

January 9th, 2024 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on January 9^h, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at LaFayette Town Hall and live on Facebook.

Present: William McConnell, Supervisor
Melanie Palmer, Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Councilor
Nate Loughlin, Councilor
Mark Distler, Deputy Supervisor

Recording Secretary: Tonya Farewell, Deputy Town Clerk

Attorney: Jeff Brown via Zoom
Budget Officer: Marty Knapp
Others Present: Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement
Steve Robson, Highway Superintendent
Dave Prince, Parks & Rec
Jackie Roorda, Deputy Town Clerk #2
Jessica Rice, Library Director
Approximately 50 residents

1. Call meeting to order Supervisor McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm
2. Motion to accept regular meeting minutes of December 12, 2023.

R-8-24 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to accept the December 12, 2023 regular Town Board meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn. Motion carried 4 - 0-1

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Votes	Abstained

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Crossroads Building Survey Results - Supervisor McConnell turned the presentation over to Deputy Supervisor Distler. Councilor Dwyer requested a motion allowing residents to give their input prior to a decision being made.

R-9-24 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to allow for residential input prior to a Town Board decision. Motion carried 5 - 0

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

**Carole Dwyer
Nate Loughlin**

**Councilor
Councilor**

**Voted
Votes**

**Yes
Yes**

Deputy Supervisor Distler said the Crossroads Building community survey results were provided to the Town Board on December 23, the day after the survey ended. He said the results are being presented tonight as well as in the newsletter, which recently arrived in mailboxes. He showed a slide of the question 1 results, in that of the 665 responses, 57% preferred rehabilitation and 43% preferred the park option.

He presented two slides that showed the type of responses to questions 2 and 3. He said the Town Board received all of the actual comments and will be considering further for possible recommendations.

Deputy Supervisor Distler said that the Town Board members each said, prior to tonight's meeting, they were ready to make a decision, including Councilor Loughlin whose first meeting was that night. Deputy Supervisor Distler said that before they take their vote, he thought they should know the first steps the Town Board will need to take after the vote. He then presented two slides that listed the steps for both options. There was some discussion about the rehabilitation option, as listed in the survey, which the developer would be responsible for meeting, with the Town's assistance, those being (1) pursue/obtain historic tax credits or other funding (2) pursue \$400k gap funding, (3) obtain additional off-street parking or variance, (4) obtain permit approval of on-site sewage treatment system, (5) obtain zoning variance for inn, and (6) obtain NYS DOT ROW permit. Deputy Supervisor Distler then reminded them that their vote was to pursue one of the options and that the approvals to spend grant funds will come as the first steps are taken.

The Town Board asked him some questions as well as that of Jeanie Gleisner. Each Town Board member shared their reasons pro & con for their vote. Several residents spoke in favor of both sides of the survey

R-10-24 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to accept the survey results and vote in favor of the rehabilitation of the corner building. Motion Carried 3 - 2

**William McConnell
Melanie Palmer
Jerry Marzo
Carole Dwyer
Nate Loughlin**

**Supervisor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor**

**Voted
Voted
Voted
Voted
Votes**

**Yes
No
Yes
No
Yes**

B. Cardiff Water District Update and Village of Tully MOU-Supervisor McConnell provided a brief update on the agreement with the Village of Tully to provide water to the Cardiff area and the Village of Tully, advising that we should have an MOU by the February meeting as it is being edited at this time. Conversation also took place with regard to the cost of this and other monies that maybe available through the County. Deputy Supervisor advised that we only need to approve the RFQ ad tonight.

R-11-24 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to allow Barton & Loguidice to move forward with the RFQ (Request for

Qualifications) to be delivered to the Town Clerk's office by February 9, 2024 for review by the attorney and Town Board . Motion Carried 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	No
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	No
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Votes	Yes

C. Justice Court Audit

R-12-24 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to approve the 2023 Justice Court Audit. Motion Carried 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	No
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	No
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Votes	Yes

D. Eastern Security Quote for Court - this will provide the court with an additional "phone like" system inside the court offices, which would be necessary to allow police, fire or EMS into the building should they need to secure themselves in the office. According the Judge Shute they have \$1500 in their budget to apply towards this equipment the remaining \$1500 would come from the Town building maintenance line.

