

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held by the Town Board of the Town of LaFayette on January 28, 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  
Ralph Lamson, CEO  
Kevin Gilligan, Town Attorney  
Marshall Taylor, Assessor/Clerk  
Cindy Heckerman, Resident  
Regina Reinschmidt, Rec. Coord.  
Nancy Kirby, Library Board  
Connie Foote, Library Board  
Capt. Bronstad, Sheriff's Dept.  
Knowlton Foote, Env. Board  
Nancy Baker, Library Director  
Ken Schoeck, Library Board  
John Harper, LFD  
Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper  
Cindy Henderson, Library Board

1. Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. The Town Clerk took the Roll. All present.
3. Town Councilor Dave Knapp led in the Pledge to the U.S. Flag.
4. **Councilor's Smith moved and Paul seconded the Motion to approve the January 14, 2002 Town Board Minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk.**  
Mary Jo had a correction. She noted that David Knapp, Councilor should be omitted from the those present on page 1.

**Voting to accept the Minutes as amended was as follows:**

<b>Supervisor Scammell</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilor Paul</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilor Smith</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilor Knapp`</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Councilor Bailey</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Motion passed.**

5. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Residents.

There was nothing from the residents.

B. NYS & Local Retirement System: “Planning for Tomorrow – Today” seminars.

“State Comptroller H. Carl McCall and the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System are pleased to announce the Spring 2002 series of one day financial seminars for its Tier 3 and 4 members who are under the age of 50...”

Supervisor Scammell advised the sign-up sheet is attached. The Syracuse date is May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Carrier Circle.

C. LaFayette Public Library: Unexpended funds.

“Councilor Smith voiced concerns at the Town Board Meeting of November 26, 2001, as to how the \$6,000 unexpended money from the year 2000 Library budget was spent. Library Board members had asked at the Town Board Meeting of February 16, 2001 to have their 2000 unexpended funds transferred into the 2001 budget. Discussion followed as to where this money would be spent. The two main areas identified were books and staff technology. The motion was made and passed to put the \$6,000 in the Library Operations Equipment Account. The March 12, 2002 Library Board Meeting minutes show that we decided to buy two computers and one laser printer. We also took our technological needs a further step and discussed completing the staff and director office space with the addition of desks, workstations, and bookshelves if possible within our existing funds.

In 2002 the library purchased two, not one, public access computers, one staff computer and a laser printer. Due to the purchasing power using New York State contract pricing, we were pleased to be able to add an additional public access computer. Total cost was \$3840.60. Our original budget had \$7500 for books – as of December 10<sup>th</sup> we had spent \$3,160.32 over the budget. This spent our \$6,000 on technology and books very nicely.

With the additional computers our need for appropriate staff work areas became even more apparent. The Library Board working with the Library Director researched and again found, on state contract, office furnishings that we could afford within our existing budget. Sturdy, moveable furniture including computer worktables, file cabinets, bookcases and chairs were purchased. This allows staff, each of whom has a specific job description, the space and tools necessary for completing their work in a timely fashion.

The Library Board feels that we have lived up to our agreement to spend our unexpended monies prudently. We have updated our technology capabilities with the addition of new computers and work areas as well as updating our book collection. The research that our Library Director did resulted in our money going much farther than

anticipated and we are very grateful for her hard work and dedication to the library community in LaFayette...”

Connie would like to invite anyone who hasn't seen the office area to come by and see what they have set up down there and the efficiency they have.

Councilor Smith said the reason she was prudent about asking where the money went to was because one meeting they were told it went one place and then another meeting they were told it went another place.

Connie said a lot of it was internal shuffling.

Councilor Smith asked if this expenditure was on the 990's.

Connie thinks so. She thinks it was an internal type thing with Tom Chartrand.

D. NYS Office of the State Comptroller: GAAP reporting requirements.

“The purpose of this bulletin is to explain the new GAAP reporting requirements for budgetary comparison information and the effects these reporting requirements will have on the Annual Update Document (AUD) filed by municipalities and the ST3 filed by school districts...”

Before the GASB Statement No. 34, GAAP required that budgetary comparison information be included as a basic financial statement in the general-purpose financial statements. With the implementation GASB Statement No. 34, GAAP permits the reporting of this information as either a statement in the basic financial statements or as a schedule in RSI (Required Supplementary Information). If you are implementing GASB Statement No.34 you should discuss this reporting option with your auditor...”

