

March 25, 2013 LaFayette Town Board Special Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Town Board Regular Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on March 25th, 2013 at 5:30 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
 Steve Zajac, Councilman
 Jerry Doolittle, Councilman
 Andrew Ohstrom, Councilman,
Absent : William McConnell, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Jacqueline Roorda, Town Clerk

Others Present Scott Kushner, Library Director
 Kevin Gilligan, Town Attorney
 Connie Foote
 Phyllis Olmsted
 Rainer & Judi Brocke
 Pat Hurd
 Virginia Collinson

1. Supervisor Shute called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. The Town Clerk took the Roll. Councilman McConnell absent.
3. Pledge to our U. S. Flag led by Town Councilman Ohstrom.
4. **Councilman Doolittle moved and Zajac seconded the motion to accept revised March 11th, 2013, Town Board Meeting Minutes as submitted by Town Clerk, Jackie Roorda.**

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Shute	Voted	Yes
Councilman Ohstrom	Voted	Yes
Councilman Doolittle	Voted	Yes
Councilman Zajac	Voted	Yes

Motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Scott Kushner, Library Director gave a presentation which included a slide show illustration, several informational handouts and brochures demonstrating the concept of what

modern day libraries have developed into and the prospect of LaFayette Library relocating to the building next door to the present Town Hall/Library.

The slide show presentation showed included photos of Manlius, Baldwinsville, Onondaga Free Library, Fayetteville, Dewitt, New Woodstock and Cazenovia Libraries. These Libraries are much more advanced and offer many more programs for residents. Some of the photos from the various libraries included:

- Separate Computer Areas
- Comfortable Quiet Reading Areas
- Teen Zone Space
- Children's Reading/Activity Areas
- Children's Computer Area
- Tutoring Rooms
- Museum Area/Gallery Space
- Community Rooms
- Movie Areas
- Video Conferencing Area
- Smart Screens
- Meeting Rooms
- Work Rooms for Staff and Staff Development

The most important concept is that all of the above modernization is focused on education for children, adults, teens, and senior citizens. This also offers activities to assist with modern technology as an example, teaching computer skills in order to read the newspaper on-line, since it has decreased home delivery to only three days per week. Instruction for children and adults on how to use electronic devices, even cell phones could take place. Social activities for all ages may include yoga and exercise classes, watching movies, quiet and comfortable seating areas to enable peaceful reading or studying. The possibilities go on and on and there is also "the Library" as we know it now, a place for residents to come and borrow books and DVD's, use computers, etc.

Scott went on to discuss that these new and improved Libraries in other communities are almost always busy in every capacity available. Connie Foote advised that there is no quiet space for residents in the present library and that many of LaFayette residents are driving distances such as Cazenovia, Fayetteville and to other Libraries for services that our Library does not offer. Scott further advised that he would like to enlist a committee of teens to assist in the design of a Teen Zone, perhaps a Teen Advisory Board.

Discussion pursued regarding the costs involved in purchasing the Building, a 30 year bond and payments, renovation costs, structural requirements, installing an elevator, applying for Grant monies, the June deadline for Grant applications, Construction Grants, moving the Town's historical items from the Community Center to an area in the new library, etc.

Rainer Brocke commented that "Being in Education, the need is to sell the town on the long-term investment. There is no better investment at all than the education of our young people. This

project will build a bridge connecting the School with the Town. This invites people to come in with their kids to share programs and connect with the School. Nothing is better than reading programs for the kids and the payoff is immeasurable.

Councilman Doolittle advised that the Town desperately needs a Highway Building, immediately and that this would put a major burden on the Town's taxes and increase property tax bills.

Supervisor Shute advised that he has been thinking about this project a lot and the effects it would have on the budget. Increased costs in retirement, medical, the cost of a new highway garage, etc. already have put a strain on the Budget. Purchasing another building would mean maintenance on 3 buildings, the Town Hall, Community Center and a new Library. The snowball costs would mean more equipment, more staff, etc. He questioned Scott if he felt the new library could take on the activities that now are held in the Community Center, if it were to be sold.

Scott replied definitely such as the senior exercise classes, yoga classes, meetings, etc. Connie Foote added that the only things she can think that wouldn't be accommodated would be birthday parties, baby showers, etc., who would have to pursue other avenues such as the VFW, Fire Department and Stafford Park.

Scott also advised that Cazenovia received large donations for their current library and that there is a Foundation of software wherein you can locate individuals or businesses who will make large donations to the cause.

Attorney Gilligan advised that he would use a New York City Firm to handle this.

Budget Officer Tom Chartrand estimated cost at approximately \$16,500 principal per year for a \$500,000, 30 year bond at 3% interest, plus the added expense of \$16,000 per year for electric based on the Town Hall usage would add \$30,000 to the Library Budget at \$0.10 per \$1,000 per year.

Supervisor Shute advised that the Community Center was valued at \$65,000 when the Town took it over which probably hasn't changed much. He asked Attorney Gilligan what the Town would need to do in order to sell the Community Center. Gilligan advised that when real estate that belongs to the Town is sold it is subject to Permissive Referendum. Shute commented that the extra money in the budget if closing and selling the Community Center could offset some of the cost for the New Library. Councilman Ohstrom questioned possibility of leasing vs. buying.

Rainer Brocke suggested having a fund raising drive and having a list of the individuals who donated money displayed on a brass plaque in the main lobby of the new library. He feels there are a lot of people in our community who would be happy to donate to this cause.

Supervisor Shute advised that no decision would be made tonight. Scott Kushner informed the Board that he will continue his investigation and checking into what grants may be available.

Councilman Ohstrom moved and Doolittle seconded the motion to audit and pay bills.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Shute	Voted	Yes
Councilman Ohstrom	Voted	Yes
Councilman Doolittle	Voted	Yes
Councilman Zajac	Voted	Yes

Motion carried.

Motion carried 4-0.

Councilman Zajac moved and Ohstrom seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Shute	Voted	Yes
Councilman Ohstrom	Voted	Yes
Councilman Doolittle	Voted	Yes
Councilman Zajac	Voted	Yes

Motion carried.

The Special Meeting of the Town Board adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Roorda
Town Clerk