

**Minutes of LaFayette Town Board Meeting
February 13th, 2012**

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on February 13th, 2012 at 6:30 pm. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11, in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Adrian Shute, Supervisor
 Jerry Doolittle, Councilman
 Andrew Ohstrom, Councilman
 Steve Zajac, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Jackie Roorda, Town Clerk

Absent: Bill McConnell, Councilman

Others Present: Kevin Gilligan, Attorney
 John Greeley, Highway Supervisor
 James Nash

1. Supervisor Shute called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
2. Jackie Roorda, Town Clerk took the roll call. Councilman McConnell absent.
3. Pledge to our U.S. Flag led by Town Councilman Doolittle.
4. **Councilman Ohstrom moved and Zajac seconded motion to approved the minutes of January 9th, 2012 Town Board Meeting as submitted by Town Clerk Roorda. Motion carried 4 – 0.**
5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS -**

A. Optimist Club President James Nash advised that a tennis court at Stafford Park has had a large crack for over two years that needs to be repaired or totally redone. It was sealed 3 - 4 years ago. Nash has two quotes; 1st quote, to repair the area of the crack \$9,500.00, 2nd quoted to redo the entire tennis court - \$32,900.00. Nash is asking the Town Board to assist in the cost and advised that they are hoping for a three way split between the Optimists Club, the Town and the School since they utilize the Stafford Park tennis courts for their Spring Tennis Season. Nash advised he does not have a formal commitment from the School Board yet. Discussion took place regarding the Town Highway Crew assisting with the digging, re-routing the water underneath the court which appears to be the cause of the crack and repairing vs. paying a company to do the work. Nash will return at a further time after speaking with the School Board and getting more information.

Nash's second topic was concerning charging a \$50.00 rental fee for use of the Pavilions and Jack's Shack at Stafford Park. He advised that at a recent Optimist meeting a poll was taken resulting in the majority agreeing to instill a charge for use of these facilities. Suggestion of additional picnic tables in various areas outside the pavilions enabling the public to use the rest of the park during times the pavilions are rented. Also, Nash advised the Optimist Members suggested posting signs advising the public of the use of pavilions. Nash questioned if there was an accurate figure as to the cost to the Town for operations at Stafford Park. Councilman Doolittle stated that it would be extremely difficult to figure, estimating \$5,000 to \$6,000 for cleaning restrooms, concession stands, dumpster rental; this estimate was not including cost for mowing, plowing, etc.

B. Rich Cunningham, of Thoma Development spoke to update the progress of the Steering Committee. He distributed CDs to Board members to review. Cunningham advised that the disk has a Table of Contents which outlines Phase I which began in January 2010, Public Meetings held every 2-3 weeks, the "Vision Statement", etc. He went on to advise the committee has worked hard trying to keep a balance to please property owners and the Town, focusing on the hamlet in and around LaFayette. The Committee is recommending the Zoning Ordinances be rewritten from scratch as the current form was drafted in 1970 and has been amended several times. It is not user friendly and is difficult to read and understand, making it very confusing.

Cunningham discussed the big DOT construction project at the four corners of LaFayette and the desire of the steering committee to work closely with the DOT to achieve the best results possible. Other focus points are the promotion of agriculture, connection of parks using pipelines as right-of-ways, etc. The Final Plan will include several photos and Thoma is determined to make it easily understood and user friendly, keeping it as close to the steering committees initial plans and ideas. At this point they are putting the documents together for the power point presentation scheduled at the Town Hall Meeting Room on March 6th, 2012. Cunningham advised that this is the first full draft. He then asked if anyone had any questions. Councilman Ohstrom asked if once the plan is adopted, the Town is forced/obligated to follow through. Cunningham advised that Zoning and Planning need to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Shute advised that there is talk that the Governor released money to bump up highway projects and the gravel yards were told to be ready for the LaFayette Project. He then asked Cunningham to draft a letter to Department of Transportation requesting that LaFayette be one of the first projects, including a set of plans and designs, explaining what we want and would like the DOT to do. Councilman Ohstrom questioned if this in any way may jeopardize the DOT project. Cunningham advised the will have to be very careful in the wording.

Supervisor Shute thanked Mr. Cunningham for the update and reminded everyone of the March 6th, 2012 Public Meeting/Presentation to be held at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Brief discussion and Acknowledgement of communications materials took place.

B. Supervisor Shute advised that he received a phone call regarding the Pinewood Cemetery on Coye Road wherein he was told that the Cemetery Board is elderly and questioning the possibility of surrendering the Cemetery and any assets to the town.

Attorney Gilligan advised that if that if they do surrender the cemetery, it basically becomes the responsibility of the town to maintain. Shute advised that he will have the Cemetery Board come to next month's Town Board meeting to discuss this matter.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

8. REPORTS

A. Departmental:

1. Assessor

2. Building and Zoning

3. Dog Control

4. Highway Superintendent - written report of Highway Superintendent Greeley advising that no snow has giving them opportunity to accomplish other projects such as; installing a dry hydrant at the Park and hoping to install more to decrease response time for Fire Department; looking to micro-pave Applewood this year however costs are inflated, therefore not sure on oil prices. Greeley advised he is working with Suit-Kote and trying to stay ahead of the game. He also advised that on March 6th he will be going to Albany to speak with officials in hopes to get an increase in Chips Capital to \$139.00. Supervisor Shute thanked Greeley for all his hard work and in keeping within the budget.

5. Justice – Written report submitted

6. Library – Written report submitted

Discussion took place regarding budget matters including the library being \$28,000.00 below budget in spending for 2011. Supervisor Shute asked Budget Officer Chartrand to advise regarding the moneys left over. Chartrand said \$8,000.00 went to decrease taxes and \$20,000.00 into capital improvements. As far as the long term effect of the Library budget, Chartrand advised that it is better to carry an even balance or carry forward \$8,000 every year and that you don't want a huge variation.

Chartrand also advised that both Water Districts had balances of \$4,000 and are in good shape. He advised that the town is in a much better financial situation now than we were last year. The fact that there has been very little snow and need for snow removal, salt, etc. is definitely going to decrease the highway department spending in that capacity.

Councilman Ohstrom moved and Doolittle seconded motion to make necessary transfer for re-appropriation of Justice Court Grant Funds, in the amount of \$3,915.00. Motion carried 4 –0.

Councilman Doolittle moved and Zajac seconded motion authorizing Supervisor Shute to issue LOSAP checks based on the service certificate, so long as there are no changes. Motion carried 4 – 0.

7. Recreation Director – written report submitted by Regina Reinschmidt.

8. Tax Collector

9. Town Clerk - Monthly financial report submitted.

Town Clerk Jackie Roorda advised of the Annual Town Clerks Association Conference to be held in April in Saratoga Springs and submitted a voucher for approval. Roorda advised that the Records Management Grant application due date had been changed until March 1st 2012 and that she has been moving forward to complete the application. She further advised that she consulted with the Regional

Director of NYS Archives at the Town Hall, whom made several recommendations with regard to adequate storage of the Inactive town records. Most importantly to remove non- record items from the record/archive room, add shelving and replacement of file boxes. Roorda submitted two estimates for opening the half wall to Tax Department and construction of a closet in an area of the Supervisor office for storage of custodial supplies and equipment, etc. from the record room to allow for additional shelving and compliance with code requirements. Supervisor Shute advised that the Board will discuss renovations.

10. Town Supervisor – Monthly report submitted. Shute advised that as of December the budget was in good shape. \$112,000 was used to decrease taxes and \$221,000 was carried over.

B. Committees

1. Community Development
2. Emergency Response
3. Employee Policies & Benefits.
4. Environmental & Conservation Advisory Board

5. Highway Committee - Councilman Ohstrom and Supervisor Shute advised that the Highway Committee met a couple times to discuss the need for a new Highway Department Garage. Ohstrom advised they met with engineers Barton and Loguidice, to go over the basic plan/drawing that Highway Superintendent Greeley came up with for what the garage should look like. Presently the garage is 1,200 square feet; the new garage would increase to 2,100 square feet. Zajac questioned if this would be large enough to store all the trucks and equipment. Greeley advised that it is. Discussion took place regarding grant application requirements including; need for an engineering firm to draw up plans, garage to be built on property already owned by the town and the town to commit to 25 percent of the work. Councilman Doolittle spoke of the possibility of another grant for a Fueling Station. He further advised that if the Troopers, Fire Department and Town all get together utilizing one fueling service which would definitely be cost effective for all three entities.

Greeley then advised that the Highway Department has been working on a 2009 International 10 wheeler plow truck that can be used for plowing, however it is in need of a sander to treat the roads. He recommends that for approximately \$10,000.00 an inverted “v” sander can be purchased and installed on this truck and would give the Town an extra back-up truck in case of a blizzard. Greeley advised that he has two prices; one for a carbon sander, and the other from Tracey Road Equipment for a stainless steel sander, which he recommends as that is much more rust-proof. Greeley advised that a State Bid Number is needed.