Supervisor Scammell advised there is a Budgetary Comparison Schedule attached.

E. Niagara Mohawk: Merger w/National Grid & tariff effects.

“On November 28<sup>th</sup>, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a multi-year rate plan in conjunction with the pending merger between Niagara Mohawk and National Grid.

The merger requires approval by the Federal Securities and Exchange Commission. We are confident this will be accomplished, and we are hopeful of closing the agreement sometime in the first quarter of 2002, at which time the rate plan will take effect.

In the meantime, we want you to be aware of the effects this plan will have on the rates for services we provide to you under our PSC 214 tariff covering outdoor lighting and traffic control services.

In general, most of our customers will see reductions in their overall bills for services provided under PSC 214...”

Supervisor Scammell said according to the attached document we should expect to see a \$283.87 savings on one area of lighting and \$11.36 savings on the other for a total of about \$300 a year.

Councilor Knapp asked if Dave Hess would be coming out any time.

Supervisor Scammell said he can ask him to.

Councilor Knapp said he has had a couple of folks talk to him about some of the lights in town.

Mary Jo said she emails Mr. Hess the pole numbers of the lights when they aren't working right and he sends someone out to fix them.

Councilor Bailey asked about the traffic control device at the intersection of Routes 20 and 11. Who does the power come through for that?

Tom C. said it's probably a state DOT charge.

F. LaFayette Fire Department: 3 full time medics hired.

Supervisor Scammell confirmed that the LFD has hired 3 full-time medics.

John said yes and they are looking for 2 more. Most of them are working from 8 a.m. to 6 or 11 p.m.

Councilor Knapp asked if we responded to the Fabius fire today.

John said yes. We had an engine and a tanker respond.

Councilor Knapp asked if the medics are also with the LFD or if they are strictly ambulance.

John said 2 of them are interior, qualified, and covered under the LFD. Two of them have said they don't have a problem responding to any call. Two are a level 3 and the other is a level 4. There are one or two more applications on their way.

Councilor Knapp asked how long this has been going on.

John said since the beginning of the year.

Councilor Knapp asked how it was going.

John said they have updated a lot of stuff in the cabinets and ambulance that needed to be updated. It seems to be running real smooth.

Councilor Knapp asked if he was involved in the safety inspection.

John said no. He understands there were a few minor things. The guys are working on fixing some of them up there tonight.

G. Onondaga County Division of Purchase: Surplus equipment auction schedule.

“As you are well aware, the County of Onondaga Division of Purchase holds a number of public auctions for the purpose of disposal of surplus personal property, equipment, vehicles, and unclaimed evidence....tentatively scheduled the following auctions for the year...Most of our auctions will be held at the County Auction Facility, located at 6170 Eastern Avenue in East Syracuse....”

Councilor Knapp asked if we have anything to add to this one.

Leon said no.

Councilor Paul asked how much we got last time.

Tom C. said just under \$17,000.

Councilor Knapp asked if there is anything we need that we should be looking for at these auctions.

Leon said not right now.

H. Association of Towns: 2002 Training School & Annual Meeting.

“The 2002 Training School and Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at the Hilton New York & Towers, New York City, February 17-20, 2002....”

The Resolutions to be voted on are as follows:

**Resolution No. 1: Highway Funding**

“...to continue the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program established in 1981...”

**Resolution No. 2 Property Tax Exemptions**

“...to adopt a moratorium on consideration of any further exemption legislation until such time as the State has defined and established a State policy on property tax exemptions which would include funding for any further state mandated or encouraged exemption programs so as to protect local property tax revenues...”

**Resolution No. 3 Speed Limits**

“...that the Association of Towns urges the Legislature and the governor to extend to all towns the option – through adoption of a local law – to assume responsibility and authority to set speed limits on town roads within their respective jurisdictions, within the limits as defined in 1662-a of the Vehicle & Traffic Law, and so long as those roads have been functionally classified by the Department of Transportation as local roads...”

**Resolution No. 4 Code Enforcement Aid**

“...the Association of Towns urges the Governor and Legislature to return the insurance premium surcharge monies to local governments who now, more than ever, face education and training needs which are critically important...”

**Resolution No. 5 Support of Fire and Ambulance Volunteers**

“...to establish additional incentives for emergency service volunteers, including income tax and tuition tax credits, in order to encourage greater levels of volunteerism and more appropriately recognize this invaluable public service...”

**Resolution No. 6 State Aid**

“...to recognize that reducing state aid programs for local governments only transfers the impacts of September 11 onto the most regressive tax – namely the already overburdened property tax, and so we urge that the critical local assistance programs on which our members rely, from property tax reassessment and maintenance aid all the way up to revenue sharing and transportation funding, not be sacrificed as they were in the late 1980s in order to address a difficult State budget cycle such as we now appear to be entering...”

**Councilor’s Knapp moved and Paul seconded the motion to appoint Councilor Thomas Bailey as the Town of LaFayette Delegate for the Annual Association of Towns Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilor’s Paul and Knapp are in favor of all the resolutions.

I. Animal Clinics of Homer and Tully Contract revisions.

Supervisor Scammell said there are copies of the proposed changes the Town would

like to see that was sent back to Dr. Cadwallader and a copy of a new contract that he sent to us with the changes he would like to see.

Dr. Cadwallader would like the following changed/added to the contract:

“a. In the event that an adoptable pet is not claimed, the Tully Animal Clinic urges that Hearts Astray, an independent agency operated by Tully Animal Clinic staff, be given the opportunity of finding a suitable home for the unclaimed animals.

b. The Tully Animal Clinic retains the right and responsibility, to euthanize and properly dispose of strays they judge to be too dangerous, unhealthy, or otherwise unsuitable for adoption.

4. ....If the owner refuses payment or the payment becomes in default, the town will be billed the full amount and the town will be responsible for payment.”

Mary Jo said she would recommend that the refuses payment be omitted from this as it gives anyone the right to refuse to pay the charges/medical expenses incurred for their dog and the town to be responsible for these charges.

Kevin would recommend that the redemption of the dog must be made by cash, certified check, money order or by credit card before he can get his/her dog. This will be a suggested change by the town for #4.

“5. One space will be guaranteed for the Town of LaFayette at all times. The Town of LaFayette will there by pay the cost of sixteen dollars (\$16.00) plus tax per night to maintain this reserved space during holiday periods.”

Mary Jo advised the Town is tax exempt. She said Dr. Cadwallader advised her no dog had ever been turned away when taken in by the Town of LaFayette. They may not have a run available for it but there is always a cage available on holiday periods. This fee would be if we wanted a run kept available.

The Town Board recognizes one space needs to be available for the Town of LaFayette but a run is not necessary. The Town Board will recommend #5 to be a spot available at all times.

Councilor Paul would like these suggested changes sent to the A.C.O.’s for their input prior to sending them to Dr. Cadwallader.

Mary Jo will send copies of the draft to them and ask for their comments.

The Town Board asked Kevin to amend the local law re: animal control back to dog control.

The question was asked who to call if an animal was acting strange.

Mary Jo advised the Animal Control Officer’s can’t handle those calls either. We were told to call Animal Disease Control or the DEC. She will get the Town Board Members this number.

#### J. Other.

Supervisor Scammell received a brochure on the upcoming Chili Cookoff which will be held this Saturday at Stafford Park. There is a schedule of events.

Councilor Knapp said ours was very popular last year.

### 6. **SPECIAL REPORT: ANNUAL HISTORIAN’S REPORT**

Supervisor Scammell read the Historian's Report.

John Harper asked what kind of fire protection is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to protect the historical stuff.

Supervisor Scammell will check with Rev. Moody about this.

7. **REPORTS**

A. Departmental (4<sup>th</sup> Monday).

1) Animal Control – Jon Rogers, ACO

A written report for December was submitted by Sue Snavlin.

- Update ordinance to dogs only and change from animal control to dog control. (This was discussed earlier in the meeting.)

2) Building & Zoning Code Enforcement – Ralph Lamson, CEO.

A written report for December was submitted.

- Muraco properties.

Supervisor Scammell asked about this property.

Ralph said he tried to call Mr. Muraco today and hasn't heard back from him.

3) Highway Superintendent – Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent

They have had to do a minimum amount of plowing and sanding. Last year at this time they brought in 170 10-wheeler loads from their stock pile of sand. This year they have brought in 62 loads so far. It's way less than half. He talked to Dale King who is in charge of the record keeping on the snow contract and he said in February they will be sending out ½ of the payment. He also spoke with Peter Bartoletta on our grant money. He said 30 days after we filled out our last papers we would be getting payment. Our 30 days is almost up so we should be getting almost \$72,000 from them soon.

