Minutes of the Town Board Meeting/Public Hearing held by the LaFayette Town Board March

12 , 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present:

Adrian Shute, Supervisor

William McConnell, Councilman Andrew Ohstrom, Councilman Gerry Doolittle, Councilman

Steve Zajac, Councilman

Jacqueline Roorda, Town Clerk

Kevin Gilligan, Town Attorney

Thomas Chartrand, Town Bookkeeper

Ralph Lamson, Code Enforcement & Building Inspector

John Greeley, Highway Supervisor

John Harper, LaF. Fire Dept.

Raymond Bishop & Beverly Wilbur, Pinegrove Cem.

1. Supervisor Shute called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. The Town Clerk took the Roll. All present.
3. Pledge to our U. S. Flag led by Town Councilor William McConnell
4. **Councilmen Ohstrom moved and Zajac seconded the motion to accept the February 13, 2012 Town Board Meeting Minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk. Voting was as follows:**

**Supervisor Shute Voted Yes**

**Councilman McConnell Voted Abstain**

**Councilman Ohstrom Voted Yes**

**Councilman Doolittle Voted Yes**

**Councilman Zajac Voted Yes  
Motion carried**.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**.** Community Development:

1) To solicit the comments of residents of the Town of LaFayette and other concerned citizens as to projects, which may include housing rehabilitation and construction activities, that are necessary and desirable in order to improve the conditions for low and moderate income residents of the Town of LaFayette, and which said projects may be eligible for Housing and Urban Community Development Funding.

2) The Town Board will consider the Town of Lafayette 5 Year Plan for Parks and Recreation Community Development funding.

Supervisor Shute asked for any questions or comments.

Councilman Doolittle asked if the Public Hearing is mostly concerning the 2013 items listed on the 5 Year Plan.

Supervisor Shute advised that yes, the most important is the LaFayette Beach Park portion of the 5 Year Plan. He further advised that the Board's inspection of the Beach property and buildings recently took place revealing most items needing repair or replacement have been part of the plan for years. To Rehabilitate and Expand the LaFayette Beach Bathroom and Service building estimates $69,262.00. He estimates the cost of applying to Community Development is for $50,000.00. The Town would be responsible for 25% or approximately $19,000.00. Discussion took place regarding rebuilding or rehabilitating the existing structures.

Supervisor Shute advised that Thoma Development has a grant application that LaFayette Beach is eligible for grant money to rehabilitate the existing building.

Councilman Zajac questioned if they essentially would be keeping the floor and existing walls and basically gutting the interior and reconstructing within the four walls

Supervisor Shute asked Highway Superintendent John Greeley is the Highway Department would be able to do the 25% of work necessary to be done. Greeley agreed they would.

Supervisor Shute asked for any other questions or comments. There were none.

**Councilmen Doolittle moved and McConnell seconded the motion to close the Public Hearing.**

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| **Supervisor Shute** | **Voted** | **Yes** |
| **Councilman McConnell** | **Voted** | **Yes** |
| **Councilman Ohstrom** | **Voted** | **Yes** |
| **Councilman Doolittle** | **Voted** | **Yes** |
| **Councilman Zajac** | **Voted** | **Yes** |

**Motion carried.**

The Public Hearing Portion of the Town Board Meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

Motion for Resolutions regarding Public Hearing and Certification are hereby attached.

6. COMMUNICATION

A. LaFayette Fire Department President John Harper advised that LOSAP vouchers for William Guenther and Jay Erickson mistakenly were overlooked and not submitted with 2011 list. He also advised that a better system to track requirements has been instituted to avoid oversights in the future.

**Councilman McConnell moved and Ohstrom seconded motion to granting William Guenther and Jay Erickson LOSAP entitlement in the amount of $700.00 for the year 2011. Motion carried 5 – 2.**

B. Pinegrove Cemetery Board Representatives Raymond Bishop and Beverly Wilbur requested that the Town Board approve the Town taking over the Pine Grove Cemetery located on Coye Road and dates back to the Civil War. They advised that the seven burial plots remaining are already designated to specific people. They explained that the Cemetery Board Members are elderly and unable to continue to do the maintenance of tree removal, mowing three times a year (Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day), maintaining the cemetery records and burial of the last seven plots..

Discussion took place regarding all aspects of responsibilities involved with the Cemetery including liability insurance, ownership/deed being transferred from Raymond Bishop to the Town along with money in their treasury, checking with IOOF to see if they would maintain the cemetery for a fixed amount, applying for grants, etc. Councilman Ohstrom volunteered to meet with Bishop to observe plots, collect information and get a preliminary plan mapped out to figure out what route to pursue Supervisor Shute moved discussion for a future meeting so that Ohstrom may update.

C. 2012 After Prom Committee written request

**Councilman Ohstrom moved and Zajac seconded motion to support the 2012 LaFayette After Prom Party Committee in the amount of $250.00. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

8. REPORTS

1. Assessors

2. Building and Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Lamson advised that things are very quiet and that he recently issued permits for Verizon for swapping antennas on Newell Hill Road. He also advised that he will be out doing observations around town trying to get things cleaned up before dump days. Supervisor Shute told Lamson he will get the Liability Permit for fireworks for the Community Days in the near future.

3. Dog Control

4. Highway Superintendent Greeley submitted a written report and he advised that Town Clean up Days are May 5th – 12th. Ohstrom questioned the possibility of mass document shredding to be included and Greeley advised that he is already checking into that. Ohstrom also questioned if local residents with E-waste businesses had been given an opportunity to bid on E-waste portion of clean up days. Greeley advised that he has a two year alliance with RC&R, the only thing we pay for is batteries and the business that contacted the Supervisor last year does not take TV's which is the bulk of the E-waste. Ohstrom suggested Greeley contacts said business owner and if he is interested, get a bid or quote in writing to avoid any miscommunication.

Supervisor Shute advised that Greeley checked into 457 Plan for deferred supplemental retirement compensation plan option for Town employees, which is similar to a 401K plan. A representative met with Highway Department employees to explain this option and Greeley advised packets are in the Town Clerk's office for anyone else interested.

**Councilman Ohstrom moved and McConnell seconded motion for the Town of LaFayette to adoption the 457 Plan offered as an option for town employees to take effect on March 12th, 2012. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Councilman Doolittle advised that 28 flower boxes will be ready by Memorial Day. John Harper of Harper’s Greenhouses donated the fertilizer and fabric paper. Businesses and Individuals who purchased the flower boxes will decide their location and also maintain them.

5. Justice Court written monthly financial report submitted in the amount of $40,430.00. Supervisor Shute advised that the telephone equipment grant the Justice Court Clerks applied for was denied and that the present phones used by the Justice Court and Town Hall are inadequate. He suggested purchasing new equipment with sales tax money left over from last year. After lengthy discussion regarding 3 phone equipment estimates already on file, the Highway Garage Construction, Community Center roof and window replacements and Stafford Park tennis court repair.

**Councilman McConnell moved and Zajac seconded motion for the Tax Stabilization Money to be used to assist with the Highway Garage Reconstruction, Community   
Center Roof and window replacements, new furnace and septic repair and phone equipment. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

6. Library Director

Written Report and Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

7. Recreation Director

8. Tax Collector - Budget Officer Tom Chartrand advised that the Town taxes have been paid in full.

9. Town Clerk – Monthly financial report submitted. Town Clerk Roorda advised that she completed the Records Management Grant application and submitted it on March 1st, 2012. She also advised that she obtained two additional estimates for the storage closet construction and wall removal in the Town Hall.

1. Town Supervisor – Monthly Supervisors report was submitted.

**Councilman McConnell moved and Ohstrom seconded motion authorizing Town Clerk Jackie Roorda to place a Legal Notice in the Syracuse Newspaper advising that the Town of LaFayette Financial Report is on file in the Town Clerks Office for anyone interested in reviewing it. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

**B. Committees**

1. Community Development - Councilman McConnell advised that the Public Meeting where Thoma Development presented the Towns Comprehensive Plan went well and was well attended. He also stated that he will advise of scheduled dates for further meetings as soon as they are confirmed.

2. Emergency Response - Councilman McConnell advised that they are updating their list and he will advise Town Clerk Roorda when it is completed.

3. Employee Policies & Benefit – Councilman Ohstrom advised that the January 1st, 2012 amendment allows same gender spouses to be eligible for insurance coverage. The previous plan did not include that language in the policy.

**Councilman Ohstrom moved and Doolittle seconded motion to Notify OCEBA that the Town of LaFayette is abiding by Federal Regulations and desires to offer same gender spouse/partner insurance coverage to our insurance policy. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Ohstrom will notify OCEBA.

4. Environmental & Conservation Advisory Board

5. Highway Committee – Supervisor Shute advised that they are waiting to hear back from the engineer with regard to the Highway Garage and should be having a meeting with regard to same in the near future.

6. Physical Plant – Councilman Doolittle advised that Dan Bush Heating installed a new furnace at the Community Center. He also reported there are problems with the men’s and women’s toilets at the Community Center and is waiting for Cross Bros. to give an estimate to change or repair the septic problems. He then revisited the subject of charging a fee for rental of outside facilities.

**Councilman Doolittle moved and Ohstrom seconded motion to charge $50.00 deposit along with a $50.00 rental fee for use of the both Pavilions at Stafford Park and Jacks’ Shack; the rental fee will exclude any tax exempt 501c3 groups, non-residents to pay a rental fee of $250.00, to offset the cost of wear and tear and maintenance. Motion denied 2 – 3.**

Discussions took place regarding Optimist members’ suggestions of purchasing more picnic tables to place outside the pavilions and additional signs, donations etc.

**Councilman Ohstrom moved Zajac seconded motion to allow for voluntary donations made to the Town for use of facilities at Stafford Park, to be designated to the LaFayette Optimist Club. Motion carried 5 - 0.**

Councilman Doolittle advised of vandalism at restrooms at Stafford Park wherein the door lock was broken, toilets were taken apart, toilet paper and paper towel dispensers were torn off the walls, etc. Supervisor Shute called the Police who filed a report. Fred Groth already fixed the door lock. Discussion continued regarding ways to control vandalism including installing a surveillance camera, etc.

**At this time;** Supervisor Shute requested a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters.

**Councilman Ohstrom moved and Doolittle seconded motion for the Town Board and Attorney to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter, so moved at 8:25 pm.**

At 8:41 returned from Executive Session Supervisor Shute advised no actions were taken.

7. Recreation and Youth

8. Safety

9. School Liaisons

10. Service Awards

11. SOTS & OCRRA Liaison

12. SPDES Councilman McConnell advised that the Annual Report needs to be done at the May meeting.

* + 1. LITIGATION & OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

* + - * 1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ACTIVE PROJECTS.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Doolittle complemented Town Clerk Roorda on doing a great job and advised that he has observed her working many additional hours beyond the posted Town Clerk hours. She thanked him for his kind words.

Doolittle then asked the Town Board if they got a chance to look over the information he provided with regard to hydrofracking and suggested scheduling a meeting to review all information and get prepared and start the Moratorium process. He further advised that he is fearful of the consequence if the Town does not take action. Extensive discussion regarding 12 leases in LaFayette with gas companies, Onondaga County map showing areas involved, conflicting articles regarding its effects on water, Moratoriums passed in Onondaga, Marcellus and Pompey, Towns passing bans against hydrofacking and scheduling a special meeting to discuss pros and cons, Moratorium Process and to get the public opinion and all the elements involved.

Attorney Kevin Gilligan advised that a Moratorium basically puts everything on hold and recommended putting a Moratorium in place before permits are issued. He advised that he will provide a draft Moratorium and that and all material can be reviewed at April Meeting. A Public Meeting will be set in May and then vote on the Moratorium at the following meeting.

* + - * 1. Suggestions for improvement and positive contributions
        2. Executive Session (held previously as reported)
        3. Motion to audit and pay bills

**Councilman McConnell moved and Zajac seconded motion to audit and pay bills. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

**General Fund**

**Highway Fund**

**Special District**

**Trust & Agency**

**Community Dev. & Capital Fund**

15. Motion to adjourn.

**Councilman Zajac moved and McConnell seconded motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting. Motion carried 5 – 0.**

The Regular Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline G. Roorda

LaFayette Town Clerk

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