

March 20th, 2023 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the rescheduled regular Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on March 20th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at LaFayette Town Hall and live on Facebook.

Present: William McConnell, Supervisor
Steve Zajac, Councilor
Melanie Palmer, Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Councilor

Absent: Mark Distler, Deputy Town Supervisor

Recording Secretary: Jackie Bush Roorda, Town Clerk

Attorney: Jeff Brown

Budget Officer: Marty Knapp

Others Present: David Knapp, County Legislature
Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement
Kristin Colburn, Deputy Town Clerk
Dave Prince, Parks & Rec
DJ Maher, Chris Baker & Katie Kautz, LCC
And several residents

1. Supervisor McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. The Town Clerk, Jackie Roorda took the Roll. All Present. Pledge to our U. S. Flag led by Supervisor McConnell.

Supervisor McConnell introduced Onondaga County Undersheriff, Jeffrey Passino & Sargent Schiano who spoke of the many things the Sheriff's department is currently working on improving, including but not limited to decreasing the processing time of pistol permits, putting SPO (Safety Patrol Officers) in schools and the Jamesville Penitentiary project.

3. Motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting of February 14, 2023.

R-51-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to accept the February 14th 2023 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Jackie Roorda. Motion carried 5-0.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARING - 2023 Onondaga Community Development Block Grant

R-52-23 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to open the public hearing for the 2023 Onondaga County Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Supervisor McConnell advised that this a grant we apply for annually. Per the 2020 Census these monies are dedicated to the Stafford Park area or the northeast corner of LaFayette. In 2022 we received \$25k to replace playground equipment at Stafford Park. The renovation of the main bathrooms (at the North end of the park) is a priority. Councilor Marzo explained that he is working on the plumbing system plans and how to contain that so it can be protected from the elements. He stated this system will need to be completely redesigned. Councilor Dwyer expressed concern for the Town’s financial responsibility (or grant match). Supervisor McConnell explained that it is 20%, which generally comes from labor, materials, and machinery we provide through the Highway Department.

Community Comments: DJ Mahar, LCC President asked about a wall instead of trees around the dug-out bench areas to assist with reducing the I-81 noise because it is difficult to hear the coaches during games. Supervisor McConnell informed that we will look into estimates for the cost of a wall. Dave Prince suggested that there are other priorities such as the creek bed erosion and dangers of a child slipping into the creek. The Board settled on these priorities for the 2023 Onondaga County Community Development Block Grant:

1. Refurbish Main Bathrooms - Councilor Marzo to work on the cost estimates
2. Walls at the dug-out benches as a noise barrier, - LCC will work with Jerry Marzo on this solution.
3. Creek Bed Erosion - Councilor Marzo will check on options to see if the Town can fix some of the problems now. Dave Prince suggested that we put up a temporary fence.
4. Lean-To near the pond at Stafford Park

R-53- 23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to close the public hearing for the 2023 Onondaga County Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. JG Lawn & Snow LLC proposed 2023 Contract - to do the landscaping and maintenance of the flower beds at the Town Hall, library, and community center, as described in the estimate provided.

R-54-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to authorize Supervisor McConnell to sign the 2023 contract with JG Lawn & Snow LLC for \$3,300.00 to do the landscaping and maintenance of the flower beds at the Town Hall, including the library and the community center, per contract. Motion carried 5 - 0.

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

B. Cardiff Water District Survey by B & L

Supervisor McConnell advised that the survey will cost \$7,600 for B & L to design the survey, mail and post online. These funds will come from the Cardiff Hamlet Water account that currently has \$237K. In March 2022, a survey was done and found an underground river headed down from Webb Road into Cardiff. We needed to drill 5 - 7 test wells but that was put on hold. A resident survey is needed to determine if there is interest for a water district on the top side of Cardiff, Sentinel Heights to the Hamlet, Cardiff to the Tully line. If a line is built from Sentinel Heights, Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) would handle the maintenance of future water districts for us. McConnell advised that EFC now is considering LaFayette's project needs. Jeff Brown advised the EFC's (Environmental Facilities Corp.) intended use plan is based on community need and considers funding/grants/low interest loans for communities with the greatest needs. It is up to the Town to survey to determine what interest the residents have, the needs and costs for such.