R-13-24 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to approve the purchase of the additional security monitor/phone system from Eastern Security. Motion Carried 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	No
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	No
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Votes	Yes

E. Shared Services Agreement-

R-14-24 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to approve the Supervisor to sign the Shared Services Agreement with NYS DOT. Motion Carried 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	No
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	No
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Votes	Yes

6. COMMUNICATONS FROM THE PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER

- Doug Anderson Spoke about the survey results and basically gave the Town Board a "report card" with a grade of 90% advising that he would have preferred receiving the results sooner than the day of the meeting
- Herb Brodt verbalized that he is pleased that a decision has been made, albeit not exactly what he would have chosen

7. BOARD ACTION

8. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. December Monthly report - Bookkeeper Marty was not able to provide a monthly report as his program Williamson Law redacted some of his data and they are in the process of restoring it. He did advise that he spoke with former budget officer Tom Chartrand who advised that he should obtain a motion to do year end transfers so as to finish out the annual reports, should there need to be any transfer of funds.

**R-15-24 Supervisor McConnell move and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to allow bookkeeper Marty Knapp to close out the fiscal year of 2023 and make any necessary transfers with the consultation of Town Supervisor Bill McConnell.
Motion Carried 5-0**

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	No
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	No
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Votes	Yes

b. December & January Monthly audit of Supervisor Report will be done at the February meeting by Supervisor McConnell due to the delay in the bookkeeper report.

2. Attorney - Nothing further to report

Supervisor McConnell acknowledged the fact that Attorney Brown was attending the meeting remotely as he was in New Mexico doing is military service and has recently been promoted.

3. Highway_Superintendent Report - January 2024

Roads: Miscellaneous and general maintenance to our roads, shoulders, ditches and culverts will continue through the winter as weather permits. All snow removal equipment is ready. Snow and ice ops - 11 times for snow and no ice.

Highway Business: I would like to ask the Town Board for a resolution to authorize the Supervisor to sign the 2024 Shared Service Agreement with NYSDOT.

I would like to ask the Town Board for a resolution to surplus miscellaneous parts and equipment (see attached photos). All equipment that will be auctioned is no longer

on inventory due to age or was donated to the highway dept. The parts and filters go to equipment that the town no longer owns. I would like to posted on Auctions International in the next month or so with no reserve and the revenue to be placed into the Equipment Reserve to reduce future bond costs.

R-16-24 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to surplus excess highway equipment and parts that are no longer relevant to current equipment. Motion Carrier 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	No
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	No
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Votes	Yes

E-mail from Mark Burger OCSWCD: In 2015 the Onondaga County SWCD started to recognize municipal partners for the excellent conservation work that they do in their community.

In 2023, The Town of LaFayette Highway Department competed against other municipalities for the award.

The SWCD District Board of Directors chose, by ballot vote, the Town of LaFayette for their cutting-edge research and demonstration project using live edge snow plow blades which help to reduce salt and sand applications, while maintaining a safe riding surface for their community members.

This project demonstrated that not only did the Town reduce salt and sand usage, they also reduced the number of passes through the town, which in turn reduced the amount of fuel consumed. This reduced the highway department’s carbon footprint.

Water quality and aquatic habitat were also benefactors through reduced salt and sand usage and carbon emission reductions.

Past winners of the award include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2015 - Onondaga County | 2016 - Town of Camillus |
| 2017 - Town of Lysander | 2018 - Town of Van Buren |
| 2019 - Town of Lysander | 2020 - Town of Elbridge |
| 2021 - Town of Spafford | 2022 - Town of Skaneateles |

We are proud and pleased to work with the great team at the Town of LaFayette Highway Department, led by Mr. Steve Robson!

4. Town Clerk

- a. Monthly report for December 2023 is on file with Town Clerk’s office
- b. Annual Town Clerk Report 2023 is on file with the Town Clerk’s office
- c. Commercial Floor Care Quote - Deputy Town Clerk Tonya Farewell provided a quote for floor care obtained by Donna Knapp that includes the lobby, bathrooms, kitchen, Court & Clerk carpets. She advised that it is within the procurement policy requirements.

5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES
 - a. December 2023 Building Permit Report the report is on file with Town Clerk's office
 - b. Annual Building Permit Report 2023 the report is on file with Town Clerk's office
 6. Justice Court
 - a. December 2023 Justice Reports
 Judge Perrin had 102 cases and turned over \$12,473.00 to the Town of LaFayette for December 2023.
 Judge Shute had 96 cases and turned over \$10,465.00 to the Town of LaFayette for December 2023.
 7. Parks - Written Report on file with Town Clerk's office
 8. Library Director -Written report is on file with Town Clerk's office
 9. LCC - Written Report on file with Town Clerk's office
 10. LaFayette Fire / Ambulance Department - We had 19 fire/rescue calls for December. For the year we had 289 fire/rescue calls. Members also attended 37 Monday night drills for the year averaging 2 hours per night for a total of 112 hours for the year. The department also sends a representative to the southern section meeting and county chiefs meeting once a month and they average about 3 hours each.
 Ambulance Report: Calls 47 Total Calls

14	Als Transports	9	Bls Transports
6	Refusals	10	Cancelled after arrival/ on scene.
1	No crew		

Mutual given to other ambulance agencies = 3
 Current Employee status: ALS providers - 5 Part Time EMT providers - 6-part time
 Starting January we will have 2 Full time ALS providers and 2 full time BLS providers with benefits working on rotating schedules. This will provide almost all the hours required in our contract for 2024. The remainder of the hours each week will then be picked up by our part-time staff.
 11. Dog Control - Dogs @ Large= 2 Dog Complaints = 2 Miscellaneous Calls = 5 Dog returned to owners- 1 Dog Apprehended & transported to CNY SPCA-2
 Many calls in regards to dogs that were loose and picked up by concerned citizen. Citizens should be reminded that at present time there is not a leash law in the Town of LaFayette. In some cases, the dog that they pick up will eventually return to their owners if they are allowed to. There also are some dogs that wander from the Onondaga Reservation. This issue is responsible for many calls and in some cases, dogs being apprehended by Dog Control and transported to the CNY SPCA. Citizens should be reminded not to feed these dogs. If these dogs cause damage or injury, or become a nuisance the Dog Control officer should be notified.
- The area covered by the Dog Control Officer is a very large area and if there was a leash law in effect the Town would need to employ 1 - 2 full time officers to manage dogs that are allowed to roam and whose owners do not keep track of their dog's whereabouts.

Dog owners need to be reminded that the dogs are their responsibility and need to be under control at all times. Even though there is not a leash law in Lafayette as such, dogs cannot become a nuisance and invade other people's properties and create havoc for neighbors. This is an ongoing issue and may create the necessity for issuing tickets in the future.

B. Committee Reports

1. LACC (Mark Distler) written report on file with Town Clerk's office
2. Community Development - Councilor Dwyer reported that she will be meeting tomorrow 1/10/24 with Jeff Palin, Steve Zajac, Steve Merlan of C&S to discuss the Kitchen remodeling project
3. Safety & Facility Maintenance -The baton has been passed with regard to this job to Ashlie Carrier and Steve Pitoniak going forward. Supervisor McConell thanked Jerry Marzo for his expertise and dedication. Councilor Marzo did report that the Park bathroom renovation has begun, the ice rink for Winterfest will be constructed next week and the weather permitting the pond will be drained a.s.a.p.

8. NEW BUSINESS 0

Supervisor McConnel informed the board that he was notified this week that the Community Development grand deadline has been changed to February 16th so we will need to make some decision at the 2/13/24 Town Board meeting.

9. Motion to audit & pay bills

Fund	Check #'s	Total
General Fund	21341-21344; 21346-21360; 21362-21368; 21400; 21370-21376, 21387, 21393, 21396-21399	\$57,838.22
Highway Fund	21361; 21401; 21377- 21392; 21394-21395	\$44,066.97
Ambulance Protection Fund	21345	\$176,200.00
Library Fund	21396; 21402-21413	\$9,867.24

R-17-24 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 5 - 0.

William McConell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

10. Motion to adjourn

R-18-24 **Councilor Palmer moved and Supervisor McConnell seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm. Motion carried 5-0**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shute Colburn
Town Clerk