

Village of Lima Board Meeting

May 9th, 2023

Present: John Skiptunas, Mayor; Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor; Trustees Joshua Petraitis (arrived at 7:40pm), Carolyn Fleming, and John Wadach.

Others Present: Matthew Lenahan, Attorney; Elissa Sackett, Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief (arrived at 7:20pm); Steve Werner (arrived at 8:30 pm).

Absent: Steve McGrath, Fire Chief; Larry Teta, WWTP Operator; Charlie Floeser, CEO.

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order by Mayor Skiptunas at 7pm Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Wadach to approve meeting minutes from April 25th, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing for Local Law #7 of 2023, Adoption of the Village Code was opened at 7:01pm. Mayor Skiptunas asked if there were any public comments, no comments.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Fleming to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #7 of 2023, Adoption of the Village Code at (time). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Fleming to adopt Local Law #7 or 2023, Adoption of the Village Code. Motion carried. Vote was the following:

John Skiptunas, Mayor	Yes
Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor	Yes
John Wadach, Trustee	Yes
Joshua Petraitis, Trustee	Yes
Carolyn Fleming, Trustee	Yes

Guests

Steve Werner – Mr. Werner gave an update on the Pumpkin Festival. The board complimented him on a wonderful turnout to the kick-off event held on April 29th. Over 94 packets of seeds were passed out at the event, and he has approximately 38 packets to still distribute. He discussed the various groups that are participating in the event including Kiwanis, Rotary, the Republican Committee, the Democratic Committee, and various other vendors. It was also mentioned having a bounce house at the event for kids. The board requested that the vendor holding the bounce house have their own insurance policy. Mr. Werner will schedule a meeting with Trustee Smith to discuss a site plan and parking for the event.

Department Reports

Fire Department – Steve McGrath, Fire Chief

Absent. No new updates.

Ambulance – Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief

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The Ambulance report was passed around and discussed. Chief Rose discussed the statistics on the report and answered questions the board had. She stated that she is going to do a big push for new members through various methods of advertising and hosting an open house on Saturday June 10th. She will be conducting a few training sessions at the open house for people to participate in. She also stated she is looking into the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) to help keep members. Currently approximately 11 members would qualify for the program. The board agreed to help in any way allowable for participation in the program.

Two new member applications were presented for review. One was for John Sokolofsky, and the other was for Sabrina Sharpstene. Both applicants have been approved by Chief Rose.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Wadach to approve John Sokolofsky and Sabrina Sharpstene as new members of the Lima Ambulance. Motion passed unanimously.

WWTP – Larry Teta (Absent)

See report provided by Mr. Teta. Mayor Skiptunas discussed the illicit discharge coming into the plant. A meeting was held with MRB Group and cameras have been placed in two manholes to monitor the direction the discharge is coming from. Monitoring will take place for a couple weeks. Once the direction is determined, next steps will take place to pinpoint where the discharge is coming from. Mr. Luft added that Mr. Teta is still having issues with his computer. He has been working with SkyPort on the issues, but he continues to have problems.

Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Charlie Floeser

See report provided by CEO Floeser.

DPW – Ben Luft

Mr. Luft met with the Department of Health to finalize Terry (Add Last Name) and Aaron (Add Last Name) Grade C and Grade D Water Licenses. Everything looks good and all the paperwork is getting turned into the state this week. He anticipates receiving their certificates very soon. Once the certificates have been received, both will receive a raise.

The crew has been getting downtown ready for Memorial Day. Mulch has been placed, flags are ready, and flowers will be picked up on May 22nd. The crew also just completed Village Clean-Up Days with the Town. It went well considering it was a new process this year being combined with the Town and utilizing Casella. He hopes to receive the bill soon so we can have it processed this fiscal year.

The electric zero turn mowers are supposed to be delivered on Thursday. The UTV is still in order as the plow and cab are not in yet. Hopefully those will be received in the next month so the UTV can be delivered. Trustee Wadach will forward the requirements to Mr. Luft and Clerk Sackett to receive final payment from NYSERDA for the mowers/UTV and will also inquire on the status of the initial down payment as the Village has not received the funds yet.

Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett

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Clerk Sackett handed out the Village Cash Summary report for the month of April for the board to review.

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

- Ambulance Fund: \$2346.61
- General Fund: \$6385.06
- Sewer Fund: \$6193.39
- Water Fund: \$3848.66
- Capital Water: \$20583.76
- Capital Sewer: \$1093.75
- Capital Fiber: \$10517.79
- Grand Total: \$50969.02

Motion

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

Old Business

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Renewal – Trustee Wadach gave a brief overview of the CCA program, and how it has impacted Village residents over the past two years. The renewable rate the Village was able to secure in September 2021 ended up being lower than the monthly average rate over the same period from National Grid (variable rate product). Since the Village first entered the market, the renewable rates have increased, but the trend shows that the National Grid variable rate may continue to increase as well. Handouts were provided to the board showing rate comparisons from multiple sources, and how these compare to the National Grid trends. After his presentation, Trustee Wadach asked for feedback from the board members regarding pursuing the CCA renewal and what product should be set as the default. Feedback was the following:

- Trustee Petraitis agreed to move forward with the renewal and suggested choosing the Conventional product as the default as it was the lowest cost option. He stated if residents wanted to choose to pay the higher rate and go with a renewable option, they would be able to select that on their own.
- Mayor Skiptunas asked if the market could increase or decrease based on the number of participating communities. Trustee Wadach explained that the renewal has approximately 10 communities participating including the City of Rochester, and the larger participation does affect the rate. Mayor Skiptunas agreed with Trustee Petraitis' comments on choosing the conventional product as the default.
- Deputy Mayor Smith expressed how he likes renewables and although the fixed numbers seem high on paper, the market does show that the trend for electricity is going to continue to increase. He was more in favor of the 50% renewable option, as anything under 0.10 kWh is a good cost.

After more discussion the board opted to set the default product as conventional and to authorize Mayor Skiptunas to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Joule Assets. The Board will make a final decision regarding accepting renewal of the CCA after final Bid Prices have been obtained from Joule Assets. If the Board chooses to renew the CCA, residents will be able to contact Joule and request to be added to the 50% or 100% renewable product.

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Letters to Public Service Commission (PSC) to Support Opt-Out Community Distributed Generation (CDG) Programs – Trustee Wadach went into detail about the issues Joule has faced as the result of the PSC rescinding legislation allowing communities to participate in CDG programs, a.k.a. opt-out community solar programs. The Village of Lima and the Village of Brockport are currently the only two communities in NYS that are still allowed to participate in the program, but because of the PSC rulings, no other communities can participate. With the opt-out program being halted, it has resulted in the Village of Lima not being able to obtain the grant Joule Assets stated the Village would qualify for. Joule has asked that the Village be a signer onto the Opt-Out CDG Coalition notice to the PSC to reinstate the opt-out community solar program. Since the Village is already enrolled in the program, signing on would help push this on.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Wadach and seconded by Trustee Fleming to sign on to the letter from the Opt-Out CDG Coalition to be sent to the PSC. Motion passed unanimously.

Letters to state Representative to Sponsor Statewide CCA Legislation – Trustee Wadach also discussed that there is no legislation in place to protect CCA Programs if the PSC ruled to stop them as they did with Opt-Out CDG. Municipalities should be able to choose and engage in contracts deemed sufficient and beneficial. He requested letters be sent to local representatives requesting support of the State and Local Clean Energy Partnership Act.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Wadach and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to approve Mayor Skiptunas to sign letters and send them to local representatives requesting support of the State and Local Clean Energy Partnership Act. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2023-2024 Water/Sewer Rates – Clerk Sackett and Mr. Luft discussed where both the water and sewer fund stand after rate adjustments last year. The current sewer rate is close to what is needed to cover expenses for the fund, but still short approximately \$8k. The water rate is off by approximately \$30k. After evaluating the current rates and methods of billing, it was suggested rates be the following:

- Inside Village Water Rate: \$11.50 base rate, \$6.75 per 1000 rate – Increase of \$0.50 to base and \$0.75 to per 1000 rate.
- Outside Village Water Rate: \$12.25 base rate, \$8.15 per 1000 rate – Increase of \$0.50 to base and \$0.75 to per 1000 rate.
- Inside Village Sewer Rate: \$18.00 base rate, \$7.50 per 1000 rate – Increase of \$0.50 to per 1000 rate.
- Outside Village Sewer Rate: \$19.70 base rate, \$8.10 per 1000 rate – Increase of \$0.50 to per 1000 rate.

The board discussed and agreed with the above recommendations. A Public Hearing will be held the first meeting in June and if the new rates are approved they will become effective for the July 1st water & sewer bills.

2023-2024 Insurance Renewals – Clerk Sackett handed out a breakdown of the insurance renewals provided by Eastern Shore. The overall premium increased by \$1,222 largely due to an

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inflation rate of 9% on property. In addition, the cyber policy came in at \$1884.30, and an additional request was made to add crime coverage to the Ambulance Chief in the amount of \$50k for \$24.25. Clerk Sackett questioned the board about knowledge of a performance bond the Village still carried for the NYSDOT. No one was sure what the bond was for and requested it be cancelled as the Village can purchase a new policy if necessary (update, policy was very old and had carried over since 1991 for work performed).

Roundtable Discussion

Trustees discussed the following information during the roundtable discussion:

Trustee Petraitis:

- Handed out the current Dog Park Permit created by the Park's Commission and requested Clerk Sackett to deliver it to the Town. The adapter parts for the dog park gate lock are still waiting to come in. Clerk Sackett forwarded on an update to the Park's Commission regarding the status of the order. Discussions still need to be held on policies for out of town Dog Park users.

Trustee Wadach:

- Attended a Fiber meeting update. Empire Access has hired Ryan Garrison with Hunt for the map specifications and bid specs. He has requested that Pat Phelan contact Mr. Luft to set up a time to walk the areas affected by the project.
- Discussed an email from Mr. Teta regarding the red line mapping not being included in the WWTP project, therefore it will be an additional cost to obtain the mapping. Mr. Teta will work on this in the next budget year, but it is something the Village will want to pursue for the GIS project.
- Is researching a DEC Urban Tree Grant. The grant would allow for a tree inventory to be conducted and a management plan to be put in place at no cost of to the Village.
- Notified the Board that Larry Teta would be turning 65 this year and eligible for Medicare. Wadach recommended that the Village look into obtaining a Medicare Supplement Insurance Policy for Mr. Teta to provide him with coverage and cost equivalent to what he now has with the Village. Clerk Sackett will contact the Village's health insurance broker to get more information on this.

Deputy Mayor Smith:

- He discussed looking at lifting the open container law for the Crossroads fest and extending quiet hours at the next Village meeting as the board has done in the past. The Village did receive one complaint last year about the noise on Thursday night, which is the same night as the fundraiser band. After discussion the board agreed to extend quiet hours from 10pm to 11pm for the entire duration of festival. It was recommended to follow the same guidelines as last year and lift the open container law in the downtown district for the Crossroads Festival held August 3rd – August 6th. The downtown district is designated as the following:
 - Genesee St. to Buell Avenue, and Rochester Street from the American Hotel to Kwikfill.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Fleming to lift the open container law in the downtown district for the Crossroads Festival held August 4th – August 7th

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in the downtown district. District is designated as Genesee St. to Buell Avenue, and Rochester Street from the American Hotel to Kwikfill. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Fleming to extend the music playing from 10pm to 11pm for the Crossroads festival held August 4th – August 7th. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Skiptunas:

- Mayor Skiptunas in conjunction with HFL School and Supervisor Falk will be recognizing Anthony Noto on June 9th at 3:15pm at the Honeoye Falls- Lima High School auditorium. Mr. Noto, a Lima resident, is an All-American wrestler who won the MAC title in his weight class and placed 4th at the National Tournament. Mayor Skiptunas praised Mr. Noto for his hard work and dedication to the sport and his community.
- He discussed the Be Well Livingston meeting held earlier in the day. The mission is “Eat Better, Move More and Stress Less”. He discussed various groups that each member of the Be Well committee will be focusing on and will notify the board of events being held.
- Upcoming events:
 - Arbor Day Celebration 5/13
 - Memorial Day Parade 5/29

Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.