

January 10th, 2017 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Andrew Ohstrom, Councilor
Steve Zajac, Councilor
Melanie Palmer, Councilor
Kerry Evans, Councilor
Doug Daniel, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Jacqueline G. Roorda, Town Clerk

Others Present: Kevin Gilligan, Town Attorney
Thomas Chartrand, Budget Officer
Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcer

1. Supervisor Ohstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance.
2. Pledge to our U.S. Flag was led by Supervisor Zajac.
3. The Town Clerk, Jackie Roorda took the Roll. All present.
4. Town Board Minutes of December 13th, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Supervisor Ohstrom moved and Evans seconded the motion to accept the December 13th, 2016 meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted by Town Clerk, Jackie Roorda. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Andrew Ohstrom	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Doug Daniel	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Kerry Evans	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None
6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Supervisor Ohstrom advised that Jeannie Gleisner dropped off a beautiful topography map of LaFayette. He thanked Jeannie and commented how nice it was of her to do this map, at no cost to the Town. Code Enforcement Officer, Ralph Lamson questioned if we could get a digital map, as it would be beneficial in that format.

Ohstrom advised that he will check with Jeannie and commented that digital form would be very useful.

7. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. Budget Officer Tom Chartrand submitted the Monthly Financial Report, and advised of the following;

It was light month, only have the statement of receipts and disbursements as most of the vouchers signed today will go against the 2016 report. General Fund has good news in that Court fines and Mortgage tax exceeded the budget; \$15,000 Grant from the County and CHIPS money along with a reimbursement on a partial month rent of the roller the Highway rented was received.

There were no transfers this month.

2. Highway Superintendent's written report – Supervisor Ohstrom announced that Superintendent Greeley was unable to attend due to plowing snow and read his written report.

Roads: Plowed snow 36 times since last meeting.

Equipment: Using Truck #10 in place of #6 (Cardiff Route) Transfer case is in need of major repair.

Parks: Bleachers have been delivered for the park. They will be stored at Highway until spring.

Grants: All insurance and necessary paperwork has been submitted to the DEC "E" waste grant that we were able to secure. No word on the Bridges and Culvert pipe grant as of yet.

3. Town Clerk

a. Monthly Report and payment to Supervisor's Account was reviewed. Roorda advised that December is usually a quiet month except for passport applications.

b. Roorda reported that Comfort Windows replaced several windows, however with the cold weather, nine additional windows displayed broken seals. Comfort will get an estimate for the additional replacement windows drawn up for the Town Board.

4. Building and Code Enforcement

a. Building Permit price increase - Code Enforcement Officer, Ralph Lamson advised that he has a price list for Building Permits as they need updated and have been the same since he has been here. Supervisor asked if the new price were in line with other Towns and if anyone had any questions or concerns with the new list.

Lamson and Budget Officer Tom Chartrand advised that even with the increase, they are still lower than a lot of Towns.

Supervisor Ohstrom moved and Evans seconded the motion to accept and authorize the new price list for the Town of LaFayette Building Permits as itemized and presented by Building and Code Enforcer, Ralph Lamson.

Motion carried 5 - 0.

Andrew Ohstrom	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Doug Daniel	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Kerry Evans	Councilor	Voted	Yes

b. Software and new computer - Ohstrom asked Lamson if everything is all set with the new software program and computer. Lamson advised that the software program was all set and there will be training provided in his office once the computer is up and running.

Lamson then asked if anyone knew if the Town is offering Christmas tree drop off this year as he hadn't seen anything about it. Councilor Zajac advised that trees can be dropped off in the back corner of the Highway property.

5. Dog Control

6. Justice Court - 155 - total cases for Judge Perrin; \$10,266.00 was taken in for the month of November, 2016.
187 - total cases for Judge Shute; \$11,148.00 was taken in for the month of November, 2015.

Audit reports completed by David Lamson, for November 2016, were present for review.

7. Library

a. Board of Trustee Minutes and Director's Report for November, reviewed.

8. Recreation & Youth – basketball programs have started.

9. Parks and Recreation – Nothing new to report.

10. Tax Receiver – Tom Chartrand advised that Kitty Rienhardt just turned over the first installment of taxes to be deposited.

B. Committees

1. Agricultural Committee Councilor Palmer advised that it is a quiet period, with nothing new to report.

2. Environmental and Conservation Advisory Board – Ohstrom advised that he will check with Chair Jeannie Gleisner regarding an electronic copy of the map that she presented.

3. Safety – continue to meet.

4. School Liaisons – Ohstrom advised that he is working with the LaFayette School Budget Committee.

5. Solar – Councilor Daniel reported that the committee met once and is planning on their second meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 17th.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Resolution for 1-81 – Supervisor Ohstrom advised that he has been attending meetings with several Towns gave a brief summary of the various concerns with regard to the different options with regard to Interstate Route 81. Discussion included: Boulevard Option/ Tunnel concerns; 14 traffic lights, substantial delays in LaFayette residents traveling north; potential traffic nightmare if trucks, etc. bypass with boulevard or tunnel option. Ohstrom read a letter from Onondaga County Legislator Ryan McMann which summed up many of the concerns voiced. The following resolution was approved.

Town of LaFayette Town Board Resolution

ESTABLISHING THE INTENT OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE, COUNTY OF ONONDAGA, REGARDING THE NEED TO MAINTAIN EXSISTING ALIGNMENT OF INTERSTATE 81 THROUGH SYRACUSE

WHEREAS, for the last 50 years, Interstate 81 has served as a vital back bone for the economy of the Central New York, connecting commuters, businesses, tourists, visitors and through travelers alike; and

WHEREAS, among its important functions, Interstate 81 provides vital links with access to downtown Syracuse, all of our hospitals, Syracuse University, Destiny USA, Hancock Airport, present and future businesses and residents along 81 corridor, to business and residents within the Town of LaFayette; and

WHEREAS, although here are a variety of ways to deal with I-81's aging infrastructure, the existing "Interstate" function and designation must be preserved, because any solution which would remove I-81 vital function from its present alignment would irreparably harm the regional economy and corresponding employment dependent upon the highway of network in addition to negatively impacting local neighborhoods and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, redirecting Interstate 81 to Route 481 is not smart environmental policy because the distance traveled for through traffic and further stop and go intercity community traffic is increased. This is polluting, ineffective, requires the

use of greater amounts of petroleum based fuels, hurts the economy, and is detrimental to social welfare and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the future of I-81 presents one of the greatest planning decisions to face New York State in decades and the outcome will impact our region for the next 100 years; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the LaFayette Town Board that any decision reached by the NYS DOT should satisfy function first, and should be closely tailored to satisfy that function; and

WHEREAS, we support smart growth and the creation of a new and welcoming entrance to Syracuse, and the integration of the hospitals and university areas with the rest of downtown, we believe it must not be accomplished by compromising one of the most significant advantages of living, working, doing business and visiting Onondaga County;

WHEREAS, LaFayette supports a balanced, comprehensive approach, a regional transportation plan is necessary to ensure smart choices are made, a plan that can provide environmental, social, economic benefits to all of Central New York, one that promotes alternative and mass transit options including alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and a light rail system; for out suburban communities are in dire need of a traffic diet as well; and,

WHEREAS, if Interstate 81 is not retained as an interstate highway through Syracuse, truck traffic will become a greatly increased burden for communities south and west of Syracuse;

WHEREAS, the Almond Street “boulevard” and parallel streets in Syracuse would bear the burden of scores of thousands of additional vehicles each day, displaced by the removal of the elevated highway;

WHEREAS, additionally, if Interstate 81 is not retained as an interstate highway, trucks headed north through Syracuse to Interstate 690 or the New York Thruway would encounter a boulevard laced with 14 signalized intersections, then have to make a right turn onto Erie Boulevard, travel east two blocks, make a left turn to pass under t-G90, and then another left turn onto a westbound I-690 ramp. It is very unlikely that trucks traveling north on I-81 with a destination to the west would travel this route, nor would they divert miles out of the way to the east of Syracuse and pay increased tolls on the Thruway to reach their goal. The result would be communities west of Syracuse experiencing a greatly increased burden of truck traffic, with many of the trucks carrying hazardous wastes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the LaFayette Town Board establishes its determination that the existing Interstate 81 alignment through Syracuse and Central New York must remain and its function and designation as an interstate highway must not be removed or impaired; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of LaFayette is hereby directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the New York State Department of Transportation, to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, and to the various legislative members representing Onondaga County at the state level.

Supervisor Ohstrom moved and Councilor Evans seconded to accept the Interstate 81 Resolution as presented. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Andrew Ohstrom	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Doug Daniel	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Kerry Evans	Councilor	Voted	Yes

9. Motion to audit and pay bills.

General Fund	10272-10326	\$148,111.01
Highway Fund	10327-10344	\$ 81,499.91
Special District	10345-10346	\$ 110.29

Supervisor Ohstrom moved and Zajac seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Andrew Ohstrom	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Doug Daniel	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Kerry Evans	Councilor	Voted	Yes

10. Motion to adjourn.

Supervisor Ohstrom moved Evans and seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Andrew Ohstrom	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Doug Daniel	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Kerry Evans	Councilor	Voted	Yes

The Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline G. Roorda, Town Clerk