

July 11, 2023 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on July 11th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at LaFayette Town Hall and live on Facebook.

Present: William McConnell, Supervisor
Melanie Palmer, Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Councilor

Absent: Steve Zajac, Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Kristin Colburn, Town Clerk

Attorney: Jeff Brown

Budget Officer: Marty Knapp

Others Present: Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement
Sue Marzo, Information Officer
Mark Distler, Deputy Supervisor
Ruth Anne Shute, Library Board VP
Jessica Rice, Library Director
and several residents

1. Supervisor McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and Town Clerk Kristin Colburn took the roll. Councilor Zajac & Councilor Dwyer absent, all other Board members present. Pledge to our U.S. Flag led by Councilor Melanie Palmer.
2. Motion to accept minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of June 13th 2023.

**R-118-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to accept the June 13th, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Kristin Colburn.
Motion carried 3-0.**

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

PUBLIC HEARING - for Local Law No. 3-2023 amend Chapter 245 (Taxation) of the Code for the Town of LaFayette to add a new Article IX creating a Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption within the Town of LaFayette.

R-119-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to open the public hearing for Local Law No. 3 Amending Chapter 245 (Taxation) of the Code of the Town of LaFayette to add a new

Article IX creating a Volunteer Firefighter & Volunteer Ambulance Worker's Real Property Tax Exemption within the Town of LaFayette. Motion Carried 3-0

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

LaFayette Fire Department President Jay Erickson expressed his gratitude to the Town Board for their continued support in all of their endeavors.

R-120-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to close the public hearing for Local Law No. 3 Amending Chapter 245 (Taxation) of the Code of the Town of LaFayette to add a new Article IX creating a Volunteer Firefighter & Volunteer Ambulance Worker's Real Property Tax Exemption within the Town of LaFayette. Motion carried 3-0.

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

1. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Vote on Local Law 3-2023 - Volunteer Firefighter & Volunteer Ambulance Worker's Real Property Tax Exemption within the Town of LaFayette

Town of LaFayette

Local Law No. 3 **of the year 2023.**

A local law to amend Chapter 245 (Taxation) of the Code for the Town of LaFayette to add a new Article IX creating a Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption within the Town of LaFayette

Be it enacted by the Town Board **of the**

Town of LaFayette **as follows:**

Section 1. Chapter 245, Article IX of the Code of the Town of LaFayette entitled "Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption" is hereby added to read in its entirety as follows:

§ 245-27 Legislative Intent

It is the intent of the town board of the Town of LaFayette, County of Onondaga to provide a real property tax exemption to qualifying volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers as set forth in New York Real Property Tax Law § 466-a.

§ 245-28 Authority

Real Property Tax Law § 466-a authorizes the town board to adopt a local law providing a real property tax exemption of up to ten percent of the assessed value of real property owned by qualifying volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

§ 245-29 Grant of Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers

The Town Board of the Town of LaFayette, County of Onondaga hereby provides a real property tax exemption of 10% of the assessed value of real property for individuals that meet the following qualifications:

- The individual is an enrolled and certified* member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or volunteer ambulance service that serves the Town of LaFayette and has a minimum of 2 years of service; and

- The individual resides in the town and the property receiving the benefit is the primary residence of the individual and is used exclusively for residential purposes, and any portion of the property not used for residential purposes shall be subject to taxation.

* Certifications shall be made in writing by the applicable organization and shall be approved via resolution by the Town Board.

§ 245-30 Grant of Lifetime Real Property Tax Exemption for Certain Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers

The Town Board of the Town of LaFayette, County of Onondaga hereby provides a lifetime real property tax exemption of 10 % of the assessed value of real property for any individuals that have been certified by the authority having jurisdiction over an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service as having accrued two or more years of active service, so long as their primary residence remains within the Town of LaFayette.

§ 245-31 Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 2. This local law shall be effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

R-121-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to adopt Local Law No. 3-2023 Amending Chapter 245 (Taxation) of the Code of the Town of LaFayette to add a new Article IX creating a Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Worker Real Property Tax Exemption within the Town of LaFayette. Motion carried 3-0.

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

B. Resignation of Kim Tingley, Recreation Clerk and Appointment of Hillary Bevens. – Supervisor McConnell explained that Kim requested to step down as recreation clerk and that the LaFayette Community Council Board found a suitable replacement. Being that the position is a civil service position it must be approved by the Town Board.

R-122-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Recreation Clerk Kim Tingley. Motion carried 3-0.

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

R-123-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to appoint Hillary Bevens as Recreation Clerk at the same rate approved in the 2023 Town of LaFayette Budget, \$18.375/hr., 400 total hours. Motion Carried 3-0

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

2. COMMUNICATONS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Resident Larry Paige wanted to speak about the Local Law passed this evening, stating that it is great that this incentive was given, but requested that it also be promoted by the Town. It was suggested that it be posted to the Town’s social media platforms. Information Officer Sue Marzo also suggested that someone from the Fire Department write a small article for the next newsletter.

3. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. June Monthly report - Budget Officer Marty Knapp advised that the General Fund remains consistent with where were at in May. The

General Fund revenue is at 89% and spending at 63%; We received about \$99k in CHIPS money for the Highway department. Their revenue is at 72% and spending at 31% of that 20% is repairs which is showing that their vehicle replacement program is working to cut back on the monies spent on repairs.

