

March 12th, 2019 LaFayette Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Town Board Regular Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on March 12, 2019 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: Daniel Fitzpatrick, Supervisor
Steve Zajac, Councilor
Melanie Palmer, Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Councilor
William McConnell, Councilor

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

Others Present: Ralph Lamson, Code Enforcement Officer
David Knapp, County Legislator
Matt Mallory, Public Safety & Education
Dave Prince, LCC, Library, Parks & Rec
David Hess, Jeff Murray, Don Moody
Sherry LaVancher, Sean Doolittle, LaFayette Fire Dept.

1. Supervisor Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Councilor Dwyer led the pledge to the U.S. Flag.
2. The Town Clerk, Jackie Roorda took the Roll. All Present.
3. Town Board Minutes of February 12th, 2019 Regular Meeting.

R-39-19 Councilor Palmer moved and McConnell seconded the motion to accept the February 12, 2019 regular Meeting Minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Jackie Roorda. 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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Presentation by David Hess of National Grid Lighting Division, regarding changing street lighting to LED.

David Hess of National Grid gave a presentation regarding the Town of LaFayette switching to LED outdoor street lighting and the conversion program, He advised that there are incentives and possible grants etc. that would assist in the cost of \$32,287.00 for this project. There is an \$8,800 estimated EE incentive back and with switching to LED the Town is eligible to apply for a possible \$30,000 clean energy grant from CNY Regional Planning Board. This would put us \$7000 ahead of the total cost. There are 143 street lights in LaFayette; 2 districts (Town General & West Shore Manor) The Town would pay National Grid to convert to LED, then receive the incentives and hopefully the grant monies. Certain steps have to be taken which we are well on our way to completing. The estimated savings to the town is approximately \$5000 per year as LED lights are extremely efficient, long-lasting, and saves the environment.

Discussions took place regarding the timeframe to apply for grant money; budget money needed for this transformation; a 3 to 4 day period to switch out all the bulbs; National Grid replaces any bulbs that go out; Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Lamson has already completed the training necessary and an estimation of just a five-year payback.

Supervisor Fitzpatrick thanked David Hess for this presentation and advised that this was an informational presentation to get the word out there and hopefully the Town will move forward on this opportunity for this LED outdoor street lighting conversion program.

B. GoPetie Dog Licensing Software proposal & contract

Supervisor Fitzpatrick discussed the NEXT Pet licensing software system powered by Go Petie advising that Town Clerk Jackie Roorda, Carole Marsh (Supervisor from Pompey) and himself sat in on a presentation regarding this program. He advised that this is a software proposal that would replace our current dog licensing system. It would allow residents to license their dogs via an app on their smart phone or computers. With this app you can create a social network, get email alerts, renewal notices, etc. The idea is that it could create revenue for the town by increasing the number of dogs licensed. This was launched in Boston, Massachusetts and some other big cities in Massachusetts and has proved to be very successful. The initial cost for the first year would be approximately \$2000 and there would be an estimated \$1000 yearly fee for the program.

Discussions included cost of the present dog licensing program, still having the expense of dog control officers, kennel fees and cruelty fees, being the first startup in New York State, getting the veterinarians on board, the question if it's compatible and in compliance with Ag and Markets, and the fact that it was not budgeted for in 2019.

Supervisor Fitzpatrick explained this was just to introduce this software program and have the Board review for a later date.

C. Introduction of Sherry LaVancher, candidate for assessor position

Supervisor Fitzpatrick advised that our current tax assessor, Shawn Adam has done a spectacular job for numerous years and will be retiring in June. Sherry LeVancher is

interested in the position of LaFayette's assessor and comes highly recommended by Mr. Adam. Sherry introduced herself and gave a detailed background of her many years as the fulltime assessor in the Town of Onondaga which she recently retired from. She is interested in working part-time in a smaller community where she will be able to have more individual contact in assisting the residents.

Questions from the Board were answered as Sherry advised that in 2003 she was involved in a re-evaluation in Onondaga and kept Onondaga at 100% assessment ever since. She expressed that as assessor for the Town of Onondaga she gained great experience in most every aspect as it is well diversified with housing developments, farming communities, Nedrow and Brittany Hills. She feels her greatest challenge will be getting to know LaFayette areas and is excited about the potential opportunity of working in a small town with our residents.

Supervisor Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. LeVancher for coming to the board meeting.

D. Possible MOU (Memo of Understanding) with Suit Kote regarding millings pile

Attorney Jeff Brown explained that it may be a good idea to draft a Memo of Understanding with Suit Kote regarding the millings pile and removal located on Route 20. This MOU would basically confirm in writing an agreement of the timeframe when the millings will be removed. At this time it is understood that they will be gone by November of 2019 as they will be used for other road projects. The millings pile does not violate any DEC regulations, however, complaints have been voiced with regard to the piles apparently being an eyesore. The MOU would outline the timeframe for the removal, get notification of use of a pug mill, an agreement regarding hours of operation and potentially stipulated penalties if there is breach of the agreement.

The Board suggested that Atty. Brown reach out to both Suit Kote and the property owner where the millings are stored, and he will also investigate if there is a contract between the two of them. The Board was in agreement that Atty. Brown should draft the MOU for review at its next meeting.

E. Solar Farm application update

Attorney Jeff Brown gave a summary of the processes being taken by Cyprus Creek regarding a possible solar farm to be located on Apulia and Paladino Roads in the Town of LaFayette. He advised that they have already gone before the Zoning Board of Appeals presenting their application for a Specific Use Permit. The first step is consideration of SEQR, (environmental review) and appointing the lead agency. The ZBA Board recommended the Planning Board take lead. Atty. Brown advised that next Tuesday the Planning Board will meet with the intent to pass a resolution for the Planning Board to take lead agency. There is a possibility that Army Corps or DEC may decide to be lead agency, however he feels that is unlikely.

Discussions included a necessary 30 day response period for other involved agencies; no tax payment requirement with solar farms therefore scheduling a meeting with Cyprus Creek regarding a possible payment agreement in lieu of taxes. Atty. Brown advised that Assessor Shawn Adam is working on that with Jamesville Dewitt School District as the solar farm would be located in that district. In the future approximately 800 residences may sign on and decrease their National Grid bills. This is a 28 acre parcel and it will be a two megawatt solar system. There will be a public hearing for the controlled site approval, etc. wherein residents can voice their concerns, Town engineers will be looking at Palladino Road to ensure that as the construction phase takes place the structure of the town road is protected.

F. Proposed Developer Fee Deposit Schedule

Jeff Brown advised that LaFayette Developer fees have not been updated in approximately 15 years. He met with Tom Chartrand to discuss what fees would be appropriate. The developer fees are more of an escrow account in which applicants deposit the specified amount into a trust deposit and as the engineering and legal costs come forward they are paid out of that account. The legal fees go back into the town as Atty. Brown is salary. If there are amounts left over when the project is completed those amounts go back to the applicant. The proposed developer fee deposits were reviewed with one key point being the clause at the bottom of the listed fees: “*Subject to changes, per Building & Zoning Officer” for those applications that require no engineering or attorney fees and minimal costs such as simple subdivisions and variances, etc.

R- 40-19 Councilor McConnell moved and Zajac seconded the motion to accept the developer fee deposit schedule as proposed. 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

Application fees also have not been modified in approximately 15 years as well and they will be discussed at a later date.

G. Plan for updating Zoning Ordinance/Codifying Town Code

Jeff Brown advised that he has spoken to General Code regarding the codification of Town of LaFayette laws and ordinances. He is pleased to see that a fair amount of legwork to get this up and running has already been completed and 60% of the cost has already been paid to General Code. He will be reviewing the new zoning ordinances that were completed by a committee in 2016 and will be working with Ralph on the update as needed. Ralph Lampson Building and Code Enforcement advised that Tully uses E-Code as well. This would allow anyone to easily access LaFayette’s ordinances via our website. The focus is definitely positive, a good service and easily searchable. Budget Officer

Tom Chartrand advised that the annual fee will be approximately \$2000 and that there is enough money budgeted to complete the process and to fund the annual fee. Atty. Brown feels that he will be able to review the ordinances and get the code up and running by the end of 2019.

H. LOSAP (Length of Service Award Participants)

The LaFayette Fire Department submitted a letter certifying their review of the service award participants. This was posted on March 4, 2019 for 30 days. They have determined that there is no new member eligible for direct payout. At the end of the 30 day posting they will get back to the Town Board as to the status of the service awards. This should take place at our April meeting so long as the final list is available prior to the meeting so that Tom Chartrand can have the vouchers ready for the board members to sign for the payout.

6. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. 1. Town Supervisor’s Monthly report was provided by Budget Officer Tom Chartrand. Tom went through the highlights of the February report.

Tom advised that property taxes are paid in full and that there are no transfers at this time. He advised that we received a refund of Worker’s Comp. insurance which was nice, the general and specials funds were up a little due to the purchase of the property on Route 11 and SOTS costs.

b. Tom reported that the 2018 Annual Financial Updates for the Town and for SOTS have been filed with New York State and are available to look at during the regular Town Clerk business hours.

R-41-19 Councilor McConnell moved and Zajac seconded the motion that the annual financial update has been filed with New York State and is available for anyone to look at during regular Town Clerk business hours.

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

R-42-19 Councilor Zajac moved and Palmer seconded the motion that review of the 2018 Supervisor’s financial report was completed by the Town Board resulting in a positive audit. 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

R-43-19 Councilor Palmer moved and Dwyer seconded the motion authorizing the Supervisor to sign the proposal from Michael Grimm Services, Inc. in the amount of \$600 for weed spray for the baseball fields behind True Value Hardware in June & September 2019. 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

2. Highway Superintendent

Roads: Snow and ice operations were performed 25 times since the last Town Board meeting.

