

## **Village of Lima Board Meeting**

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

**Others Present:** Matthew Lenahan, Attorney; Elissa Sackett, Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Larry Teta, WWTP Operator; Steve McGrath, Fire Chief; Amanda Cates, Lima Ambulance; Residents John Ryan and Ken Samarra.

**Absent:** Charlie Floeser, CEO

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order by Mayor Skiptunas at 7pm Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ***Motion***

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Smith to approve meeting minutes from September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Department Reports**

#### **Fire Department – Steve McGrath, Fire Chief**

Chief McGrath stated that the fire department has been very busy again this month. He said he has been working on setting up preventative maintenance for equipment to ensure it lasts. He also recently purchased a piece of equipment that can use water from ponds, etc. Chief McGrath stated that he would be more than willing to set up a demonstration for the board.

The fire department is in dire need of volunteers. Chief McGrath asked if a mailing could be included in the water bills asking for volunteers. He explained that these volunteers do not need to be an actual firefighter, but could provide support to the fire department by completing such jobs as filling sand bags, or watching a pump. Resident Ken Samarra asked if there was an age limit for support volunteers, to which Chief McGrath replied there was not. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea, and asked Chief McGrath to talk to the fire board/auxiliary to make sure they agree and to come up with a flyer to be added to water bills.

Mayor Skiptunas inquired about two iPads that had no usage this past billing cycle. Chief McGrath stated that one iPad is in the tanker and they did not take that out on a call this past month. The other iPad in the pumper had a bad cord and was dead. It had recently been brought to the Chief's attention and has since been replaced. It was also asked that the Verizon bill be transferred to Chief McGrath's name, as it is still in the former Chief's name.

#### **Ambulance – Meg Rose, Chief/Amanda Cates, EMT**

The September Ambulance report was distributed to the Board for review. Chief Rose discussed the report and discussed that they are still looking for volunteers. The EMT age has dropped to 17, so they are looking at more recruiting throughout the schools, and are also sending recruiting representatives to EMT trainee classes. Chief Rose said she had sent an email to current members looking for feedback; she is still reviewing.

Chief Rose and Mayor Skiptunas discussed the current issues regarding daytime coverage. They are looking into agreements with Honeoye Falls and Livingston County regarding coverage during these hours, but both are also short-handed and this will be costly to the Ambulance as they will have to pay for coverage during said times. Chief Rose has asked for a municipal agreement to be signed as this would help alleviate any negative marks from the State for not answering calls. Avenues are still being explored and Chief Rose will report back.

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### **WWTP – Larry Teta**

The Sewer Plant report was passed around for the Board to review. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the wastewater treatment plant was again in 100% compliance with NYSDEC regulations.

Mr. Teta discussed in depth the capital improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. He also discussed a malfunction that happened with the secondary digester due to debris. Koester Engineering was called and repaired the issues with the sludge mixer. Debris continues to be an issue; therefore Mr. Teta has ceased mixing of secondary sludge to eliminate any further damage to the sludge mixer.

Mr. Teta stated the computer/printer system has been replaced by SkyPort IT and all data is now stored on the cloud with SkyPort. He explained that he had to recreate data from prior years templates as some data was lost due to a malfunctioning thumb drive. Everything has been re-entered and successfully stored on the cloud. Mr. Teta expressed the need for a webcam as several of his recertifications are online and require visual representation for the class.

### **CEO – Charlie Floeser (Absent)**

Mayor Skiptunas asked the board to please review CEO Floeser's report.

### **DPW – Ben Luft**

Mr. Luft stated he has reached out to the County multiple times regarding purchasing crosswalk street signs. He has yet to hear back but will continue to reach out to get the necessary information. He also discussed the water project. He stated that there is water in the pipe and connections will be starting. Mr. Luft said that after discussions with Pat Nicoletta regarding the sidewalks and they will be DOT standard regarding grade and size. The sidewalks cannot be poured until connections have been made, but the goal is to have them completed by November.

Mayor Skiptunas asked Mr. Luft to please look at the area between High St. and Dalton that has no blacktop. Mr. Luft said he could not find the area in question, but he would look again. Mr. Luft stated that the two dead Ash trees on East Main will be removed shortly. It was mentioned that digging would be done shortly for the Rotary tree in the Village greenspace however a location needs to be decided on. Mayor Skiptunas will get with George Gotsik on this.

Mr. Luft discussed the 2022 health insurance renewal. Clerk Sackett emailed the board the policy information prior to the board meeting. He discussed that the premiums overall went up 9% for both the High Deductible plan and the Premium plan. The benefits are one of the reasons employees stay at the Village, as the insurance is very good. After discussions, it was agreed to offer the same health insurance choices to Village employees. Mr. Luft discussed one employee that did not take the insurance, and proposed an incentive to those who do not enroll in an insurance plan. Having an incentive plan to not take insurance may help future employees decide to enroll in a significant other's plan.

### ***Motion***

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Wadach and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to pay \$2,000 per year, paid quarterly, to an employee who does not enroll in a Village health insurance plan, starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. Luft made mention that Joshua Perham will be going back to waste water treatment school in June. He stated that the course/books will not be a cost to the Village as the school stated they would not charge for Mr. Perham to attend. The Village will only need to pay for Mr. Perham's room and travel expenses.

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### **Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett**

Clerk Sackett stated that she has been in contact with National Grid regarding two street lights that are out. She has been corresponding back and forth trying to have them fix two light poles that are out, however National Grid keeps stating it is not their issue. The problem with these poles is that they are not receiving power due to wires needing to be replaced. She is waiting for further instruction as to what to do regarding this issue. Deputy Mayor Wadach asked Clerk Sackett to contact the Public Service Commission regarding the issues with National Grid.

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

- Ambulance Fund: \$2390.45
- General Fund: \$68554.07
- Sewer Fund: \$4329.88
- Water Fund: \$1905.27
- Capital Water: \$14991.48
- Capital Sewer: \$54267.20
- Grand Total: \$146438.35

### ***Motion***

Motion was made by Trustee Petratis and seconded by Trustee Smith to authorize payment for said invoices. Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Wadach stated that the Village is still being charged rental fees for two poles on the former Outdoor Street Lighting bill. Clerk Sackett said she would reach out to National Grid and find out where these poles are located.

### **Guests – John Ryan and Ken Samarra**

John Ryan and Ken Samarra were present to discuss the John Ryan's Eagle Scout project, the Community Garden at Mark Tubbs Park. After discussions with the Park's Commission, it was discussed that the garden is no longer feasible in the spot as requested. John Ryan asked the Village board if there was any other location within the Village that would be able to support the project. Ken Samarra read a letter he prepared to the board, stating that the project is solely the infrastructure, and that he and Leslie Samarra, along with other local garden enthusiasts will take on the responsibility of long-term maintenance and he also offered to make a donation for water usage. Another option brought up by the Park's Commission was to have John Ryan build a tree nursery, which would utilize the same materials that have already been purchased. After much discussion, consensus was to explore building the garden in a different spot and a different size. John Ryan, Ken and the Park's Commission will convene to discuss a new location for the project. The project must be completed by December in order for John Ryan to receive his Eagle Scout.

### **Business**

**Meeting with Senator Gallivan** – Mayor Skiptunas stated that he had met with Senator Gallivan earlier in the day. Discussions were held on the following topics:

1. SAM Grant – Senator Gallivan stated that the funds are there, they are waiting on the Governor to release them. He is hoping they will be released shortly.
2. ARPA Funds – Is there going to be any leeway with what these funds can be used for? Currently we have a NBRC grant for fiber optic, but funds couldn't be used as it is a matching grant. This surprised the Senator and he would look farther into this.
3. 15A Upgrades – The Village was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> municipalities on the list for improvements when the 5&20 upgrade was completed. Since then, they have worked in other municipalities to

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provide improvements to their main roads. Senator Gallivan will research as to when the Village will be back towards the top of the list for improvements.

**Fiber Optic Funding** – Attorney Lenahan has been doing more research regarding the length the fiber optic project could be bonded for. After discussions with Attorneys from NYCOM and Bond Council, if the engineer certifies the useful life of the project is 10-15 years, then the project could be bonded for that length of time. Even if the project is bonded at 10 years, that puts less financial strain on the Village. Clerk Sackett stated that she has been in contact with Bernard Donegan's office and a meeting will take place soon to discuss the project further.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

Trustee Petraitis attended the Parks and Recreation meeting at the HFL school. He discussed that there were more participants last year than in previous years. The Village budgets \$6k towards the program, but does not spend that much. Other area municipalities pay more towards the program; however, they also have more students participating in the program.

Trustee Smith inquired about the paving at the Save-a-Lot building. He asked if there was a risk for adverse possession as the Village parcel was paved along with the rest of the parking lot. Attorney Lenahan stated that there would not be, but there is always a chance we would receive a bill for the paving.

Trustee Fleming asked Deputy Mayor Wadach about the NYS Stretch Energy course at the Ambulance. Deputy Mayor Wadach stated that the course would now be held the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022.

Deputy Mayor Wadach asked about the update to the house on McDonald Drive. Attorney Lenahan stated that he has sent another letter to Mr. Bearce stating if something is not done with the property then the Village will give a Notice of Abatement and costs will be passed on to Mr. Bearce. Clerk Sackett pointed out CEO Floeser gave until Oct 31<sup>st</sup> so the Village will wait that length of time.

Deputy Mayor Wadach met with the Shade Tree Commission regarding the Community Solar Grant. The Commission would like to see trees planted along Main Street, not in the areas that need trees to be replaced from the water project. Mr. Luft did talk to Pat Nicoletta, and he confirmed that the Village could use these funds to replace trees in the water project.

Deputy Mayor Wadach asked to apply for an EV Grant that is available. The grant is a 90% grant, 10% match and \$10k of the grant funds from NYSERDA could be used as the Village's match. This would result in no costs to the Village at all. The board agreed that Deputy Mayor Wadach could apply for the grant.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.