

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held by the Town Board of the Town of LaFayette on January 14, 2002 in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building on Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Gregory J. Scammell, Supervisor
Norman F. Paul, Councilor
Sandra Smith, Councilor
David Knapp, Councilor
Thomas Bailey, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent
Kevin Gilligan, Attorney
Marshall Taylor, Assessor/Clerk
Cindy Heckerman, Resident

1. Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 7:00.
2. The Town Clerk took the roll. Councilor Knapp absent and all else present.
3. Pledge to the U. S. Flag led by Town Councilor Tom Bailey.
4. Motion to accept prior meeting minutes.

• **Councilor's Smith moved and Paul seconded the motion to accept the January 3, 2002, Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk.**

5. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Residents. There were no comments from residents.

B. Onondaga County Water District: 2002 rates.

LaFayette's rate is .1009 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation.

C. Honorable Maureen Perrin: security system (executive session).

D. NYS ORPS: 2001 Maintenance Aid Assistance application.

“An application for 2001 Maintenance Aid Assistance was received on behalf of the Town of LaFayette..”

E. Onondaga County Department of Personnel: Paid leave for Red Cross Emergency Service volunteers.

“On September 25, 2001, Governor George E. Pataki signed legislation authorizing state and local government employees to take paid leave for limited periods of time to volunteer for Red Cross disaster leave assignments...”

F. NYS ORPS: State Aid for assessment improvements meeting.

“State Board meeting, December 12 – Determination regarding State Aid for Assessment Improvements. I am pleased to share with you the resolution of the State Board of Real Property Services regarding apportionment of State Aid among eligible applicants in the Annual, Triennial and Maintenance Aid Programs. As I have indicated in previous correspondence, despite the governor’s 2001 recommendation to fund this State Aid program at \$9 million, the Legislature reduced State support to \$6.3 million – a reduction of \$2.7 million. This level of funding disallowed ORPS to make full payments of \$5 and \$2 per parcel to all of the eligible participants in the Annual, Triennial and Maintenance Aid Programs...it seems that the reduction in Triennial and Maintenance Aid payments will be substantially less than the one-dollar per parcel that had been expected...”

Supervisor Scammell advised the details are attached.

G. Life Safety Consultants: Code enforcement.

“How would you rate your Code Enforcement?...junk vehicles that never get cleaned up....Are your Local Laws being enforced...” They have following Divisions: Code Enforcement, Development, and Assessment and Valuation.

H. 2001 - 2002 Snow contract.

Leon said it should read 2001-2002. He noted the resolution #00306 is for the state, it shouldn’t have been in here. They paid \$1,200,000 to the county. He said he went through everything and it looks O.K. to him.

Councilor’s Paul moved and Smith seconded the motion to authorize the Supervisor to enter into the Snow Removal Contract for 2001-2002. Motion passed unanimously.

I. Tully Animal Clinic: Annual contract.

“Hold stray dogs for the legally prescribed period of ten (10) days at nine dollars (\$9.00) per day. Euthanize and cremate any unclaimed stray dog at the end of the ten (10) day prescribed period...Issue the dog control officer a key to the back door for the veterinary clinic for the purpose of admitting stray dogs at odd hours. In the event that the stray dog is claimed by the owner, the owner will be responsible for the boarding fees, proof of licensing and any medical treatment found necessary...”

Kevin said when Sue Snavlin was here last time she suggested we include a clause into the agreement that they maintain space for us even on a holiday weekend because

she had taken a dog there at times and there was no room. She believes they should keep one spot open for us at all times. It was recommended to add a number 5 stating: “One space will be guaranteed for the Town of LaFayette at all times.”

Councilor’s Paul moved and Bailey seconded the motion to accept the Animal Clinics of Homer and Tully with the above clause included. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Onondaga County: 2002 Town tax rates.

The 2002 town tax rates, fixed, ratified and confirmed for the Town of LaFayette are: Town - \$4.0136 and County \$4.5554 for a total of \$8.5690 per thousand.

K. Michael & Michele Welsh: Intent to build.

“This letter is a follow-up of the October Town Meeting where my husband and I attended to inform you of our intention to build in the spring of 2002 on Hallinan Road. Our concern to the town was the condition of the road and the inability to access it with heavy equipment when building begins. I agreed to put our intentions in writing and send it to you. If you have any questions concerning this, please call us...”

L. LaFayette Public Library: 2002 salaries improved.

“The Library Board approved salaries for the library staff and director at its December 10th Library Board Meeting...The Library Board took into consideration job descriptions, skills, experience and comparable library jobs in the county in order to reach its decision and approval for 2002 salaries. The memo from Thomas Chartrand concerning the 2002 Adopted Budget by the Town Board for the Library will be placed on the Library Board’s January 14, 2002 agenda. We will be discussing recommendations for adjustments and line transfers to meet the overall library budget from the Town of \$104,175.00.”

