

March 12th, 2024 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on March 12th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at LaFayette Town Hall and live on Facebook.

Present: William McConnell, Supervisor
Melanie Palmer, Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Councilor
Nate Loughlin, Councilor
Mark Distler, Deputy Supervisor

Recording Secretary: Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk

Attorney: Jeff Brown
Budget Officer: Marty Knapp
Others Present: Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement
Steve Robson, Highway Superintendent
Dave Prince, Parks & Rec
Jessica Rice, Library Director
Sean Doolittle, LaFayette Fire Dept.
Ashlie Carrier, LaFayette Ambulance & TOL Facilities Manager
Steve Pitoniak, Safety Manager
Several residents

1. Supervisor McConnell called the meeting to order.
2. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn took the roll, All present.
3. Pledge to our U. S. Flag led by Councilor Marzo
4. Motion to accept regular meeting minutes of February 13. 2024 Town Board Minutes

R-31-24 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to accept the February 13th regular meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn. Motion carried 5-0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Movie filming @ Carol Watson Greenhouse / Parking @ Stafford Park - Supervisor McConnell explained that a movie is being filmed at the green house and the production group was looking for additional parking at Stafford Park. They will they will be filming on March 26th, 2024.

B. Cardiff Water Update (MARK DISTLER) - Deputy Supervisor Distler provided a status update to the Cardiff Water District project after last month's approval of the MOU with Tully and the authorization for B&L to begin work to design the system and apply for funding. He said since then, Supervisor McConnell met with Congressman Brandon Williams to gain support for the project as a Community Project Funding Request. He also met with County IDA Director. He said that B&L will be submitting project funding requests to Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand by March 13 and Congressman Williams by March 15. And that an income survey and letter will be sent out by the end of this week and door knocking will be conducted in April. The income survey results will help the Town better position themselves for funding. Finally, he said B&L will be submitting the preliminary engineering report and income survey results by the June 14, 2024 deadline, both of which are required for future funding applications

C. Crossroad Building Update (MARK DISTLER) - Deputy Supervisor Distler provided a status update on the Town's preparation to negotiate an agreement with Hanover to rehabilitate the Crossroads Building. He said Supervisor McConnell, Jeanie Gleisner and he met with Hanover two weeks prior to work on sequencing and timing of work this year and including an overall schedule. He said these details would be included in any agreement. He said that like the other developers recently explored as alternatives to Hanover, Hanover is now very busy with other rehab projects and is currently considering how and when they can commit to pursue an agreement with the Town. Deputy Supervisor Mark Distler said they have another meeting with Hanover later this week when we expect to have their answer. Deputy Supervisor Distler said that by next month's meeting we will either have Hanover's commitment to proceed and he will request approval of a LDC resolution to get started or will discuss the Town's other options.

6. COMMUNICATONS FROM THE PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER - No one in attendance spoke

7. BOARD ACTION- No Town Board actions at this time.

8. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. February Monthly report - Bookkeeper Marty Knapp explained that things are pretty uneventful, the interest rate is stable. Justice Court fines are ahead of budget which puts us in a good position, budget wise.

b. Transfer of appropriations- No transfers at this time.

2. Attorney - Nothing further to report.

3. Highway

a. **Highway Superintendent report - March 2024**

Roads: Miscellaneous general maintenance to our roads, shoulders, ditches and culverts will continue through the spring as weather permits. All snow removal equipment is ready. Snow and ice ops - 12 times for snow and no ice.

On February 28, 2024, we encountered some storm damage due to very high winds received over night. All roads impacted by falling trees and limbs have been cleaned up.

Highway Business: At this time, the Highway Superintendent is appealing FEMA's denial on 2026 Clark Hollow Road. 2026 Clark Hollow Road was denied funds of \$101,699.00. We were partially approved for work completed (forced account labor, equipment and materials) of \$14,865.04.

Deer Run Road was denied for \$22,500.00. After consulting with our NY State DHSES representatives, he is retracting our appeal of denial and now applying for FEMA mitigation funds. We were approved for \$278,150.00 of \$300,650.00 to complete necessary repairs to this location.

Superintendent Robson is still working diligently after almost 3 years to secure over \$ 417,213.00 of FEMA funding to mitigate future issues with the assistance of Homeland Security Emergency Services and C&S Engineer's.

Effective March 6, 2024 the Highway Dept. will no longer accept any electronic waste at our facility or during Town clean -up days. This is due to the risks associated with accepting anything that contains lithium-ion batteries. The department is working diligently to reinstate electronic drop off without taking anything with lithium-ion batteries to mitigate the risk to our employees and facility. The regulations that are set by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to be listed as a "Registered NYS Electronic Waste Collection Site" clearly states that we must accept all electronic waste and cannot pick and choose what we accept at this time.

Miscellaneous parts and equipment that have been listed on Auctions International is at over \$2900.00. This auction will end on March 7, 2024 at 6:30pm. Superintendent Robson will advise the Town Board during the meeting of the final total.

4. Town Clerk

a. Monthly report for February 2024

b. Update - Stafford Park Fee Waived - Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn requested permission to waive the fee for the rental of Stafford Park for NYS OPWDD (NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities)

R-32-24 Councilor Palner moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to waive the \$100 fee for the rental of Stafford Park on Wednesday, May 15th for the NYS OPWDD (New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities). Motion carried 5-0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

c. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn advised that Donna & Dave Knapp informed her that the primary vacuum is on it's last leg and Donna had done some research on good vacuums. She found one on Amazon that had great reviews. She advised she would purchase the vacuum on her Amazon account, but had submitted a voucher for reimbursement. Resident Herb Brodt spoke up and offered to donate a brand-new Kirby vacuum that has never been used. It was agreed that we would accept this donation in lieu of purchasing a vacuum.

- 5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES
 - a. February 2024 Building Permits -Written report is on file with Town Clerk
 - b. Codes Officer advised the Town Board that his department is having issues with their computer which is outdated and that Deputy Codes Officer Nick Kirby is trying to figure it out. They hope that they can get through until budget time to purchase a new computer.
 - 6. Justice Court - February 2024 Justice Reports
 - Judge Perrin had 143 cases and turned over \$10,113.00 to the Town of LaFayette for February 2024.
 - Judge Shute had 196 cases and turned over \$13,184.00 to the Town of LaFayette for February 2024
 - 7. Parks -Nothing to report at this time
 - 8. Library Director -Written report is on file with the Town Clerk
 - 9. LCC - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk
 - 10. LaFayette Fire / Ambulance Department - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk
 - 11. Dog Control -Written report is on file with the Town Clerk
- B. Committee Reports
- 1. LACC (Mark Distler) - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk

R-33-24 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to approve the one year appointment of Mark Distler to the LACC board as a member not the chair. Motion carried 5-0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

2.. Safety & Facility Maintenance (Ashlie Carrier & Steve Pitoniak) - Written reports are on file with the Town Clerk.

9. NEW BUSINESS - Supervisor McConnell advised that there was a meeting prior to the Town Board meeting for the planning for the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the forming of the Town of LaFayette. He showed a slide of new Town of LaFayette signs that he proposed to the Town Board to go up in four separate locations at the cost of \$415 each.

R-34-24 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion approve the purchase of the new Town of LaFayette Signs. Motion carried 5-0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

10. Motion to audit & pay bills

Fund	Check #'s	Total
General Fund	21504-21516; 21518-21520; 21522-21531; 21533-21539; 21556, 21560	\$39,569.72
Highway Fund	21530-21532;21540-21555; 21557-21561	\$87,909.93
Library Fund	21530; 201531	\$2,600.28
Coye Rd Water District	21562	\$736.97
North East & SH Water Dist	21562; 21521	\$4,838.10

R-35-24 **Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 5 - 0.**

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-36-24 **Councilor Palmer moved and Supervisor McConnell seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:06 pm. Motion carried 5-0**

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk