

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

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

Absent: Norman Paul, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

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

1. Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. The Town Clerk took the roll. Councilman Paul was absent. All else present.
3. Pledge to the U. S. Flag was led by Town Councilor Sandy Smith.
4. **Councilor's Smith moved and Knapp seconded the motion to accept the January 28, 2002 Town Board Meeting minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **COMMUNICATIONS.**

A. Residents.

Marshall Taylor noted on page 14 of the January 28th Town Board Meeting minutes it reads: "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." As a taxpayer, are there any ethics attached to submitting a budget? Is there any requirements regarding integrity or can any department do whatever they want once they receive funding?

Supervisor Scammell said it's his understanding that once the budget is approved, they can do as they want.

B. Onondaga County Legislature: 2/4/02 agenda.

"Approving the Consent Order in the matter of the alleged violations occurring at the Harbour Heights and the Jamesville Penitentiary Sewage Treatment Plants..."

C. NYS Office of General Services, Procurement Services Group: 2002 Training School & Annual Meeting.

Supervisor Scammell said OGS, Microsoft and Dell will be at the listed 2 locations during the Annual Association of Towns Annual Meeting.

D. U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer: Bulletproof Vest Partnership.

“As I meet with elected officials and law enforcement officers around the state, I consistently hear that towns, cities, villages, boroughs and counties need help in their efforts to protect the lives of law enforcement officers. Well, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) is offering some help. I am pleased to announce that the DOJ’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will now be accepting applications for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership which will provide funds to States and local units of government to help with the purchase of armor vests for law enforcement officers. The purpose of this letter is to let you know that your jurisdiction may be eligible for assistance.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership application period will open on January 14, 2002 and will close on Sunday April 14, 2002. the application and award process is an online, paperless process...www.ijp.usdoj.gov/BJA and <http://vests.ojp.gov/>.”

Councilor Bailey said this really isn’t applicable to us.

E. FOCUS Greater Syracuse: I Love CNY luncheon(2).

“I Love C.N.Y...F.O.C.U.S. on Downtown Luncheon...You’re invited to the 5th Annual Luncheon,...Thursday, February 28th, 2002...11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m....You will learn more about the proposed Arts, Culture, Events District Downtown. You will be surprised when you see and hear what it is like to live downtown, to manage businesses, and to participate in the numerous cultural attractions & events downtown...”

Supervisor Scammell said a survey of about 45 was conducted regarding local governments shared services. The following items were researched: sharing of equipment, cooperation and collaboration and service contracts.

F. OCRRA: Covanta Onondaga LP financial difficulties.

“As you know, Covanta Onondaga LP is the operator of the Waste-To-Energy Plant. Recent news reports have discussed financial difficulties with their Parent Company, Covanta Energy Corporation.

OCRRA has a commitment to our municipal partners. We will handle your trash and recycling needs. Covanta is the operator of the Plant and while their circumstances give us concern, we can advise you of the following:

1. The operations of the Plant continue without interruption and in full compliance of all environmental matters.
2. OCRRA intends to continue to provide trash and recycling service to our customers. Even in the worst case and unlikely scenario of interruptions

at the Plant, OCRRA has capacity at the Transfer Stations and in its outside landfill contract to serve you.

3. Covanta's corporate finances are not within OCRRA's control. We can only react to the situation as it evolves. OCRRA bills the Haulers, directly receives the tipping fees, directly receives energy revenues, and directly pays the Bondholders. OCRRA also has its financial reserves.

We believe we can endure problems at Covanta Energy Corporation. And we remain committed to work through the situation to serve you..."

Supervisor Scammell advised there is a press release also.

Councilor Knapp said he spoke with Rainer Brocke who is on the Board of Directors. Rainer said they are not terribly concerned about this.

G. Niagara Mohawk, A National Grid Company: Field street light survey.

"...field street light survey....will be done in February..."

H. NYS Governor George Pataki: Economic momentum and fiscal discipline.

"The scope of the disaster to the world's financial and trade center cannot be underestimated. Thousands of businesses were harmed and tens of thousands of jobs were lost. The fallout in business investment and profits, capital gains, and consumer spending has spread throughout the State and across the Nation.

Tax revenues have been decimated. New York State is facing a budget shortfall in this and the upcoming fiscal year totaling \$6.8 billion. That figure represents more than 25 percent of the total amount we collect each year in personal income taxes..."

