

Village of Lima Board Meeting

September 26th, 2023

Present: John Skiptunas, Mayor; Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor; Trustees John Wadach, Joshua Petraitis, and Carolyn Fleming.

Others Present: Matthew Lenahan, Attorney (arrived 7:30pm); Elissa Sackett, Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Steve Werner.

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order by Mayor Skiptunas at 7pm Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith to approve meeting minutes from September 12th, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest – Steve Werner

Mr. Werner gave another update on the Pumpkin Festival. He thanked Mr. Luft and Mayor Skiptunas for their help at the park. He gave an overview of vendors participating in the event and explained that there will be several large pieces of farm equipment in the park. A big part of the event will be giving the public more information on how diverse agriculture is.

Mr. Werner explained that the original wood carver who would be in attendance is now unable to participate due to health issues. He has arranged for another woodcarver to be present for the event, and they will be traveling from Pennsylvania. He requested these individuals be allowed to stay at the park for the duration of the event. They have a motor home that they will be parking in the park.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith to allow the Wood Carver for the Pumpkin Festival to park his camper in the Mark Tubbs Park parking lot during the nights of October 5,6 7, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

DPW Report – Ben Luft

Mr. Luft stated he has finished prep for the concrete pad at the entry way into the dog park. Andy Torpey (Town representative for the Park’s Commission) has been notified and will reach out to the contractor to make sure everything is completed, and they are able to move forward with concrete.

Mr. Luft gave some equipment updates. He said the crew is still working on the leaf machine modifications and anticipates the new machine will be ready for leaf collection this year. The electric mowers are still at LandPro being worked on. For the time being LandPro has given the Village some free lawnmower rentals while they continue to attempt to figure out the issues with the current mowers.

The crew has been working with Mr. Teta at the sewer plant helping him prepare for the Department of Conservation inspection. There has been a lot of cleaning and organizing at the plant. The crew have also been working on yearly sewer cleaning. He anticipates that will be completed by the middle of October.

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The board asked Mr. Luft about the Sanitary Sewer Inflow and Infiltration Study project with MRB. Mr. Luft said that MRB is still collecting data, and the next step will be setting up a camera in areas that have potential issues. He also stated Pat Nicoletta will attend a meeting within the next month to discuss several items (storm water study, water project, sidewalk projects).

Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett

Chief Rose sent Clerk Sackett two new applications for membership for the Lima Ambulance. Applicants are Anna Yager, and Nicole Lawrence; Chief Rose has reviewed and approved both applications.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Wadach and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith to admit Anna Yager and Nicole Lawrence as new members of the Lima Volunteer Ambulance. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Sackett has been in talks with Bond Benefits Group to determine what supplemental coverage plan would be best to offer employees who are 65+ so they maintain approximately the same coverage as they currently have. Bond has stated the Medicare Blue PPO Plan 4 would be adequate, and the cost is approximately \$344 per month. The board discussed and decided that it would be beneficial to employees who qualify as well as the Village to offer this plan.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Wadach and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to approve creating a policy to move employees who are 65+ to the Medicare Blue PPO Plan 4, at no cost for the first year. Cost will be evaluated on a yearly basis. Motion passed unanimously.

Several invoices were available to the board for review/approval. Payments were the following:

- Ambulance Fund: \$1733.70
- General Fund: \$13622.90
- Sewer Fund: \$9403.67
- Water Fund: \$16876.26
- Capital Water: \$905.00
- Capital Fiber: \$10720.88
- Capital Sewer: \$0
- Grand Total: \$53262.41

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Wadach to authorize payment for the invoices. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Fiber Optic Update – Trustee Wadach, Mayor Skiptunas and Clerk Sackett met with representatives from Empire Access to discuss the Request for Proposals (RFP). Prior to the meeting, the RFP received had been presented as the construction for the underground utilities. When Trustee Wadach asked about the fiber specs being omitted from the RFP, Jim Baase explained that the specs are not necessary as this RFP is for the conduit. Hunt Engineering is reviewing the RFP again, and a final draft will be sent to the Village for review. Attorney

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Lenahan also did research and confirmed with the Department of Labor that the project falls under utility work and is therefore not subject to prevailing wages.

Short Term Rental Law – No update at this time.

New Business

Volunteer Firefighter Residency Requirement – Mayor Skiptunas forwarded an article he had received from Supervisor Falk discussing an instance where Governor Hochul signed an into law a bill to recruit firefighters in a district by exempting them from the residency requirement. Currently New York State law states that 55% of the volunteers for that area must live in the district served. Lima is not in this predicament at this time, but it is an avenue that can be pursued should it become an issue in the future.

Roundtable Discussion

The following information was discussed during the roundtable:

Mayor Skiptunas:

- Discussed concerns with the lockdown at the Lima Primary School and the lack of communication between the schools. He has requested to be involved in meetings with local authorities to discuss better communication. He also informed the board that all can sign up for Hyper Link through Livingston County to receive communications regarding events in our area. The board requested that Clerk Sackett include directions for signing up for Hyper Link in our water-sewer bills a few times per year.
- Addressed the issue with individuals in the park walking through residents' property. Trustee Smith stated the Girl Scout maps have been fixed to address the problem. It was recommended that maybe trees be planted in the area and additional signage be installed letting individuals know that that area is not part of the park.
- Discussed the issues with speeding on College St., Elm St., and Seneca Ave. He has asked the Sheriff Deputy at the school to monitor it as well. Citations will be written if necessary.
- Asked Trustee Wadach if he could please apply for the NY Forward Grant due on September 29th. Trustee Wadach agreed to submit the grant application

Deputy Mayor Smith:

- Met with Bears Playgrounds to discuss expanding the playground at the park. He has not received drawings yet but will pass them along once he has them. The goal is to add more inclusive equipment to the playground.
- Discussed starting to charge individuals for using the EV Charging Station. He discussed the different costs, and the board agreed to a minimal fee of .35 per kWh to start, and no idle fee.

Trustee Wadach:

- Completed an audit on the solar array and the National grid bills. The last audit he completed was in the winter months and showed that the Village was netting a small savings from the array. When he looked again, this past month the Village made

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approximately \$10k in National Grid credits from the array and only paid out approximately \$5k to Kendall Sustainable for purchase of the electricity.

- Asked Attorney Lenahan about the status of repayment from Joule Assets for the tree project. Attorney Lenahan explained that he had been in contact with the attorney for Joule Assets, and the company is not sure when they will have the money to pay. Attorney Lenahan asked if Joule would be willing to do a Confession of Judgement. Attorney Lenahan will write up the Confession of Judgement, requesting half of the funds owed to the Village be paid by the end of the year, and the other half due in April. If Joule fails to comply, a judgement will be filed against them.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Wadach and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to authorize Attorney Lenahan to write up a Confession of Judgement on behalf of the Village of Lima for Joule Assets. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Fleming:

- Has been approached by several residents asking about the letters they have received from National Grid regarding Constellation Energy being cancelled. Residents have expressed that they did like the program as the fixed rate made it easier to budget. Trustee Wadach stated there is another company, Good Energy, that he will research.

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm. Motion passed unanimously.