R-55-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to authorizing B & L to start working with the Town Board on preparing the survey to the evaluate water supply preferences with the intent to distribute the survey by water the next quarter. Motion carried 5 - 0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Steve Zajac	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes

C. 2023 Onondaga Community Development Block Grant - Councilor Jerry Marzo will work on this grant submission with C & S Engineers' Mark Chambers for the projects previously listed during the Public Hearing.

R-56-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to authorize the submission of the 2023 Onondaga County Development Block Grant by April 7, 2023 with the five-year consolidated plan with the priorities of refurbishing the bathrooms, walls at the dugout areas, stabilize the creek beds, and construct a lean-to next to Stafford Park. Motion carried 5 - 0.

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

D. Onondaga County Wi-Fi Installation Update -

Legislator David Knapp gave a brief update on the status of this collaboration with Onondaga County and Verizon stating that \$15 million is coming from Onondaga County and \$7 million from Verizon. Contracts are signed, engineers are doing their part and the goal is to start installing lines when the weather breaks, early May 2023. This program will help to provide reliable Wi-Fi to areas that have no or poor access and may provide competitive rate alternatives to some areas where Verizon Fios is run. The also said there will be decreased rates for seniors and lower income households.

E. Justice Court Internal Audit for 2022 Resolution

R-57-23 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to forward to Internal Audit Services (IAS) the 2022 Audit Report as provided by David Lamson, CPA for LaFayette Town Justices Maureen Perrin and Justice Adrian Shute, which have been duly examined by this Town Board, and state that the fines therein collected have been turned over to the proper officials of the Town as required by law. Motion carried 5 -0.

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

restrictions, but found it very informative and hopes to attend again next year.

7. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

- a. February Monthly report - Budget Officer Marty Knapp advised that with the new Williamson software the report is quite a bit longer. No flags of over or under spending for this month. The percentages of expenditures are in line with the budget. Marty will be renaming some of the accounts to make them more identifiable.
- b. Transfer of Appropriations - Marty Knapp informed that there are no transfers for this month
- c. Audit of Supervisor's monthly report and check list of four areas will be completed by the member who leads the pledge of allegiance to the flag each month as was done with Tom Chartrand as bookkeeper.

R-60-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion that a positive audit of the bank reconciliation of the Supervisor's account as completed by Supervisor McConnell was appropriate. Motion carried 5 - 0

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

- 2. Attorney Jeff Brown discussed potential updates with regard to wind energy system policies that we have now. Jeff has offered to review and make some revisions to our code with regard to wind energy and focus on the medium size wind farms, as our current code is more designed for personal wind power.

R-61-23 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to have Attorney Jeff Brown prepare a local law to make revisions to the current policies regarding wind farms focusing on medium size wind farms to introduce to the Board at the April Town Board meeting. Motion carried 5 - 0

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

**Jerry Marzo
Carole Dwyer**

**Councilor
Councilor**

**Voted
Voted**

**Yes
Yes**

3. Highway Superintendent's Report

Roads: Miscellaneous 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 - 19 times for snow and 2 times for ice.

Highway Business:

- I would like to ask the Town Board to approve and sign the 284 Agreement, for the expenditure of our Roads budget. The CHIPs, EWR, POP and Pave NY 284 agreement will be submitted as soon as the New York State releases the budget amounts for 2023.
- On February 17 the Town of LaFayette took delivery of the 2023 JCB Teleskid 3TS-8T (Rubber tract skid steer) New York State OGS Contract # PC69235 for the amount of \$104,023.00. The 2006 Cat 277B was sold on Auction International on February 13 for \$24,600.00.
- Tentative delivery of the 2023 Volvo EWR130E - New York State OGS Contract # PC69437 for the amount of \$208,000.00 (Rubber tired excavator) is approximately July of 2023. This will replace the 2011 Volvo EW180C. I am reaching out to over 30 large construction companies thru out New York and Pennsylvania before placing on Auction International. This action is one component of our three-year rotation plan to get the highest amount possible and reducing the cost to the residents of our town.

4. Town Clerk

- a. Monthly report for February, 2023
- b. Town Clerk Jackie Roorda advised that we have hired a second deputy, Tonya Farewell who will be starting at the end of June after she finishes out the school year at her current job.

5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES

- a. February 2023 Building Permit Report written report was available and Code Enforcement had nothing more to add.

6. Justice Court

- a. February 2023 Justice Reports:
 - Judge Perrin had 63 cases and turned over \$ 6,792.00 to the Town of LaFayette for February, 2023.
 - Judge Shute had 103 cases and turned over \$9,903.00 to the Town of LaFayette for February 2023.

7. Library Director Report is on file in the Town Clerk's office
8. LCC Report is on file in the Town Clerk's office - The board was present and LCC President, DJ Maher gave a brief summary of the report on fire and the swim program was discussed.
9. LaFayette Fire Department - Sean Doolittle submitted a report that they had 27 fire/rescue calls for month of February and stated there is nothing further to report at this time.

B. Committee Reports

1. Community Development

- a. NYS Restore Round 7 Grant - Response is expected no later than June '23
- b. Onondaga County Main Street Grant - Response is expected May '23. Counselor Dwyer asked for an update in writing regarding the grants the Town is applying for. Supervisor McConnell stated that he will put together a written summary on the pending grants to update everyone.

2. LACC (Mark Distler) written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office

- a. Re-appointment of Mark Distler as the LACC Chair as his term has ended.

R- 62-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Marzo seconded the motion to reappoint Mark Distler as the Chair to the LACC Board for another year. Motion carried 5-0.

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

3. CPIC report is on file at Town Clerk's Office.

4. Safety & Facility Maintenance (Jerry Marzo)

- a. Facilities - Councilor Jerry Marzo will reach out to Highway Superintendent Steve Robson to complete the inspections of all Town facilities by the end of March. He also reminded those in attendance, that April 22, 2023 is the Arbor Day celebration during which the 17 trees that were donated by Cornell will be planted & 4 trees that will be purchase using the NY Upstate Forestry Council grant.

b. Parks - Dave Prince spoke of the Field Usage policy that was originated by former Recreation Director Regina Reinschmidt. He revamped the previous policy but it still needs some modifications and updating. Discussion took place on who will be responsible for tracking usage and coordinate between LCC, Dave Prince and Town Clerk for fees, insurance, scheduling of the pavilions, fields at Stafford, Apple Festival grounds, the box lacrosse, etc. Town Clerk Roorda commented that her office schedules the pavilions and community center and keeps track of the costs involved, however feels keeping track of the sporting events and scheduling field usage would be difficult. Supervisor McConnell suggested that Dave Prince, LCC and the Clerk's office get together to discuss this process.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. New T-Mobile Cell Tower Lease - Supervisor McConnel advised this new lease will triple the Town's revenue by an increase to \$1,800 per month for an annual increase of approximately \$20,000 per year which assists with property tax reductions.

R- 63-23 Councilor Dwyer moved and Palmer seconded the motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the new lease between the Town of LaFayette and T-Mobile. Motion carried 5 - 0.

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

9. Motion to audit & pay bills

FUND	CHECK #'S	TOTAL
General Fund	20637-20650; 20652-20654 20656 -20659; 20661-20690; 20692-20696; 20698, 20699 20706, 20708, 20711, 20714, 20716-20718; 20720, 20723	\$115,942.21
Highway Fund	20646,020697, 20700-20705, 20707, 20709, 20710, 20712, 20713, 20715, 20718, 20719	\$121,003.07
Cardiff H2) Dist.	20636	\$7,471.75
Coye Rd H2O Dist.	20660	\$2,016.89

LaFayette Fire Dist.	20633, 20691, 20721	\$358,214.25
Jamesville Fire Dist.	20635	\$42,250.00
Ambulance Prot. Dept.	20634	\$129,550.50
W. Shore Lighting Dist.	20655, 20725	\$3,209.36
Trust Agency	32, 34	\$1,528.14
Total:		\$781.186.17

R-64-23 Councilor Dwyer moved and Palmer seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 5 - 0.

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

10. Motion to adjourn

R- 65-23 Councilor Dwyer moved and Palmer seconded the motion to adjourn Motion carried 5-0

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

The Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline G. Roorda
Town Clerk