He went to a meeting Thursday night on water runoff and Supervisor Scammell was there. He got very little out of the meeting. He thinks they want somebody in the town to do a survey for a big report that has to be done. No one person can do it. It has to be people with different things they did around the town. He asked Supervisor Scammell if he felt he could fill it all out.

Supervisor Scammell said he did fill the report out. This is about the water shed of Oneida Lake which extends all the way south to here. It's mostly about cleaning up the entire water shed.

Leon said they talked about Butternut Creek and Limestone Creek.

Councilor Bailey asked if there was a particular agency leading this.

Leon said one lady was from Water and Soil. The letter inviting us to the meeting was sent from Cornell. He thinks they are reaching out and trying to get grant money to help operate the program. He thinks that is what they wanted the survey information for. He will continue to go to these meetings as much as he can. He thought it would be about new laws with the ditching, etc. but it wasn't. Our town engineer was there with his boss.

Leon advised OSHA has inspected 3 other towns and they are going to be coming to LaFayette and doing the Highway Dept. sometime in February. He has talked to the Highway Superintendents from the other 3 towns that have been inspected. One thing the Highway Dept. employees have to have is safety shoes. The town has bought the first pair and then a particular percentage the following year for the employees in the other towns. Buying the shoes is a lot less than what the fine would be if we don't have them. He has gotten 3 quotes for them. All 3 have a vehicle they come around with to fit the employees. The two part-time employees have to have shoes too. It would be 10 pair of shoes and it would cost about \$1,150. He is asking the Town Board for the O.K. to purchase the best shoe at the cheapest price before this inspector comes around.

Supervisor Scammell asked if everyone would get the same boot.

Leon said yes.

Councilor Bailey asked if it would be a year-round shoe.

Leon said yes. It would be compulsory that these shoes be worn at work. He said the basic shoe is \$115.

Ralph said the Fire Dept. in the city was told they had to buy boots too.

Supervisor Scammell asked if the Town Board can allow \$115 for the boots and if the employees want something above and beyond that, they must pay the extra.

Leon said he can see Supervisor Scammell's point. This is a part of what they call safety equipment. He is asking for an O.K. to go ahead and set a limit of \$115 for a pair of these shoes. He has one company that might come in and give a discount.

Leon said he also has to have a shield for when they are welding. Other than these two items, he thinks we are O.K.

Supervisor Scammell asked if the shoes come out of the Highway budget.

Leon said no. They come out of the General Fund.

Councilor Paul asked if the safety shoe is mandatory.

Leon said yes.

Councilor Paul said the employees will be notified of this.

Leon said yes. They will be told they have to wear them or they will be sent home to get them and they will be docked for the time.

Councilor Paul said no one will be able to work without them on.

Leon said that is right.

Councilor Bailey asked if the shield is something that can be made by the Highway Dept.

Leon said no. This will come out of the Highway Budget.



**Councilor's Paul moved and Knapp seconded the motion to allow \$115 per pair of safety shoes for the 10 Highway Dept. employees. Motion passed unanimously.**

4) Justice.

Written reports were received for November and December.

Councilor Knapp asked how much of this was turned over to the Town.

Tom C. said \$6,077.

5) Library Director – Nancy Baker, Library Director

Written reports and Library Board Minutes were received for November and December.

Councilor Knapp said the joint venture between the Library and the Historical Society for the Christmas Concert went extremely well. They had at least 70 people attend. He thinks everyone had a really good time. He asked how the Trustee search was coming.

Connie said they had a candidate come to one of their meetings who is having an allergy problem with the Community Room. She wants to talk to the Town Board to see if the room could be left ajar but locked with a padlock part way open. Some of the books they deal with at their book sales are old and might have left a lingering effect.

Ralph asked about a vent in the door.

Councilor Smith said maybe nice days someone might come up and open the windows to air it out.

Connie advised Andrea King is interested in the position.

Councilor Knapp will talk to Fred Groth about this.

Nancy Baker announced they have a full week of activities planned for the children during the winter break. Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> they are having a concert. On Wednesday they will have a story teller come in. Thursday they will have a program on creating a cartoon character for children 6-12 and Friday they will have a variety of craft projects out for preschoolers to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. This is due to a grant from the Cultural Resources.

Councilor Smith asked how much it was for.

Nancy said they asked for \$250 and they got \$250.

6) Recreation Director – Regina Reinschmidt, Rec. Coord.

Regina said 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball continues to go well. They are about half way through. 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys have started their program. She is hoping to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program going by mid February. Skiing began at the beginning of the month. There are 61 participants. This is the largest group ever. Song Mt. is open. They have 3 regular advisors and some passes are available for occasional extra help. They began the

new adult session of aerobics. This will be held Mondays and Wednesdays and ends in May.

Youth K-6 wrestling is now in progress. LaFayette will have its first meet of the season at home on Friday. The wrestling coach extends an invitation for anyone to stop in and see the matches.

Councilor Smith asked what time.

Regina said 6-9.

Councilor Knapp asked if the coach was John Greeley.

Regina said yes and he is working on some grant money from Carrier. She said they attempted adult volleyball but no one showed up. Baseball meetings have started.

Councilor Knapp asked how they are doing scheduling gym space.

Regina said they are using the ONS gym and the Alliance Church.

7) Town Clerk. (Monthly & Final)

A written report for December and a final report for 2001 were submitted.

8) Town Supervisor.

A written report for December was submitted.

B. Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday).

1) Communications and Technology.

- Web site project status (MF).

2) Employee Policies and Benefits.

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

3) Emergency Response.

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 Knapp said there were some questions at the last Meeting which he was

absent from. He spoke with Kevin about this earlier. In order to find out what the pricing would be, they had to create a frame work so there was some kind of entity asking for bids from the haulers. They haven't created anything. Each town still has total veto authority and if they don't like the numbers, they can decline to participate.

Ralph said the Supervisor from Tully (Bill Lund) advised in the Newsletter they just sent out in Tully that LaFayette is part of the district and they have just hired a lawyer and a date for when the contracts will be going out has been set, etc. At a meeting we had earlier about this, there was no one who attended that was in favor of this district. Why did we bother to get involved with it at all?

Councilor Paul said he went to the last meeting and Mr. Lund was there. It was his explanation that these are strictly informational meetings. That is how he left it. He is very surprised by the information Ralph has provided.

Ralph asked why we bothered to go to the meetings when the people who were here about 1 to 1 ½ years ago weren't interested in proceeding with this?

Councilor Paul said it was his understanding that everything we have been doing is strictly informational. He was in favor of gathering information as a result of the survey that was taken. One thing that came out of it was the concern of the Sr. Citizens.

Supervisor Scammell asked Ralph if he can get a copy of this so it can be faxed to the Town Board Members.

Councilor Smith asked if it came directly from the town supervisor in Tully.

Councilor Paul asked if it addressed the trash district for Tully.

Ralph said the Tully Supervisor said the trash district included LaFayette, Tully, and Fabius.

Marshall said he got a copy of the Tully Newsletter because anyone with a Tully mailing address gets it. The article said we were all involved in the trash district.

Ralph said it's not exploratory as far as this article goes and it gives dates when the trash pickup will be starting.

Councilor Knapp said if it looks right then it's up to the town to decide if it wants to proceed.

Ralph said that's not the way this article reads. It makes it sound like it's going forward.

Councilor Paul asked if it mentioned an informational meeting.

Ralph said there are no informational meetings mentioned at all.

Councilor Knapp said he has heard a lot of folks say they don't want a trash district and a lot of folks say they would like one. It will depend on the numbers.

Councilor Paul asked if the Town of LaFayette will retract the statement in the Tully Newsletter.

Supervisor Scammell said it would be up to them to retract it.

Councilor Smith thanked Ralph for bringing this information to the Board's attention.

Councilor Knapp said this is not a done deal.

7) Physical Plant.

- Library ceiling leak.
- Community Center sign lettering.

Supervisor Scammell said he turned this matter over to the Physical Plant Committee to handle.

Councilor Knapp asked if we want to keep the same wording on it. He will get what's written on the sign now and see what the Board wants put on it at the next Town Board Meeting.

Knowlton Foote asked about a sign being put on Route 20 coming into town announcing LaFayette.

Town signs will be put on the agenda for the next Town Board Meeting.

John Harper said it seems Bill Lund is doing the same thing with the trash district that he did with the ambulance. He put articles in the Newsletter about the ambulance that weren't all true.

Supervisor Scammell said he did speak with Bill about that particular item.

8) Recreation and Youth.

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

9) Safety.

10) Senior Transportation and Housing.

- Transportation survey: MCOA.

11) Service Awards.

- Eligible 2001 certified firefighter list.

**Councilor's Knapp moved and Paul seconded the motion to approve the volunteer firefighter Service Award Program list of all 2001 active volunteer firefighters of the LaFayette Fire Department for posting in the fire station(s) for a period of at least 30 days for review by members. At the end of the 30 days the Supervisor is authorized to sign the Authorization to use Data For 2001 Service Award Program Administration if there are no challenges to the list and a notarized affidavit of posting for 30 days stating there are no challenges is received by the Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.**

12) Water.

13) Zoning Review.

- Digitized zoning map.
- S.U. Links Program survey.
- Industrial zones to business zones update.
- Misc. review: Communications/Cell Towers & Private (single horse) horse stables. Inter-municipal contact.

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

A. Litigation and other legal matters.

- 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.
- 2) Term extension for town offices of Town Clerk, Tax Collector & Highway Superintendent.

Mary Jo submitted the results of a survey she took for Onondaga County. As far as the Town Clerk's term of office, it appears at this time to be about 50-50. She would recommend waiting until more of the Clerk terms have increased to 4-year terms before proceeding with the request to increase the term for the Town Clerk position in LaFayette.

Councilor Knapp would agree

3) Town litter campaign. SS.

4) Town Clerk computer software (BAS) implementation. MK.

Mary Jo advised all the records have been transferred to BAS and they are scheduled to come on February 6<sup>th</sup> all day for training.

5) Neighborhood Watch.

Supervisor Scammell has had only one response. He asked Mary Jo if anyone had contacted her. No one had.

The Board asked Capt. Bronstad for his input on this.

Capt. Bronstad said two of these groups started up out this way and he doesn't know what happened to them. Generally he sees these groups start up if crime rate goes up. When crime is down, Neighborhood Watch Groups decline and sometimes go away.

Councilor Knapp said there are a lot of Neighborhood Watch's out there that we don't know about.

Capt. Bronstad said Neighborhood Watch does have a purpose. The problem in the country is that the houses are spread out.

6) Tully Animal Clinic contract update: reserved space. (Discussed earlier)

7) Town of LaFayette urn & tile display case (on hold until H. Salladin's return).

8) LaFayette Public Library salary & wage policy.

- Public Libraries & Free Association Libraries.

Connie submitted some information to the Board. The Library Board had a meeting to discuss this stuff. They put together some information re: the LaFayette Public Library and how they make their salary decisions and the guidelines they use. They are part of the state system. As a library and as a public library, they are tied to the town with funding but they are independent when it comes to the spending of the funding for library purposes. This is in accordance with the NYS Education Law. The state has given them specific guidelines and they are to be responsible for what it says they have to do. Sometimes it's hard for towns to understand what the town role is and what the library role is. That is one reason they wrote the information sheet up. They also described a letter about where they are at with grants and programs.

The Town Board took a couple of minutes to review the information they received.

Councilor Knapp asked what they envision in the districting they mention.

Connie said that is something they started talking about when Cara was here. It's a state regents initiative. The state regents want to create as many special library districts as they can. The bottom level they would like to put down is \$20 per resident. This is about where their budget actually is. Libraries can always use more material and

technology. They are envisioning it being a town vote. The people vote town-wide on the budget and on the Library Board of Trustees. They have just started investigating this.

Councilor Knapp asked if this would include bringing in Pompey, Fabius, etc.

Connie said you have to draw the lines very carefully. They would have to look at all the different angles to see what the best way to propose a package would be. The southern end of the county is underserved. They would like to have equal distribution of libraries across the state. It would be a decision whether to use the town district lines or the school district lines.

Councilor Smith asked if the library was reimbursed for programs done on the Onondaga Nation.

Connie said they have included the Nation as part of their mission statement and their outreaching. She never gave it a thought that they are out of the Town of LaFayette district.

Marshall asked if a town resident pays a base of \$20, what does an Onondaga Nation resident pay?

Connie said she doesn't know how you handle that. They are a separate nation and don't pay taxes. This is something that would have to be looked at.

Marshall said if in the future, whether it goes by school district or town district, if the resident pays \$20, they should have to pay it too.

Connie said they get money from the state so part of their services are funded by state dollars. She doesn't know how the state would look at this.

Marshall said there are 2490 parcels within the town district lines and 1892 within the school district lines.

Connie said this is one of the areas that will have to be investigated.

Supervisor Scammell said re: salaries, the way we do this now is that no matter what the town says about salaries if the Library Board changes the amount, the town picks it up the following year.

Connie said they propose a budget and they stay within it. The problem they have with salaries is that they are way under what the going rate is. When you go out to look for a new director, you are totally out of the ballpark. When it comes to the clerical workers, some of them have been with us for many years. Everyone has a specific area they are good in.

Councilor Paul asked if she is suggesting the raise they were given is not the proper raise. Is she suggesting the raise the Town Board put in there was not the right raise?

Connie said they put in the amount of money they needed to pay. The 3 % was not adequate as it still puts them below market value.

Councilor Paul asked what the total fund raising for the year was.

Connie said this past year they didn't concentrate on fundraising. They did fundraising previous years. They had \$3,000 and \$5,000 from the previous years from Joan Christensen and John DeFrancisco. You don't do fundraising for salaries. They would have to have a special goal or need.

Councilor Paul asked if this is a function of the director or of the Trustees.

Connie said the Trustees.

Councilor Paul said so the director is out of this.

Connie said re: grants, it would be up to the director.

Councilor Paul said fund raising is up to the Trustees and the grant writing is up to the director.

Nancy Kirby said the lines kind of blur on this.

Connie said the Library Board is volunteers. They have spent since August on the budget.

Councilor Smith asked if one of the reasons they wanted someone with a degree in the director position was for grant writing.

Connie said in part to assist in grant writing. As a public library they are chartered to have a library director with a library degree.

Councilor Smith asked if this is because they are a public library.

Mary Jo advised from a survey conducted throughout the county, not all libraries have directors. Solvay and LaFayette are the only 2 municipal libraries in the county.

Connie said one of the goals people strive for is to have a director.

Councilor Paul asked what our director got for us in grants over the past year.

Connie said it was not a priority for the director to do. They had funding for July of 2000 through July of 2001 from Joan Christensen. The director does work to some extent at the discretion of the Library Board. There were other issues which needed to be addressed.

Marshall asked if the Library has paid anyone to write grants for them.

Connie said no.

Councilor Bailey asked if there was any fundraising planned for 2002.

Connie said they do a book and bake sale every year. They have donations that have come in. They have people who regularly donate to them.

Supervisor Scammell asked for more information on the Outreach Program at the Onondaga Nation.

Connie said this is something that has gone on for many years. They visit the ONS school and encourage them to use the library. They have tried to maintain a friendly open-door policy.

Marshall asked what the advantage of being a free library would be.

Tom C. said Tully is funded through the school district.

Connie said it's listed as part of the school district money but it's a separate line item.

Mary Jo said in the survey there are 3 public libraries and 11 free libraries in the county.

Marshall asked if the taxpayer votes on the library budget.



Tom said under a free library, the taxpayer is able to vote on the line item of the library budget.

Connie said this library was originally set up as a public library. The free libraries were originally set up as free libraries. It's just the way the libraries are set up. Our situation is unique because of the way the town and library are entwined in this building.

Nancy Kirby said a lot of services provided here are not included in the budget.

Connie said if there is a change, it's up to the voters to decide.

Supervisor Scammell said it would be a referendum for everyone within the municipality.

Marshall said the only question he would ask of the Town Board is that next year when they look at the salary increases for the town, all employees should be paid accordingly.

Connie said the Ass't Assessor Clerk gets \$10/hour. Marshall gets \$13,000 a year. She's looking at the range of clerical workers from \$8 to \$10/hour. This is above what they pay their clerks who are highly trained.

Marshall said his suggestion is not that the library is doing anything wrong. He is stating the town grants a 3% raise for the employees and other departments have changed this in the past few years. He is suggesting the town revisit this. People who have been in the town for 10 years have gotten a cost of living raise and that's it. There's a disparity of percentage of pay raises. This could be considered discrimination against people because they are in a different space than someone else.

Cindy Henderson asked if you occupy a certain space, doesn't it mean there's a particular job involved? One person might deserve more pay.

Marshall said his concern is about the percentage of increase in pay. This is about the disparity in the amount of increase.

Connie said when the Library Board looked at the figures they saw a disparity of what the town employees were making in comparison to the library. The Library Board has the authority to fix the salaries. They try to stay within the framework. Occasionally you see things a little out of skew. They are not making enormous salaries.

Supervisor Scammell said when we have made changes in the past it might have been because a person's job has changed or salary surveys were done, etc. In general, that is how we decide this.

Connie said they surveyed other county libraries and their salary ranges against the town employees ranges.

Councilor Paul said this happened when Lisa was a director before.

Connie said they set the salaries. The Town Board makes recommendations on the salaries. There are times when they have felt as a board they need to override the Town Board. It's their prerogative to do this.

Councilor Paul said he has a Highway Superintendent who he can't even guess how many hours he works and he can't compensate him like this. If you are trying to make the point of the importance of your employees, he would like to make this point about the town employees too. It doesn't seem right that the Town Board can't do the same thing for its people.

Supervisor Scammell said 3 of the last 4 years the Library Board has changed the salaries for their employees. This has not been done on an occasional basis.

Connie said they have to keep the library director at a competitive level. They are paying \$5,000 under what a director would get today.

Supervisor Scammell asked if this would be regardless of the size of the library.

Connie said most public librarian salaries are equivalent to a school librarian. A public librarian who has been on the job for 15 years or more is probably making \$50,000 or more. Librarians are becoming very scarce. The pay is greater elsewhere in industry.

Marshall wished to clarify something. His \$13,000 salary is for overseeing 239 million dollars worth of property assessment which converts to a revenue of 6.7 million in town and county taxes.

Councilor Bailey said since September 11<sup>th</sup> the state of New York is in a deficit and probably will be in 2003. The supervisor has supported a tax stabilization which he also supports. In September when we sit down at budget time, this is where he will be coming from.

Connie said some of the money was already in the budget to increase these salaries.

Councilor Smith asked if the only full-time employee in the library is Nancy Baker.

Connie said yes.

Councilor Smith said the part-time employees receive no benefits, vacations, or anything.

Connie said they have taken it upon themselves to grant vacation time to the part-timers and they do pay for that.

Councilor Smith said so even the part-timers get vacation time.

Connie said in line with what they are working.

Councilor Knapp said in the future the more communication between the two boards the better.

Connie invited Councilor Bailey to come down to the library to see their mission statement, etc.

Councilor Bailey said he would graciously accept.

Councilor Smith asked if the Town Board can expect a copy of the 990's.

Connie said they are done by Bruce Donohue. They have left it up to the town to decide who they want to use to do the 990's. Bruce is on a monthly retainer.

Councilor Knapp said regarding LFD, Library and Community Council, the bookkeepers do a lot more than just the 990's.

Marshall said the letter is to determine what the charges are and if the town can save money.

Councilor's Bailey and Smith would like to see a copy of the Library's 990's.

Tom C. said technically these should be on file in the Town Clerk's office as the Town pays for the services. The auditor will ask for this.

Councilor Knapp still has a few people asking him about the computer internet and supervision.

Connie said they have an internet policy. The computers are visible to all. The screens face the public.

Supervisor Scammell said the several months he used the internet down there it was very well supervised.

9) Security System (executive session).

10) Other.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Other.

Tom C. said he has the voucher for reimbursement for youth and youth recreation.

Ralph said he is looking into computer software for the Code Enforcement Office. Some of the prices he has gotten are rather shocking. He will hopefully have information on this at the next Town Board Meeting.

**Councilor’s Paul moved and Knapp seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter involving public safety and to include the Town Attorney. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Town Board went into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. and was called back to order by Supervisor Scammell at 10:30 p.m.

10. There were no suggestions for improvement & positive contributions.

**Councilor’s Knapp moved and Paul seconded the motion to audit and accept the Town Clerk’s Petty Cash Book. Motion passed unanimously.**

11. **Councilor’s Knapp moved and Paul seconded the motion to audit and pay the following bills:**

<b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>#6154 to 6164</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b># 6165 to 6197</b>
<b>SPECIAL DISTRICT</b>	<b># 6198 to 6199</b>
<b>TRUST &amp; AGENCY</b>	<b># 6200 to 6202</b>

**Motion passed unanimously.**

12. **Councilor’s Knapp moved and Paul seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk