**June 11th, 2019 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on June 11, 2019 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: Daniel Fitzpatrick, Supervisor

Steve Zajac, Councilor

Melanie Palmer, Councilor

Carole Dwyer, Councilor

William McConnell, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Jackie Bush Roorda, Town Clerk

Budget Officer: Tom Chartrand

Attorney: Jeff Brown

Others Present: John Greeley, Highway Superintendent

John Mueller, Herb & Rosemary Brodt, Steve & Kathy Pitoniak

Jeanie Gleisner, Dennis Earle, Aurora Hurlorde, Emma Gretsky, Sarah Jeske

1. Supervisor Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Councilor McConnell led the pledge to the U.S. Flag.

2. The Town Clerk, Jackie Roorda took the Roll.

3. Town Board Minutes of May14th, 2019 Regular Meeting.

R-74-19 Councilor Palmer moved and McConnell seconded the motion to accept the May 14th, 2019 regular Meeting Minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Jackie Roorda. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Abstained

4. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Amendment/Handbook

R-75-19

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF LAFAYETTE TOWN BOARD AMENDING**

**THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILTY**

**REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE**

The Town Board of the Town of LaFayette in the County of Onondaga and State of New York met in regular session at the LaFayette Town Hall, 2577 U.S. Route 11, LaFayette, New York on June 11, 2019.

The following resolution was offered by Councilor McConnell, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilor Zajac, to-wit:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of LaFayette approved an updated Town of LaFayette Employee Handbook on April 9, 2019 which included a section detailing the retiree health insurance benefits for eligible Town employees, and

**WHEREAS,** the eligibility requirements to receive retiree health insurance benefits listed in the updated Handbook are not entirely consistent with the requirements that have been discussed with and understood by Town employees, and

**WHEREAS,** the Employee Handbook states that the policies contained therein may be added to, deleted or changed by the Town Board as necessary, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town Board hereby desires to amend the eligibility requirements for Town employees to receive retiree health insurance benefits to better reflect existing practice.

**THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** that the Insurance Benefits, Health Insurance – Medical section of the Town of LaFayette Employee Handbook as it relates to health insurance coverage for Town employees in retirement is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Employees retiring under the following provisions will be able to continue coverage as described:

* Town employees who retire at age fifty-five (55) or older and have a minimum of twenty (20) years of full-time continuous service with the Town (ten [10] years for full-time elected officials) immediately prior to retirement, may elect to continue their coverage under the Town’s plan. If they do so, the Town will pay 100% of supplemental individual coverage. Supplemental coverage is defined as the plan utilized by the Town to cover retirees (not Medicare). Family coverage may be continued by paying the difference between the individual and family premiums. Premium payments must be made to the Town Clerk by the 25th of the month prior to the due date to avoid cancellation of the policy.

* To be eligible for retiree health insurance benefits, employees must retire under the New York State Retirement System immediately upon leaving Town service. In addition, employees must voluntarily leave Town service, and not be terminated or otherwise let go by the Town.

The widowed spouse of anyone retiring under the above conditions may continue coverage by paying the full premium.”

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

The resolution was declared adopted.

1. Survey old Highway garage property – this was tabled until a later date

C. Carol Watson estimate for spring clean-up

R-76-19 Councilor Dwyer moved and Palmer seconded the motion to accept the estimate in the amount of $1,380.00 for spring cleanup at the Town Hall and Community Center for the months of May through November, 2019, as submitted by Carol Watson Greenhouse.

Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

D. The Retirement of Assessor, Shawn Adam

R-77-19 Councilor McConnell regrettably moved and Palmer seconded the motion to accept the letter of resignation from Assessor Shawn Adam, effective July 1, 2019, when he plans to retire as sole assessor for the Town of LaFayette. Motion carried 5 - 0

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

Supervisor Fitzpatrick thanked Shawn for his dedication and service to the Town and residents.

E. Quote for Tax Department counter top and reface cabinet front.

Tom Chartrand advised that we do have enough funding in the buildings budget for this however we are getting low on funding for capital improvements. We will need to be cautious on future spending. Councilor Zajac asked what will be left in the building budget. Chartrand advised balance was a little bit over $1,000.00.

R-79-19 Councilor McConnell moved and Palmer seconded the motion to approve $775.00 for the replacement of the countertop and $560.00 to reface the cabinet in the Tax Department at the Town Hall. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

6. REPORTS

1. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. 1. Town Supervisor’s Monthly report was provided by Budget Officer Tom Chartrand. Tom went through the highlights of the May, 2019 report.

b. Tom Chartrand advised there are transfers necessary as follows:

GENERAL FUND

To:

A1110.2 Justices Equipment $2,700.00

A5132.4 Garage Equipment $7,100.00

TOTAL $9,800.00

From:

A1990.4 Contingent Contractual $9,800.00

TOTAL $9,800.00

R-80-19 Councilor Dwyer moved and Supervisor Fitzpatrick seconded the motion to approve the transfer of appropriation as listed above. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

2. Town Attorney

1. Millings Pile - Attorney Jeff Brown advised that he has had a conversation with the regional engineer at DEC and they were sending someone out to investigate all the issues. He advised that this is mainly an environmental issue at this juncture. He recently spoke with Joe Heath, the attorney for the Onondaga Indian Nation who expressed the Nation’s concern with the milling pile. Attorney Brown reiterated that he has been in touch with the DEC and they are actively looking at not only the structure, but potential water quality issues. Attorney Heath was going to confirm this with the DEC. Attorney Brown has advised DEC to contact him or anyone from the Town if they need anything further to assist in their investigation.

b. Cable Franchise Agreement Renewal - Attorney Brown advised that we received a request from Charter Communications to renew the Town’s cable franchise agreement. He reported there are numerous issues that we need to be negotiated with the company in order to get a better agreement. For example, the length of service line Charter is required to provide. The longer it is, the better for LaFayette residents. One other issue to be negotiated is the cable franchise fee which would come back to the Town and offsets the costs of the Town to administer cable service. Another, possible subject to negotiate obtaining free cable in the Municipal Buildings and/or discounts for the library, etc.

c. Attorney Brown gave a quick update regarding Cypress Solar Farms application for two facilities on Palladino Road advising that SEQR was approved by the Planning Board. The application now returns to the Zoning Board of Appeals for Specific Permit consideration and then back to the Planning Board for site plan review, both of which include Public Hearings.

d. McDonald’s application for additional signage. Attorney Brown reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals approved additional signage on the McDonalds building; denied the request to increase the height of the sign on Route 81 to 65’ and requested additional illustrations of what the proposed lighted sign on Route 11 will look like. This will be decided at their meeting later this month.

3. Highway Superintendent

Roads: Maintenance on several Town roads has started. Surface treating and paving operations will begin on July 15th, 2019; several cross-over pipes and driveway pipes will be replaced late July and August. Mowing operations continue and the huge brush pile will be ground up in July for free mulch.

Parks: Status on Vinegar Hill Sports complex? Issues to address: sink hole – pavilion – drainage issues – break-ins and vandalism. Goals need to be specifically set to make this park a safer place for residents. Councilor McConnell offered to meet Highway Superintendent Greeley at the facility tomorrow to investigate solutions as he feels these matters need to be addressed immediately.

The Highway section of the July Town newsletter will specify the roads that will be worked on along with the various detours that will have an impact on local residents. Upcoming events for the Highway will be posted as well.

Greeley advised that he spoke with the LaFayette Central School Superintendent on a possible collaboration with the School, Alumni Association, Lacrosse Association and Onondaga Nation on creating signs to be put up in the Town, OCS and Onondaga Nation. They are looking at creating 8 signs to highlight the significant accomplishments of the Lancers Lacrosse program since 2003, to include the 2019 State Championship team. The Highway Department will put up the signs according to State DOT specs. Greeley is looking for support from the Town Board and all potential “mark ups” would be approved by the parties involved. More to follow…

Highway Superintendent Greeley requested the Town Board to go to Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual.

R-81-19 Councilor Palmer moved and McConnell seconded the motion for the Town Board, Town Attorney and Highway Superintendent to move to executive session at 6:54 pm to discuss the employee history of a particular individual. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

R-82-19 Councilor McConnell moved and Palmer seconded the motion for the Town Board to return to the Regular Meeting at 7:04 pm. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

R-83-19 Councilor McConnell moved and Palmer seconded the motion to increase the part-time Highway employee budget line by an additional 360 hours.

Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

4. Town Clerk

a. Monthly Report for May and payment to Supervisor’s Account were in the packet for Town Board review*.*

4. Building and Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Lamson report for building permits, simple subdivisions and zoning applications issued to date for 2019.

6. Justice Court -

a. Justices Monthly report for 2019 April

121 - Total cases for Judge Perrin; $11,031.00 was taken in for the month of April 2019.

91 - Total cases for Judge Shute; $8,378.00 was taken in for the month of April 2019.

7. OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

1) Jeanie Gleisner, Chair of the LaFayette Environmental Conservation Advisory Board offered the Board’s assistance in any future environmental issues that come before the Town Board. She advised that they meet periodically and would like to be of service in any way possible and request the Town Board communicate with them regarding any future environmental plans in the Town.

2) Councilor McConnell apologized to those in attendance who have difficulty hearing the conversations taking place and advised that he is looking into a solution. Budget Officer Tom Chartrand advised that the Court will be addressing this matter in the fall when applying for their JCAP grant. McConnell will check into a temporary solution.

3) John Mueller of Webb Road requested an update with regard to the millings pile stored on Route 20, adjacent to his Webb Road property. He advised that the DEC issued Notice of Violation dated, May 21st for requiring a storm water permit as the property affected is 1.3 acres, which is over the one acre limit. He also feels the site is not built to the specifications it is supposed to. He wants to know what the Town Board plans to do about this and if Suit Kote has plans to clean up the property involved when they are done.

4) Resident Margie Lang of Webb Road advised that she has a creek along her 5 acres and a pond and has concerns regarding the run off of the pile of millings that Suit Kote continues to have on Route 20. She feels no one is following up and does not appreciate the environmental hazard that may be affected her property and family.

Attorney Jeff Brown advised that he will call the DEC to obtain an update and inquire if there is anything further is needed from the Town to assist in its evaluation. He also would like more information if there was a violation and confirm water quality test results.

5) Resident Herb Brodt advised that he received a call from someone from the Onondaga Nation regarding a future plan to build another manure storage pit in LaFayette. He would like to Town Board to pass along any information to the residents if they are made aware of this.

Supervisor Fitzpatrick reported that to his knowledge, no applications have been filed with Onondaga County or New York State at this time for a manure storage facility in LaFayette. If in the event an application for a manure storage pit is brought to the Town’s attention, the residents will be made aware as soon as possible.

LaFayette Fire Department Shawn Doolittle reported that there were 42 calls last month; the Open House for recruitment resulted in a couple of applications for new volunteers which is great as they need more daytime people.

8. Motion to audit and pay bills.

General Fund 14443-14486 $ 44,202.35

Highway Fund 14487-14506 $ 40,933.04

Special District 14507-14509 $ 16,783.43

R-84-19 Councilor McConnell moved and Palmer seconded the motion to audit and pay the above listed bills. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

9. Motion to adjourn.

R-85-19 Councilor McConnell moved Fitzpatrick and seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5 - 0.

Daniel Fitzpatrick Supervisor Voted Yes

Steve Zajac Councilor Voted Yes

Melanie Palmer Councilor Voted Yes

Carole Dwyer Councilor Voted Yes

William McConnell Councilor Voted Yes

The Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline G. Roorda, Town Clerk