I. OCRRA: 2002 Countywide Earth Day Clean Up, Sat, 4/27/02.

"..Here are the ground rules:

1. Let OCRRA know by March 15, if your Municipality will be participating in the Clean-Up by returning the Municipal Sign-Up form in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.
2. OCRRA will notify you of the groups who will be working in your Municipality.
3. OCRA will also instruct the groups to deliver the litter in specially stickered bags to their Highway Department garage by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 27.
4. Your Highway Department delivers the specially stickered bags of litter – no furniture, yard waste, appliances – to the Ley Creek Transfer Station on Saturday, April 27 between 1 – 3 p.m. at no charge.

If your Municipality wants to recruit groups to work on April 27, you may do so. However, the groups will need to register with OCRRA. Please give the group contact the attached Community Group Sign Up Form.

OCRRA recommends that Municipal Highway Departments encourage groups to bring the bags of litter to the departments location. That makes it more likely that the only litter brought in will be that in the specially stickered bags..."

Leon said he has the form to fill out. He will get together with our coordinator to see if we can get a few more involved. We had a good group last year but you like to try to get a few more involved every year. He usually gets a bunch of bags from the state shop plus we bought a couple of bundles from the hardware store last year. Last year was the first year they gave us bags.

Councilor Knapp asked if OCRRA gives him the stickers.

Leon said yes. They mail them. He doesn't know yet if they are going to take tires or not. They did last year.

Councilor Bailey asked when our dump opens in the spring. Does it coincide with this?

Leon said no. It opens the first Saturday in May and runs through the week.

Councilor Knapp would like to return to the letter from Gov. Pataki. After reading this, it makes him even more pleased that we did our tax stabilization at the last budget time.

Supervisor Scammell agreed.

J. Other.

There was a thank you letter from the Shetler's:

"Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement sent to Ruth's funeral. Your thoughtfulness and kindness was much appreciated.."

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.

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 (MF).

Mary Jo advised the site will be down for a couple of days. All approved minutes are currently posted on the site.

2) Employee Policies and Benefits.

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

Supervisor Scammell said he is still working on this. There is a lot to review. Health costs are shooting through the roof everywhere. The Town Board is looking at the health plan that we currently provide to the employees. One of the questions the Board has is whether to look at other health plans or not. We could send a letter to the employees stating we need to know whether they are happy with the current health plan and the services they get from it. If we don't hear from you by March 11th, we will assume you are happy with the current plan. Any comments are welcome regarding this.

Councilor Knapp asked Leon if his guys are happy with the current plan.

Leon said they are happy with what we have. Tully changed and the guys there are very unhappy with the program. He thinks as long as the program stays, they will be more than happy with it.

Supervisor Scammell asked who they went to in Tully.

Leon couldn't remember.

Councilor Knapp said it was a private company.

3) Emergency Response.

Councilor Bailey said he received the requirements from OSHA state and federal regarding an escape plan for our facilities.

Leon thinks it would be good if we all got together in the town and have a small meeting and get the response plan we have out and go over it. He needs to have a refresher on it.

Councilor Bailey said there is a pending meeting down the road to enhance the policy that exists and tailor it as needed and to compare it to the one the county has.

Councilor Smith said another plan that has to be taken care of is the Highway Dept. working with the LFD in case there is a spill on Route 81, etc.

Leon said they have to go through a HAZMAT class. They are hoping a couple of the guys in the Tully Fire Dept. will give this class. Every vehicle has a number. You need to stay back away from the vehicle until you can determine what type of material it

is hauling by this number. There is a book that gives all the numbers and what they are. The inspector said every fire department has a qualified person in their department that can teach this. Right now they are working on a plan to go with Tully. We might have to give a donation of some kind.

Councilor Bailey said the Onondaga County Fire Board might have something lined up for this.

Leon said he might be able to get the County Highway Dept. Safety Officer in to teach this. He has a meeting Wednesday and they said to come about ½ hour early to discuss the snow plowing contract.

Supervisor Scammell said this winter has not left them in a good spot to argue.

Leon said the way this winter has gone, it's not a year to discuss an increase in the contract.

4) Environmental and Conservation Advisory Board.

5) Highway.

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

Leon said the ford truck we bought on state bid has had the 3rd transmission put in it. He met with the factory guy. He spent all of Friday afternoon with him. Leon tried to tell him there was something wrong with the electrical system and the computer. The factory guy said everything checks out O.K. Leon suggested that rather than the clutch working, the reverse was being used to hold the truck back on the hills. The factory guy didn't think so. Leon might meet with him again late Wednesday and he's going to ask if it's the same as with a car regarding the lemon law.