The 284 agreement will be submitted as soon as the NY State budget is released. The Town should be getting back between \$6,000 and \$8,000 for winter severity.

Ordered 500 tons of sand to help get through the rest of the snow season. More sand was used because of many ice conditions.

Equipment: Request Town Board approval to surplus the 2003 Ford F550 (VIN. #1FD57P63ED50013) to sell via silent bid process with the assistance of the Town Clerk and take off insurance upon surplus status.

Superintendent Greeley will get the proper information to the Town Clerk in order to put the bid on the website and post it in the usual places.

Greeley advised surplus value is approximately \$600.00.

Superintendent Greeley advised that Onondaga County DOT is going to be rebuilding the Tully Farms Bridge approximately July – August 2019 and will be detouring traffic to Route 11A. This is an approximately \$600,000 project and they also plan to work on the Bear Mountain Bridge. Town Highway will do an evaluation of the current condition of the roads that DOT will be detouring traffic to in order to make sure that the detour does not damage those roads.

R-44-19 Councilor Zajac moved and Palmer seconded the motion to declare the 2003 Ford F550 dump/plow truck surplus and the Town Clerk Jackie Roorda will post that sealed bids may be dropped off at her office until April 5 at noon. The sealed bids will be opened at the April 9, 2019 Town Board 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

3. Town Clerk

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

b. Town Clerk Jackie Roorda advised that members of the Town Board have audited the Town Clerk records for 2018 and therefore she requests a motion/resolution be made reflecting that fact.

R- 45-19 Supervisor Fitzpatrick moved and Councilor McConnell seconded the motion that a positive audit was completed by the Town Board for the 2018 LaFayette Town Clerk's records. 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

4. Building and Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Lamson provided the report for building permits issued to date for 2019 and commented that the number of permits has increased compared to this time last year. He also advised that he recently attended a SPEDES seminar and the only thing new to report is some DEC regulations regarding roadside ditches.

6. Justice Court -

a. Justices Monthly report for January 2019

126 - Total cases for Judge Perrin; \$10,802.00 was taken in for the month of January, 2019.

116 - Total cases for Judge Shute; \$7,719.00 was taken in for the month of January 2019.

7. Library

a. Board of Trustee Minutes and Director's Report for January & February 2019 were available in the Town Board's packet for review. Dave Prince advised that they are still looking for a replacement for one of the board members. A couple people have showed interest however there were conflicts with meeting times.

b. Prince also advised that the library board would like to know if there is a policy regarding problems with the building such as when the heat pump was broken it took months to restore heat in that section of the library. Councilor Zajac said he is the contact person as the facilities manager. The problem with the heat pump was that the system is very old the heat pump is off the grid so it took longer to order and with weather and storms it was delayed for delivery.

8. LCC - Dave Prince advised that wrestling has wrapped up and we hosted two matches as well as having younger children participating as undercards at a Tully Varsity

wrestling match that they really enjoyed. The 5th & 6th grade boys' and girls' basketball has finished their league and played games with paid referees which went really well. We are into 3rd & 4th grade instructional basketball and volleyball with no games to be played. That is set to finish on April 6th, 2019. We have started our Spring / Summer sports registration for primarily baseball, softball, t-ball followed by lacrosse but we are not going to be participating in ULA lacrosse this year due to lack of coaching, and participation, as well as the cost. We will just be offering instructional, but those individuals still wanting to participate in ULA may do so in some of our adjacent towns.

LCC is hoping to run a soccer camp again this summer. They are looking into a wrestling takedown competition to be held the morning of Community Day under the pavilion which will on be a fundraiser which can help with costs of new wrestling mats.

9. Parks - Dave Prince received a lot of positive feedback regarding the south end of the park walking trail throughout the winter weather.

10. Sean Doolittle from the Fire Department advised of the number of fire calls structural fires non-emergent calls etc. He said they recognized Phil Field for 56 years and Carl Field for 51years of service to the LaFayette Fire Department. He also advised that there will be an open house on Saturday April 27th at 11 am at the Fire Department and that they are reworking their website.

7. TOWN ATTORNEY/LITIGATION & OTHER MATTERS

8. Motion to audit and pay bills.

General Fund	14003-14075	\$ 42,022.46
Highway Fund	14076-14092	\$ 38,119.59
Special District	14094-14096	\$ 10,984.98

R- 46 -19 Councilor McConnell moved and Zajac 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

Ralph Lamson announced that seven students from LaFayette were on the Syracuse hockey team that became New York State champions on Sunday in Buffalo. The names are Kyle Lamson, Caleb Benedict, Cam Walsh, Nelson Jones, Aiden Griffin, Wyatt Weil, and Skarwaite Papineau. Supervisor Fitzpatrick and the entire Town Board congratulated the team and asked that this be put on the website for the recognition.

9. Motion to adjourn.

R- 47-19 Councilor Dwyer moved McConnell and 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 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline G. Roorda
Town Clerk