R-124-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to approve the Supervisor's monthly report as submitted by Marty Knapp. Motion carried 3–0

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

b. Audit of Supervisor's monthly report

R-125-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion that a positive audit of the June 2023 bank reconciliation of the Supervisor's account as completed by Councilor Palmer was appropriate. Motion carried 3 – 0

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

2. Attorney – Nothing to Report at this time.

3. Highway Superintendent's Report June 2023

Roads: Asphalt Paving and Shimming operations began on June 5th to Webster Road, Nichols Road, Bear Mt. Road and Orchard Road. The first round of Surface Treatments (Oil & Stone) was completed June 27th.

Highway Business: I would like to ask the Town Board for a resolution to surplus the 2011 Volvo EW180C, SN 122178 2011 with a reserve of \$100,000.00 on July 28, 2023. On July 17, 2023 we be reaching out to highway departments in multiple counties and multiple contractors in a sealed bid process at an upset price of \$100,000.00 (see attached document that has been approved by the Town Attorney).

Equipment: Delivery of the 2023 Volvo EWR130E – New York State OGS Contract # PC69437 for the amount of \$208,000.00 (Rubber tired excavator) is August 9, 2023.

Deputy Highway Superintendent Don Skinner requested that the Town Board surplus the above listed vehicle.

R-126-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to surplus the 2011 Volvo EW180C, SN 122178 2011 with a reserve of \$100k on July 28, 2023. Motion carried 3 – 0.

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

4. Town Clerk
 - a. Monthly report for June 2023 in packet for your review
 - b. Update: So far, the transition has been pretty smooth and Tonya is picking things up quickly. And lastly, I have reached out to General Code to get a price for updated inserts for our code books – still waiting on that, but our agreement is for an annual update in December.

5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES –
 - a. June 2023 Building Permit Report submitted

6. Justice Court
June 2023 Justice Reports:
Judge Perrin had 110 cases and turned over \$11,541.00 to the Town of LaFayette for June 2023.
Judge Shute had 143 cases and turned over \$10,897.00 to the Town of LaFayette for June 2023.

7. Library Director submitted by Jessica Rice is on file with Town Clerk’s office. Library Board Vice President Ruth Anne Shute informed the board and residents that the library has a obtained a great selection of Native American literature including a English to Haudenosaunee & Haudenosaunee to English dictionary.

8. LCC Report submitted by Kim Tingley on file with Town Clerk’s Office

9. LaFayette Fire Department - Report is on file with the Town Clerk’s Office. Chief Sean Doolittle informed the Town Board and residents that the department will also being a boot drive on Saturday July 22nd from 8 am to noon. All money collected will go toward the revitalization of our 1945 Mack fire truck

B. Committee Reports

1. Community Development – Deputy Supervisor Mark Distler

- a. NYS Restore Round 7 Grant – Town was awarded since the May meeting
- b. Onondaga County Main Street Grant - still pending
- c. Summary of Decision Schedule Update: July: Town Board approves community survey concepts; finishes park option & salvage credits; and develops survey designs. August: Town Board approves community survey design & develops survey launch logistics. Sept or Dec. Town Board approve community survey launch.; Oct or Jan.: Town conducts community survey; Nov. or Feb.: Town Board reviews survey results.; Dec. or March: Town Board makes the decision to raze or rehabilitate.

Deputy Supervisor Mark Distler explained what needs to be decided tonight to get the survey development underway. Deputy Distler explained the concept of the survey and have only two choices to either rehab the building or raze and build a park. And if the park is chosen what features would be desired. The second decision is how to distribute the survey. Deputy Distler provided three options and after discussion it was agreed that the below would be the best fit for the Town and it's residents

Direct mailing (4 pages) to 2,826 listings on newsletter list telling them that each adult can respond to the survey online or by dropping off their hardcopy response at the Town Office. Responders will be required to provide a valid Town address (multiple responses per mailing address are permitted). For those wanting extra hardcopy surveys (wanting more than one vote per household), 200 copies will be kept at Town Office. Estimated Cost: \$2,205 total

R-127-23 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to approve the concept and style of the Community Survey for the former LaFayette Hotel Property Redevelopment. Motion Carried 3-0

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

2. LACC Report submitted by Mark Distler, Chair, on file with Town Clerk's office. He would like to request the appointment of new student member Kaitlyn Fabend who is a upcoming 11th grader that was a recommended by to LACC by LaFayette Teacher David Amidon.

R-128-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to appoint Kaitlyn Fabend as the new student member of the LACC Board. Motion Carried 3-0

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

- 3. CPIC – Report on File with Town Clerk
- 4. Safety & Facility Maintenance-
 - a. Facilities - Town Councilor Jerry Marzo thanked the highway Department and Deputy Supervisor Distler for keeping the newly planted trees in good shape through the warm May and June months. He advised the Board that he still has not heard back about the school signs. He also advised that the basketball hoops are back up at Stafford Park. And is still waiting on a 3rd bid on the restroom renovation at the park.

11. Executive Session – Supervisor McConnell advised that since Assessor Sherry LaVancer was not there that they would forego Executive Session

12. New Business – No New Business to discuss

12. Audit & Pay Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Check #'s</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund	20932 - 20977	\$51,334.07
Highway Fund	20977-20985	\$64,128.92
Four Corners Rehab Fund	20986	\$8,213.87
Ambulance Protection Dept	20987	\$99,500.00
Library Fund	20977	\$2,454.04
Trust & Agency		\$1,493.69
		Total: \$227,124.59

R-129-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 3 - 0.

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

13. Motion to adjourn

R-130-23 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0

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

The Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Colburn
Town Clerk