

November 10, 2022 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on November 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at LaFayette Town Hall and live on Facebook.

Present: William McConnell, Town Supervisor
Melanie Palmer, Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Councilor
Absent: Steve Zajac, Councilor; Attorney Jeff Brown

Recording Secretary: Jackie Bush Roorda, Town Clerk
Budget Officer: Tom Chartrand

Others Present: Mark Distler, Deputy Town Supervisor
Sue Marzo, Information Officer
Jessica Rice, Library Director
And several other residents

1. Supervisor McConnell called meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. Town Clerk, Jackie Bush Roorda took the Roll. Councilor Zajac absent and all other Town Board members were present.

Supervisor McConnell asked all in attendance to take a moment of silence to honor all past, present and future Veterans and thanked them all for their service.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Marzo.
4. Motion to accept minutes of the October 11th Regular Meeting; October 19th, Budget Workshop Meeting.

Discussion took place with regard to Councilor Dwyer's proposed edits to the 10/11/22 minutes however not all board members were able to review these proposed edits, hence it was decided to table the acceptance of the 10/11/22 minutes.

R-205-22 Councilor Dwyer moved and Marzo seconded the motion to table the acceptance of the regular meeting minutes of 10/11/22, as submitted by Town Clerk Jackie Roorda. Motion carried 4-0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-206-22 Councilor Marzo moved and Palmer seconded the motion to accept the budget workshop meeting minutes of 10/19/22, as submitted by Budget Officer Tom Chartrand. Motion carried 4-0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Adopt Preliminary Budget as Official 2023 Town Budget -

Supervisor McConnell advised a motion is needed to open the public hearing with regard to the 2023 Town Budget.

R-207-22 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to open the public hearing with regard to the 2023 budget. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Supervisor McConnell prepared a slide presentation that outlined the 2023 Preliminary Budget.

- The General Fund which includes: Payroll, Buildings, Printing & Mailing, Steet Lighting, Youth Programs, Refuse, Planning & Zoning Boards, and the Justice Court Clerks/ Judges, has decreased by \$0.16/1k.
- The Library Fund increased by \$0.07/1k due to employee retirement and an increase of the minimum wage/ worker’s compensation.
- The Highway Fund which includes: general repairs, improvements, machinery, employee benefits & snow removal decreased by \$0.04/1k.
- LaFayette Fire Department budget which includes: Fire protection, equipment, pension fund, building upkeep/renovation increased by \$0.07/1k due to a building renovation.
- LaFayette Ambulance includes salaries, employee benefits, vehicles, equipment increased to \$0.16/1k due to employee hiring for more coverage.
- Jamesville Fire budget includes fire protection, equipment, pension, building upkeep decreased by \$0.01/1k.
- ARPA \$120k allocated for 2023 / \$100k for highway equipment; \$10k for Town Commons siding half of the building; \$5k for staining of the new siding; \$5k for

sealing & coating the Stafford Park Walking trail. The remaining ARPA funds of \$240,716.00 to be used no later than 12/2026.

- Overall Town Budget Costs: NYS Tax Cap Rate set at 2% with a 0.3% growth factor; Town of LaFayette 2023 Tax Rate set at 2.3%; The town met the NYS Tax Cap Mandate; Tax increase of \$0.09/1k of the assessed value.

Supervisor McConnell asked if there is any questions or comments regarding the 2023 preliminary budget. A resident inquired about the increase in the budget to cover diesel fuel costs. Highway superintendent Robson advised that this will be addressed most likely with less road work. Budget Officer Tom Chartrand advised that the Town did increase the road work and winter snow repair but it may not be enough.

R-208-22 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to close the public hearing on the 2023 budget. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-209-22 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to adopt the 2023 Preliminary Budget as the final General Town Budget; Highway and Library Budgets with the Retirement and Health insurance changes as discussed by the Town Board for the Year 2023. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-210-22 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to adopt the Lighting District Budget as presented, for the year 2023. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-211-22 Councilor Dwyer moved and Supervisor McConnell seconded the motion to adopt the Coye Road, Northeast & Smokey Hollow Water District Budgets as presented, for the year 2023. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-212-22 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to adopt the LaFayette Ambulance budget and authorize the drawing of the contract for the year 2023. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-213-22 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to adopt the LaFayette Fire District budget and authorize the drawing of the contract for the year 2023. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-214-22 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to adopt the Jamesville Fire District budget and authorize the drawing of the contract for the year 2023. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-215-22 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to adopt the Cohen & Zumpano Drainage District Budgets as presented, for the year 2023. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-216-22 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to adopt the Southern Onondaga Trash Budget rates at \$350.00 per residence as presented, for the year 2023. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Hanover Update - Luke Esposito informed that they are currently in the data gathering phase and they have enlisted EDR (Environmental Design & Research) to evaluate the:

1. Water supply & Capacity on site
2. They are evaluating the septic capacity both on & off site
3. Stormwater Management
4. Possibility of connecting to the general sewer system if that were to come to fruition.
5. Working on possible Historical Classification

They have engaged 2 demolition companies (Ultra Clean & Sessler Wrecking) to look at taking down the building & grading the property accordingly. They have also enlisted Holmes King Kallquist to work thru the design & programming aspect with IPD Engineering is working on the structural integrity of the current building. Discussion about internal marketing study, reworking the intersection and incorporating into the study. Supervisor McConnell advised that his meeting with State DOT in September was postponed however it is still proposed to be completed by 2026. Hanover is currently analyzing all this data.

B. Grant Schedule Timeline - Mark Distler advised via Power Point presentation that on 1/12/23 we should have a draft of the application for review & 1/24/23 is the Target date for the submittal of the application.

C. Association of Towns delegate & alternate assignment to attend 2023 Annual Business Meeting is tabled until the December Town Board Meeting.

D. CNY SPCA Dog Control Services & Cruelty Services Contracts (maintain shelter)

Supervisor McConnell advised that these are our annual agreements that are signed each year.

R- 217 -22 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to accept the 2023 CNYSPCA Agreement for the Town of LaFayette and authorize Supervisor McConnell to sign the

agreement for Dog Control services within the Town of LaFayette boundaries. Motion carried 4 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

E. CNY SPCA Dog Control Services & Cruelty Services Contracts (Cruelty Investigation)

R- 218-22 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to accept the 2023 CNYSPCA Agreement for the Town of LaFayette and authorize Supervisor McConnell to sign the agreement for animal cruelty services within the Town of LaFayette boundaries. Motion carried 4 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

F. Town Clerk Banking Resolution for new account - Town Clerk Jackie Roorda advised that the Town Clerk's account had fraudulent activity in August (5 checks for \$200, 1 check for \$1k). With Tom Chartrand's help we got the account rectified and set up a program called Positive Pay to prevent this for happening again. However, at the beginning of November, we had the same thing happen but the amounts increased (\$1800, \$3200, \$900 & \$8500). The best way to stop this is to close out the old account & open a completely new account with a new number. This was very time consuming but thankfully all funds were returned to our new account and we were able to take care of our end of month normal activity.

R- 219-22 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to authorize the Town Clerk to sign any necessary documents in order to endorse checks for the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit with NBT Bank Town Clerk new account. Motion carried 4 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

G. Waive fee for simple subdivision (lot line adjustment) LaFayette Cemetery – CEO, Ralph Lamson advised that a couple of the graves have shifted onto the property next door and the easiest solution would be to adjust the lot line. Since the cemetery has no income, it made sense to waive the fee.

R-220-2022 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to waive the fee for the Simple Subdivision (lot line adjustment) for the LaFayette Rural Cemetery. Motion carried 4 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Communications from the Public:

1. Resident Dale Schinneman questioned the CNY Dog Contracts and what the contract s with SPCA covers? Town Clerk explained the process.

9. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. October Monthly report -

Budget Officer Tom Chartrand reported that NY Class is doing well over 3%. Justice fines are up double from what we had budgeted for. Town rent is still coming in strong. We received our 3rd FEMA payment for a total of \$53,438.00 which goes against our costs from the storm damage last year.

The General Fund spending is at 56% without SOTS; revenue at 114%; Highway spending is at 91% and revenue at 102%; Library spending is at 76% and revenue is slightly over100%.

R- 221-22 Councilor Palmer moved and Marzo seconded the motion to accept the Supervisor’s monthly report as submitted by Budget Officer, Tom Chartrand. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

b. Monthly audit of Supervisor Report

R-222-22 Councilor Marzo moved and Supervisor McConnell seconded the motion that a positive audit of the October bank reconciliations of the Supervisor’s account were completed by Councilor Marzo and were deemed appropriate. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

2. Attorney - Nothing to report as Attorney Brown was absent due to family funeral.

3. Highway - October 2023 Report

Superintendent Steve Robson added to his written report that the 2019 Ford F550 was placed on Auctions International and the bidding closed yesterday (11/9/22). The high bid was \$82,100 and he submitted a counter offer of \$100k, we will wait to see what the bidder comes back with, but he feels that we will be above \$90k at the completion of this sale.

Roads: Miscellaneous repairs and general maintenance to our roads, shoulders, ditches and culverts will continue through the fall months and into the winter.

All snow removal equipment is ready for the first snow fall.

Highway Business: We have taken delivery of our new 2022 CV515 that will replace the 2019 Ford F550. Still waiting on paperwork to register this vehicle. The 2019 Ford F550 was placed on Auction International October 27, 2022 at 6pm. At the time of submitting my report, 10am November 7th it has reached \$65,900.00 with 2.5 days remaining in the auction.

4. Town Clerk

- a. Monthly report for October, 2022 was available for their review
- b. Roorda took a moment to thank all those who reached out to her and her family with a card, donation or kind gestures in her mother's recent passing.

5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES

- a. October 2022 Building Permit Report

6. Justice Court - October 2022 Justice Reports

- a. October 2022 Justice Reports

Judge Perrin had 88 cases and turned over \$ 10,315.00 to the Town of LaFayette for October 2022.

Judge Shute had 186 cases and turned over \$ 17,955.00 to the Town of LaFayette for October 2022

7. Parks

a. Pavilion Repairs - Councilor Marzo advised that John Gowing did a great job replacing all the support poles in the pavilion. He also advised that the Optimist Club's other projects include the ice rink, new doors on the bathrooms, and installing the wind curtains on the pavilion in 2023. Councilor Dwyer asked if the bathrooms are open in the winter months, Marzo advised the buildings would need to be heated or the pipes would break.

8. Library Director - Jessica Rice's written report on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Jessica added the Board of Trustees are coming up with a new strategic plan and looking for community input.

9. LCC - Secretary Kim Tingley's written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office

10. LaFayette Fire Department - Sean Doolittle's written report is on file with the Town Clerk's Office. Sean advised that there have been numerous grass fires and recommends that people use a barrel for burning to prevent this.

B. Committee Reports

1. LACC - Written report of LACC activities between 10/7/22-11/3/22, is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

In addition to his report Mark Distler informed that because at the August Town Board meeting the board approved the Community Solar Benchmarking and LaFayette has been designated as a "Clean Energy Community" through NYSERDA, which makes us eligible for a \$5k grant. And they are looking into replacing our street lights with new LED lighting. The payback will take less than 1.5 years and this will decrease our energy bills going forward.

Soon notices will be sent to Town of LaFayette residents informing them of how they can subscribe to this program and save 10% on their energy bills as well. This is at no cost to the town or the residents.

The Memorial Bench / Tree program is underway. They have already planted 3 trees (2 by the pond & 1 by the playground), in total they have had requests for 6 trees / 4 benches. A total of 35 benches and 35 trees will be installed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor McConnell advised that the Town is looking for a regular member for the ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) and an Alternate member if anyone is interested in joining.

11. Motion to audit & pay bills

General Fund	20079-20117	\$ 59,169.07
Highway Fund	20118-20136	\$ 37,358.73
Special District	20138	\$ 124.98
Capital Dev. Fund	20139-20142	\$ 2,629.62

R-223-22 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

13. Motion to adjourn

R-224-22 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Roorda
Town Clerk