Marshall asked what their percentage of increase was.

Supervisor Scammell said he doesn’t have the old numbers in front of him.

Marshall asked if it was higher than what the town employees got.

Supervisor Scammell would assume it means at least one of them are higher.

Mary Jo said Tom Chartrand advised it was an 8% increase for Janine Baker, a 13% increase for Shari Moynihan and a 12% increase for Nancy Baker. He didn’t have the other percentages calculated.

Councilor Paul believes this has happened before.

Supervisor Scammell said the problem he sees is the following year. We are approving one salary and the Board of Trustees is approving another and the next budget time we are approving the raise on what they approved and not what we approved.

Councilor Smith said by approving their budget every year, we are allowing it to happen.

Councilor Paul said absolutely.

Marshall said as a taxpayer, the money they requested in their budget for books, programs, etc. he thought would be going towards those things and not towards salaries for their employees. Every year they can come in and say they need money for programs or whatever and they can convert it to salaries. What does it take to convert back to a free library?

Supervisor Scammell would presume a referendum is needed to do this.

Kevin said he did some research on this at Councilor's Smith request. A memo was distributed to the Board regarding his findings.

Councilor Paul would like to read through the packet and discuss this further at the next Town Board Meeting. He asked Councilor Smith for her input.

Councilor Smith said as a taxpayer and a Town Board Member, she is not very pleased with what is going on and that is why she asked Kevin to check into this.

Supervisor Scammell said if this were just something that happened one year, it might be picky but when it happens more than once...

The question was asked about money they raise outside the budget.

Kevin said they can use whatever money they raise outside of the town in whatever way they want to.

Mary Jo advised they use this money to compensate the town for paid vacation for their part-time employees.

Councilor Paul said we have other employees within the town that we give what we feel is a fair raise. How fair is this to the other employees when they are locked at what we give them?

Marshall said most of the time the raise granted is a cost of living raise which is really not a pay raise. The issue becomes how much time you put in for what you are making. Personally, he has his own benefits so he doesn't choose for the town to pay for them. You have to ask yourself what's fair. He falls on the side of the taxpayer. If he didn't care, he could make the town pay for his benefits. It concerns him that these kind of raises are going on when he is looking out for the taxpayers.

Councilor Smith said we worked hard to keep our budget down compared to other towns.

Marshall said a free library would have to raise their own funds.

Supervisor Scammell said his concern is the repetitive matter of this. It hasn't happened just for one year. Over time, it has a cumulative effect.

Councilor Paul said this communication came from Connie Foote. He would suggest we contact Connie and ask her to attend the next Town Board Meeting to get her explanation on this. If we are discussing going to a different type of library, he feels it should be discussed with Connie.

Marshall said he isn't saying a free library is the way to go unless it's more effective.

Councilor Paul would just like to see what they have to say about it.

Supervisor Scammell will invite Connie and the Board of Trustees to the next Town Board Meeting. In the meantime, we can read the information we have received.

M. Office of the County Legislature: 1/2/02 agenda.

Supervisor Scammell said he didn't see anything pertaining to LaFayette here.

N. NYS DEC: Recycling of organic waste.

“The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) is proposing changes to the regulations that govern the recycling of organic waste through composting, land application, and other methods....These revisions will eliminate unnecessary confusion caused by State regulations that do not include federal criteria; are a necessary step leading to delegation of the federal biosolids program; and will update the technical criteria for nonfederally regulated facilities (yard waste composting, etc.), which have not been revised since 1988....The public comment period ends February 28, 2002...”

O. Syracuse Convention & Visitors Bureau: News from the Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association.

“...Over the past few years we have seen our local economy experience continued growth. A new job record has been set every month since April 1999, the Syracuse Metropolitan area is growing jobs faster than either Buffalo or Rochester, and our growth rate is 25% faster than the national average. As the travel industry continues to rebound throughout 2002, the Syracuse economy will continue to prosper.”

P. Association of Towns: New town officials schools.

“New Town Officials School....January 7-9, 2002 at Albany...January 14-18, 2002 at Rochester...”

Q. OCRRA: Recycling update.

“Household Computer Recycling is Here!...The second Saturday of each month, from 8 am to 12 noon, starting January 12th...at Agency's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station in Jamesville...There is a limit of two computer systems per vehicle...”

R. Security Mutual.

“Security Mutual Life Insurance company of New York has been active in keeping pace in the area of fraud and fraud prevention...The coalition against insurance fraud estimates that the cost of insurance fraud exceeds \$80 billion each year. That's more than the annual cost of all bank robberies and car thefts in America, combined!”

S. Bus Notice from DeWitt re: Association of Towns.

“February 17-20, 2002...Roundtrip \$40.00...Available only while supplies last!!!”

T. Letter from Kevin Gilligan re: Developer Fee.

“At our last meeting in December several people spoke to the Board about Developer Fees and their particular situations (Jerry Doolittle and Mr. Burton)...After the meeting, I was speaking with Greg and I suggested that I could put together a memo-type form which could be handed out with applications for zoning relief. This would explain to applicants right off the bat what the developer fees are, how they differ from application fees and how they work. Also, the form would outline what types of legal and engineering services might be involved in their applications, so they would have an understanding of how their money was being used...I am submitting the enclosed form for your consideration. It could be used for the purpose and include a copy of the deposit schedule. It could even include Local Law 3-2000, for reference...”

Supervisor Scammell thanked Kevin for the nice write-up. This write-up could be handed out with the applications so the applicant could better understand what the Developer Fee covers.

Supervisor Scammell handed out a memo received from Kevin in November re: the Developer Fee's.

Councilor Paul would like Councilor Knapp's input on this. He would like to know what the complaints about the Developer Deposit are.

Supervisor Scammell read some complaints he received by email.

Councilor Paul asked what we are trying to do.

Discussion took place regarding the Developer Deposits.

Councilor Smith believes the main concerns are not from the bigger developers but from people who want to just move a lot line or get a side-yard variance, etc. She doesn't have a problem with these fees for the big developers.

Councilor's Paul moved and Bailey seconded the motion to include the write-up from Kevin Gilligan with the application packets. Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Jo said she would recommend the Zoning/Planning Boards decided what the Developer Deposit should be at the time of the sketch plan meeting as she doesn't know if there are drainage issues when an engineer might have to be called in, etc. They could be told at the time they turn in their application to bring a check with them to the sketch plan meeting for the Developer Deposit.

Councilor Paul recommended putting a cover sheet with the application explaining this process.

Mary Jo will write one up.

U. Letter from Barbara Ferro re: Annual Association of Towns Meeting.

“Please accept this as my request to attend these meetings as a representative of the Town of LaFayette. I do not expect any reimbursement of the costs that may be incurred. My attendance is, in part, dependent on being able to clear my schedule for this time...”

Councilor's Paul moved and Smith seconded the motion to approve Barbara Ferro's request to attend the Annual Association of Towns Meeting per her written request. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Other.

6. **SPECIAL REPORT:** None.

7. **REPORTS:**

A. Departmental (4th Monday).

1) Animal Control.

- Update ordinance to dogs only and change from animal control to dog control.

2) Building & Zoning Code Enforcement.

- Muraco properties.

3) Highway Superintendent.

- Hallinan Road.
- 2001-02 Snow Contract (Discussed earlier)

4) Justice.

5) Library Director.

6) Recreation Director.

7) Town Clerk.

8) Town Supervisor.

B. Committee (2nd Monday).

1) Communications and Technology.

- Web site project status

Mary Jo has sent Mike updated Town Board and Zoning Minutes. She will be sending Dec. Planning/Zoning shortly.

2) Employee Policies and Benefits.

- Benefits package evaluation (disability, health insurance, other).

Supervisor Scammell has collected a lot of information on this but is not ready to meet on it yet.

- Sick, vacation, leave and compensation time policy.

Marshall asked when his 1st year accrues for vacation. The time-frames for your first year are not defined.

Leon said the Highway Dept. employees have 2 weeks coming, they can start in April or May and must take them before the winter comes again.

Mary Jo said your first year is one year from the date you were hired.

3) Emergency Response.

Councilor Paul spoke with Councilor Bailey tonight and they are going to get together soon.

4) Environmental and Conservation Advisory Board.

5) Highway.

- New EPA ditching/storm water management requirements (SPDES).

6) OCCRA Liaison.

- Inter-municipal trash district - exploratory study (Feb/Mar, 2002).

Councilor Paul passed out some information he received from a meeting he attended this evening.

Kevin said this is suppose to be an exploratory study. The paperwork appears to be defining this as a district. The Board has authorized them to explore and all the sudden we are viewing by-laws etc., which seem very much in advance to where we are.

Councilor Paul believes Councilor Knapp can advise more on this as this is the first meeting he attended.

This will be discussed at the next Town Board Meeting.

7) Physical Plant.

- Library ceiling leak.

8) Recreation and Youth.

a) Bailey Park.