Councilor Knapp reminded him that the first clutch went before plowing even a flake of snow.

Leon said he told him that. The truck was bought through Genesee on a state bid so as far as he is concerned, they are liable for it. Even the equipment put on it was bought through them.

He had a brake line break on his truck and Cliff had an alternator go on his.

6) OCCRA Liaison.

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

Councilor Knapp said the article in the Tully Newspaper said "Trash District officers say that if the bids come in as anticipated, there would be substantial savings for residents. The District would be modeled on the trash district currently in place in the Town of DeWitt..." We are not committed unless things fall into place the way we hope they will. We will be having a meeting once everyone gets back from New York.

7) Physical Plant.

- Library ceiling leak.

- Community Center sign lettering.

Councilor Smith said the street address number needs to be put on the outside of the building.

Councilor Knapp said we discussed briefly at the last meeting about fixing some of the signs at the borders of the Town. He would love to come up with some nice signs. He would be happy to look into it.

Supervisor Scammell said he could try talking to Brian Skeval.

Mary Jo said Tony Minieri has the name of the man who did them for Apple Festival.

Supervisor Scammell asked how Winterfest went.

Councilor Knapp said it was a little light compared to last year but they still raised a little over \$750 for Outreach. All the events went on except ice skating.

Supervisor Scammell asked who won the chili cookoff.

Councilor Knapp said Outreach got the popular vote and the Chief's Choice was a tie between Tony Minieri's son and St. Joe's. Tom Dadey, Jr. got Honorable Mention.

8) Recreation and Youth.

Councilor Knapp said they are going to have the signups for the spring sports at the end of the month. He thinks it's the 26th. All the winter stuff seems to be going pretty smoothly. They started the 3rd and 4th grade girls basketball.

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.

There will be a Safety Meeting on the 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Knapp said they discussed the Community Center at the last meeting. Mike Cook use to plow the Center when he plowed the IGA. Unfortunately that is not being plowed now so the Community Center isn't being plowed. He spoke with Dennis Maher and he is doing it now as part of his town contract.

10) Senior Transportation and Housing.

- Transportation survey: MCOA.

Supervisor Scammell said as far as he knows the transportation survey is still in process.

11) Service Awards.

Mary Jo said we are just waiting for the 30 days to run out for the names being posted.

12) Water.

13) Zoning Review.

- S. U. Links program survey.

Supervisor Scammell said this is in progress.

- Digitized zoning map.
- 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 (MT).
- 2) Town litter campaign. SS

Councilor Smith said she is still waiting to hear back from Tom Turner.

- 3) Town Clerk computer software (BAS) implementation. MK.

Mary Jo said the software is up and running and all training has been completed. The final invoice is in the pile for tonights meeting.

- 4) Neighborhood Watch.

Supervisor Scammell said it appears there is not enough interest to pursue this.

5) Tully Animal Clinic contract update: reserved space.

Mary Jo advised the Animal Control Officers had no concerns with this. She will send it to Dr. Cadwallader this week for his review.

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

7) Security System.

Councilor Knapp hasn't heard back from Rick Storrier yet.

8) Other.

9. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Other.

Leon asked if they could remember who it was that gave a talk to us about the rabies situation.

Mary Jo said it was Mr. Wolfe from the Onondaga County Health Dept.

Leon said he's thinking about having the Animal Control Officers and the Highway Dept. get together to have a refresher on this.

Mary Jo will contact him about this.

Councilor's Knapp moved and Bailey seconded the motion for the Town Board to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter regarding public safety and to include the town attorney. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board went into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and Supervisor Scammell called the Town Board Meeting back to order at 8:15 p.m.

Supervisor Scammell said they decided to do some follow-up work with the Planning Board regarding transportation and some safety issues.

Councilor Knapp asked if we are all set with our Delegate for the Association of Towns Meeting.

Councilor Bailey believes he is all set.

10. Suggestions for improvement & positive contributions.

Supervisor Scammell wished to thank the Optimist Club and anyone else involved for all their work on the Winterfest. He also thanked everyone involved in the gathering for Leo and Sandy DellaVechia at the Log Cabin.

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

HIGHWAY FUND	#6223 THRU 6235
GENERAL FUND	#6236 THRU 6260
SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND	#6275 THRU 6276

Motion passed unanimously.

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

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk