

November 5th, 2020 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on November 5th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Daniel Fitzpatrick, Supervisor
 Steve Zajac, Councilor
 Melanie Palmer, Councilor
 Carole Dwyer, Councilor – Arrived 5:04
 William McConnell, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Jackie Bush Roorda, Town Clerk
 Budget Officer: Tom Chartrand
 Attorney: Jeff Brown
 Bldg/Code Enforcement: Ralph Lamson
 Highway: John Greeley & Steve Robson, Paul Durocher

Others Present: David Knapp; County Legislative Chair
 Robert McElhannon, resident

1. Supervisor Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Councilor Palmer led the pledge to the U.S. Flag.
2. The Town Clerk, Jackie Roorda took the Roll.
3. Town Board Minutes of October 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting

R-92-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Zajac seconded the motion to accept the October 13th, 2020 regular Meeting Minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Jackie Roorda. Motion carried 3 – 0; 1 Abstention

Daniel Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Abstained
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

4. Public Hearings

A. Adopt Preliminary Budget as Official 2020 Town Budget –

Supervisor Fitzpatrick advised a motion is needed to open the Public Hearing with regard to the 2021 Town Budget.

R-93-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to open the Public Hearing with regard to the 2021 Budget. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
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Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Supervisor Fitzpatrick asked if there is any questions or comments regarding the 2021 Preliminary Budget.

Budget Officer Tom Chartrand advised that yesterday the state released their NYS retirement billing which was a little bit higher than what they released in September and the Health insurance was budgeted for a 10% increase and needs to be increased to 15%. Those are the only two-line items that need to be adjusted. No objections to these changes were voiced. Chartrand advised even with these budget line changes our tax rate remains at \$7.60 per \$1k which is \$0.28 per \$1k less than last year's tax rates.

R-94-20 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor McConnell seconded the motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2021 Budget. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-95-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Councilor Zajac seconded the motion to adopt the 2021 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 2021. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-96-20 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to adopt the West Shore Lighting Budget as presented, for the year 2021. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-97-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to adopt the Coye Road, Northeast & Smokey Hollow Water District Budgets as presented, for the year 2021. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-98-20 Supervisor Fitzpatrick moved and Councilor McConnell seconded the motion to adopt the LaFayette & Jamesville Fire Department; LaFayette Ambulance Budgets as presented, for the year 2021. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-99-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to adopt the Cohen & Zumpano Drainage District Budgets as presented, for the year 2021. Motion carried 5-0

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-100-20 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to adopt the Southern Onondaga Trash Budget rates at \$325.00 per residence as presented, for the year 2021. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Public Hearing for Local Law 2-2020 regarding codification of Local Laws, ordinances, etc.

R-101-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Palmer seconded the Motion to set the Public Hearing on for the Codification as specified below:

RESOLUTION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of LaFayette has entered into a project for the codification of local laws, ordinances and certain resolutions of the Town of LaFayette for the purposes of increasing the effectiveness of Town governmental administration, providing for greater public awareness of and access to Town legislation and protecting the health, safety and welfare of Town inhabitants; and

WHEREAS the proposed codification has been published in loose-leaf form and the Town Board now desires to formally effect the adoption of said codification by enactment of a local law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held by the Town Board with respect to enactment of the following local law, such public hearing to be held on the 8th day of December, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room of the Town Hall or via the Zoom app due to Covid 19 restrictions imposed. The proposed local law to be considered is as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 2-2020

A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE CODIFICATION OF THE LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS OF THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE INTO A MUNICIPAL CODE TO BE DESIGNATED THE “CODE OF THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE”

Copies of the text of the above-named local law shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby directed and authorized to cause public notice of said hearing to be given in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law, the Open Meetings Law and the Town Law of the State of New York.

Motion carried 5-0.

Danny Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

B. \$50,000 Planning Grant – Supervisor Fitzpatrick advised the Town received the Town Planning Grant from Onondaga County in the amount of \$50,000. A plan will need to be written regarding how this grant money can be used to improve the hamlet, the four corners, including the corner (old hotel) building, and possibly some utilities.

C. New Highway crew member -Supervisor Fitzpatrick introduced the new Highway hire Paul DuRocher for the open position. Paul thanked the Board and the Highway committee for the opportunity advising he lived in LaFayette for several years prior to moving to Tully and he is looking forward to working with the highway crew. The Town Board welcomed Paul.

Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. Budget Officer Tom Chartrand advised there was not a lot of activity to report. Court fines are picking up a bit which is up to 42% and heading in the right direction. The Town received a partial reimbursement of State Aid for CHIPS/ PAVE NY and we should be getting another payment a little bit later. General spending is at 54% without S.O.T.S / Revenue is at 91%; Highway spending is at 61% / Revenue at 99%; Library spending is at 74% / Revenue is at 99% Over all we are in good shape, keeping spending down; and revenues are getting close. Tom advised of the new transfer of appropriations for this month.

R-102-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Councilor Zajac seconded the motion to approve the transfer of appropriations as listed below. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

GENERAL FUND

To:			
A7110.2	Parks	Contractual	\$1,200.00
A7110.4	Parks	Contractual	<u>\$ 800.00</u>
			TOTAL
			<u>\$2,000.00</u>
From:			
A2090.4	Contingent	Contractual	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
			TOTAL
			<u>\$5,000.00</u>

2. Town Attorney – Attorney Jeff Brown advised that he has nothing to report at this time.

3. Highway Superintendent – Superintendent Greeley gave a verbal report as follows.

Roads: Have had (1) one snow event and Deputy Superintendent Steve Robson took the lead and did a good job.

Equipment: All plows active and ready.

4. Town Clerk

a. Monthly Report for October and payment to Supervisor’s Account were in the packet for Town Board review.

b. Town Clerk Jackie Roorda advised the Groth Road Cell Tower is due for inspection which is the Town’s responsibility. She spoke with Tom Chartrand prior to the meeting who advised that the money for the inspection is in the budget, however a motion is needed. Steve Robson / Steve Zajac will be the point of contact should the inspector need access.

R-103-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to approve the inspection and disbursement for the funds needed to have the Groth Road Cell Tower Inspected. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. Building and Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Lamson submitted his written report for building permits, issued to date for 2020. Lamson advised the bottle redemption trailer is taking up parking spaces needed at the Community Center especially now that the Community Center is being used again. He suggested that the trailer be moved to one of the schools since most of the organizations that benefit from this are school related. Supervisor Fitzpatrick advised he will speak to the school inquiring if that would be possible.

6. Library – September 2020 Board of Trustees Minutes & Director’s Report were available for the Town Board’s review.

7. Parks, Library & LCC:

Parks

- Stafford Park bathrooms are closed for the winter as of October 31, 2020
- Equipment, e.g., swings, goals, garbage/recycling receptacles, at the various parks has been taken down/removed and stored – some trash cans remain in place
- Mowing equipment has been winterized and stored

- Snow blower pre-season maintenance completed and mounted on John Deere tractor
- Sealant for Vinegar Hill basketball court purchased and delivered; will be applied in the spring

Library

- Physical library is open – patrons are granted access to use computers or browse for books by appointment only. Social distancing practices are in place for computers, etc. Curbside service will continue to be offered as an option.
- Remodeling projects involving the circulation desk and foyer have begun:
 - o The circulation desk has been resituated – turned 90 degrees, for better patron experience, and new, all-weather carpeting will be installed around the circulation desk
 - o The foyer wall has been repaired and repainted. Plan to install an accordion door to block access to book return, and hide equipment such as shovels, salt, etc.

Community Council

- LCC youth soccer has concluded and was success for the most part; exception was low turn-out at the grades 3 & 4, and the boy’s grades 5 & 6 levels
- The adult Coed softball league associated with LCC completed its fall season October 25
- Adult LCC programs, i.e., senior exercise, yoga, men’s basketball, and youth winter programs – basketball, wrestling, and volleyball, are on hold for the time being; resumption is dependent on state guidelines and the LCSD’s policies.
- Ski program registrations are underway; program will be conducted by Song Mountain per state guidelines
- Replacement engine for the Toro groomer has been obtained and will be installed this winter with the assistance of highway department personnel

7. NEW BUSINESS –

8. OPEN COMMUNICATIONS –

a. Resident Robert McElhannon inquired why his Trash exemption was denied since he was allowed it last year. Supervisor Fitzpatrick advised that the S.O.T.S. board denied the application due to the fact that the property is under new ownership this year. McElhannon stated that he does not utilize the trash service, Supervisor Fitzpatrick advised that it did not matter, as he stated before he was denied because the dumpster is no longer on his property.

b. Councilor McConnell advised that he met with J. Roy Dodge with regards to his request for the town to purchase a four (4) drawer Legal sized file cabinet to store his historic photographs. Conversation took place regarding location of the storage of this cabinet, capping the expenditure of the cabinet at \$1500, fireproof vs. non fireproof. The Clerk’s office will look into cost of cabinet and possibility of

putting them in the Library storage area as it is on concrete flooring and can bear the weight of the fireproof cabinets.

9. Motion to audit and pay bills.

General Fund	16711-16741	\$ 31,367.16
Highway Fund	16742-16758	\$ 38,842.53
Special District	16760	\$ 95.04
Trust & Agency.	16761-16763	\$ 2,374.00

R-104-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Palmer seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

10. Motion to adjourn.

R-105-20 Councilor McConnell moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
William McConnell	Councilor	Voted	Yes

The Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline G. Roorda
Town Clerk