- Picnic tables from YCIP-delivery .

b) LaFayette Beach.

- Neighbors' concerns.
- Lacrosse program facilities: evaluation and re-siting, plans for next season.
- New facilities: On hold until Spring, '02 (status/progress reports to CNYCF).

9) Safety.

Councilor Smith said there is concern about the sand paint at the Community Center. They are keeping an eye on it. Tom Rezsnyak did another inspection and submitted a list of things that need to be done. Tom is going to get videos for the employees about safe driving in the winter and some other ones for the Highway Dept.

Councilor Paul asked Mary Jo how she made out on getting someone for the electrical items.

Mary Jo said Fred Groth said he would try to stop by tomorrow.

10) Senior Transportation and Housing.

- Transportation survey: MCOA.

11) Service Awards.

- Committee correction.

Supervisor Scammell said at the end of the Organizational Meeting John Harper said the appointments to the Service Award Committee were incorrect. They should be John Harper and Larry Paige.

Councilman Paul said he checked with Jack Sutton and that is correct.

Councilor's Paul moved and Smith seconded the motion to change the appointments for the Service Award Committee to John Harper and Larry Paige. Motion passed unanimously.

12) Water.

13) Zoning Review.

- Digitized zoning map. In process
- Review application process. Discussed earlier. Completed
- Industrial zones. In process
- Misc. review: Communications/Cell Towers & Private (single horse) horse stables. Inter-municipal contact. In process
- Update Comprehensive Plan. In process

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ACTIVE PROJECTS:**

A. Litigation and other legal matters.

- Developer Fees. (Discussed earlier)
- Onondaga Nation land claim.
- Transfer LaFayette Beach from LCC to town (on hold until Summer/Fall, 2002).

B. Other Active Projects.

- 1) Accounting services & annual IRS requirements for LCC, LFD, & LPL.

Supervisor Scammell advised he hasn't drafted the letter yet for Marshall to send out to pursue this.

- 2) Term extension for various town offices.

Supervisor Scammell said the question is shall we put some or all of these positions on the ballot. After considering the matter, he has no interest in moving his position from 2 to 4 years. He asked for input on the other 3 positions.

Mary Jo said she is surveying other towns and will have information from the surveys to submit at the next Town Board Meeting.

- 3) Town litter campaign.

Councilor Smith said she spoke with Tom Turner at the High School and he said this would be a good filler for his group. Pat Keefe said she would also like to help.

- 4) Voting District 4 (Jamesville): Improve lighting.

Mary Jo said General Lighting can supply a light for \$95/day. It was decided we would do this for the Jamesville Beach area for elections/primaries, etc.

- 5) Syracuse University's Community Link Program project(s).

Supervisor Scammell will be speaking with them about this in the near future.

- 6) Town Clerk computer software (BAS) implementation.

Mary Jo said we have sent them ½ the amount due. The balance will be due after installation/training. She had to purchase PCAnywhere for to use their program.

- 7) NYS Association of Municipal Purchasing Officials (SAMPO) membership.

Councilman Paul said based on the actual amount of purchasing we do, he doesn't see the benefit of it.

- 8) Neighborhood Watch.

Supervisor Scammell received one telephone call. He received an email from someone who is knowledgeable about this. There has only been 1-2 people who have shown interest from the article in the entire town. He asked Mary Jo if she had received any calls.

Mary Jo said no.

Councilor Smith said maybe the part of town we start with is where he got someone calling that was interested.

- 9) Other. (Nothing)

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. LaFayette urn & tile display case.

Supervisor Scammell said he has been asked to look into a display case for these items so the public can see them.

Councilor Paul recommended being able to expand on whatever is made.

Councilor Smith recommended waiting until Herb Salladin returns from vacation to see if this is something he can do.

It was decided to wait until Herb returns and if he can't do it, the Board will look into having someone else build it.

- B. Other.

Councilor's Paul moved and Smith seconded the motion to submit Individual Program Application for the LaFayette Youth Program. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Bailey said he would like to be able to attend the Annual Association of Towns Meeting.

Councilor's Paul moved and Smith seconded the motion to approve Councilor Bailey attending the Annual Association of Towns Meeting in New York for a total expense not to exceed \$800 and an advance of \$700. Motion passed unanimously.

10. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT & POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(There were none).

11. Councilor's Paul moved and Smith seconded the motion to audit and pay the following bills:

GENERAL FUND	# 6058 – 6086
HIGHWAY FUND	# 6050 – 6057
TRUST & AGENCY FUND	# 6087 - 6089

Motion passed unanimously.

12. Councilor's Paul moved and Bailey seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk