed away and he appreciated all her work in getting the Tree Lighting going for us. She passed away the morning of the Tree Lighting.

Councilman Bailey wanted to publicly acknowledge a colleague of his, Councilwoman Smith, who has been very devoted to town service. He believes this is her last meeting serving as Councilwoman. It has been a pleasure working with her for the past 4 years. He thanked her for her services. The Town Board agreed.

13. Executive session (if needed).

14. Councilmen Knapp moved and McConnell seconded the motion to Audit and Pay the following bills:

HIGHWAY FUND	# 4556 - 4575
GENERAL FUND	# 4576 – 4615
TRUST & AGENCY FUND	# 4616

Motion passed unanimously.

**15. Councilmen McConnell moved and Knapp seconded the motion to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.**

The Regular Town Board Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk

Approved 1/3/06