Councilman Zajac moved and Doolittle seconded motion authorizing Greeley to purchase an E-253 stainless steel inverted “v” sander NYS OGS contract bid #PC62376, not to exceed \$13,000.00. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Physical Plant - In light of the majority opinion of the Optimist Club members to instill a \$50.00 rental fee for use of the Stafford Park facilities;

Councilman Doolittle moved and Ohstrom seconded motion to charge a \$50.00 rental fee for use of both pavilions and Jack’s Shack at Stafford Park, excluding any 501-c3 groups and

that businesses and non-residents continue to pay a fee of \$250.00. Doolittle and Ohstrom; voting yes. Shute and Zajac; voting no. Motion failed. Matter tabled to next meeting for majority rule.

7. Recreation and Youth – Councilman Ohstrom advised they met with Dan Meldrim, who is right on board with recreation and youth programs. Shute advised that Lafayette Community Council (LCC) purchased a semi-portable ice rink to be located at the lacrosse box at LaFayette Beach. The insurance cost for LCC was quoted at \$5,000.00. Shute further advised that the Town could insure the rink for \$350.00. A solution would be LCC could donate the rink to the town and as town property it would be insured by the town at the much lesser amount.

Councilman Ohstrom moved and Zajac seconded motion for the Town to accept the donation of the portable ice rink from the LaFayette Community Council to become Town property and that the LaFayette Community Council is responsible for all maintenance of the ice rink. Motion carried 4 – 0.

8. Safety - Councilman Doolittle advised that at the recent Safety meeting, discussion took place regarding plans for renovations at LaFayette Beach; engineers present at the meeting had vague ideas for upgrading the pool, purifying the water, utilizing volunteers to do the work. Supervisor Shute suggested getting input from the Town Engineers once the plans are presented to the town and if people are volunteering for this project, wait to see what they come up with before making any decisions.

9. School District Liaisons

10. Service Awards – Letters to Sen. DeFrancisco and Assemblyman Miller reviewed.

11. SOTS & OCCRA

12. SPDES – Supervisor Shute advised that the Town received a notice last week regarding 2010 Statewide Permit that has been invalidated by Court Action downstate on the basis of too little public input in the SWPPP process for individual projects and that the permit allowed too much self regulation. At this time, we are waiting for further direction from NYSDEC.

9. LITIGATION & OTHER LEGAL MATTERS.

Letter of Support, Friends of Court Town of Ulysses (near Utica)...”Towns should have power to regulate/prohibit hydrofracking”. Kevin Gilligan advised that so far he has only heard that the Town of Camillus has joined. Shute questioned Gilligan that if it binds LaFayette, if we say we are in support. Gilligan advised that it most likely will be taken that we are anti-hydrofracking and at this point probably won’t be noticed if the town does nothing. Discussions took place regarding the fact that a Moratorium is a Public Law and requires a 5 day notification for a Public Meeting Hearing; Onondaga and Marcellus passed a one year moratorium for the purpose of examining the scope of local legislation; and what happens once the year is over.....do you try to renew? The question is do we act now, or do nothing? Councilman Doolittle advised that at the Association of Towns Conference there was a lot of new information provided to be reviewed.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ACTIVE PROJECTS.

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. Suggestions for improvement and positive contributions.

13. **Supervisor Shute moved and Doolittle seconded motion for the Town Board, including Attorney Gilligan to go into Executive Session to discuss a contract matter at 8:55 p.m.**

At 9:25 p.m. The Town of LaFayette Board Meeting was back in session.

Councilman Ohstrom moved and Doolittle seconded motion to schedule a Public Hearing on the Five Year Plan and 2013 Application for Community Development, to be held on March 12th, 2012 at 6:30 at the regular scheduled Town Board Meeting at the Town Hall. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Supervisor Shute advised that the Board decided to get another estimate for the construction of a closet and removal of part of the wall in the Town Hall Offices.

14. **Councilman Doolittle moved and Zajac seconded motion to audit and pay bills. Motion carried 4 – 0.**

General Fund	1060 -1123	\$272,081.55
Highway Fund	1125 – 1148	\$ 80,225.54
Special District	1061, 1164 1176	\$445,674.95
Trust & Agency	1177, 1178	\$ 250.00

15. **Councilman Ohstrom moved and Zajac seconded motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4 – 0.**

The Regular Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline G. Roorda
Town Clerk