

**Village of Lima Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Present:** John Skiptunas, Mayor; Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor; Trustees Melinda Fleming (excused at 8:15pm), and Ben Dodzweit.

**Others Present:** Matthew Lenahan, Attorney; Elissa Sackett, Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Dick Garey, Fire Chief; Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief; Dominic Muscato, Ambulance Asst. Captain; several residents.

**Absent:** Carolyn Fleming, Trustee; Larry Teta, WWTP Operator.

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order Mayor Skiptunas at 7:00pm Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Motion***

A motion was made by Trustee Dodzweit and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve the meeting minutes from October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

**Department Reports**

**Fire Department – Dick Garey, Fire Chief**

Chief Garey discussed the October Fire Report. Final repairs have been made to the current fleet and all vehicles are currently operational. Chief Garey will be applying for a grant to upgrade the SCBA equipment (breathing apparatuses). There are no grants right now available for trucks, however Chief Garey will continue to research any possible grants.

**Ambulance – Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief**

Chief Rose discussed the October Ambulance report. Chief Rose also passed out an information packet regarding staffing issues and a proposal for paid part-time staff. The board discussed various situations and how staffing issues can be addressed. Chief Rose asked the board to review and discuss at the December meeting.

Deputy Mayor Smith asked Chief Rose about meeting to discuss nominations for the Bureau of EMS Annual Awards. It was also discussed that Chief Rose has the ability to approve applicants as she deems appropriate. Chief Rose will send applications to the board and Village Clerk for record retention.

**WWTP – Larry Teta (Absent)**

See report provided by Mr. Teta. Mr. Luft informed the board the SPDES permit is due in January. Mr. Teta is working on the permit renewal.

**Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Charlie Floeser**

CEO Floeser discussed the October Code Enforcement Report. He mentioned a couple dog issues that were not on the report. The board inquired on the status of the structure at the Upper Deck. The structure has been reinforced in compliance with their submitted engineering plan. Deputy Mayor Smith informed CEO Floeser that there is a Lead Seminar being held by Livingston County and recommended he attend if possible.

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CEO Floeser passed handed out proposed fee increases to the board for review. All fees have been increased by 50% to help with rising costs of services. Tabled until December board meeting.

**DPW – Ben Luft**

Notices were mailed on Friday to all homeowners with unknown or galvanized service lines. Mr. Luft also posted a notice on Facebook in the Positively Lima group letting individuals know that this letter was being sent and to not be alarmed if they do not get a letter.

The 2015 Ford F250 was sold at auction for approximately \$16,800. Those funds will be deposited back into the street reserve once received. The leaf machine was at auction, but Mr. Luft decided against selling it due to an incident that happened a couple days earlier. A resident had raked big chunks of wood into their leaf pile, which was accidentally sucked up into the leaf machine. The chunk of wood damaged the main impellor and clutch and almost caused a fire inside the leaf machine with leaves in the box. The leaf machine is the only piece of equipment that there is no spare, so if there is a catastrophic event and the machine is down, there is no backup.

The new dump truck should arrive within the next week. Mr. Luft said he plans to keep the old dump truck through the winter, and then will send it to auction in the spring.

Lastly, the park pavilion/bathrooms will be closed very soon. It is starting to get cold at night and Mr. Luft does not want to risk the pipes freezing.

**Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett**

Clerk Sackett reminded everyone that if they have not completed their mandatory Sexual Harassment/Workplace Violence trainings for 2024 that it must be completed before the end of the year. NYMIR offers trainings for all to attend.

Clerk Sackett continues to research options for maintenance for the street lights. The Village will need to create a Request for Qualifications to publish and compare to the maintenance currently being received through NYPA.

Mayor Skiptunas in conjunction with the Lima Historian has received a grant from Livingston County Development to place Bronze forms on several historical buildings. The grant is for \$5k, and the invoice is for \$5116.94. Mr. Luft was asked if the crew would mount these on the respected buildings. Mr. Luft explained that since it was all on private property, it was not in the Village's best interest to have the crew mount in case something was to happen. Mayor Skiptunas will reach out to Louise Wadsworth about who can mount the bronze forms once they arrive.

***Motion***

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Dodzweit to authorize payment of the Bronze forms once Mayor Skiptunas has confirmed proper installation. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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- Ambulance Fund: \$8789.88
- General Fund: \$67347.03
- Sewer Fund: \$17376.19
- Water Fund: \$45672.67
- Capital Fiber: \$121117.55
- Grand Total: \$260303.32

### *Motion*

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Dodzweit to approve payment to invoices as listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

### Guests

Jeannie Beutner inquired if there was an update on the Town of Lima water project. The Village board has not heard any updates or been contacted by the Town of Lima or Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority regarding the status of the project.

John Wadach and members of the Lima Green Team gave a presentation to the board on the DEC EV Charging Infrastructure Grant and the possibility of applying and installing a Fast-Charging station in the Village. Mr. Wadach gave a brief overview of the type of charger, and discussed the economic impact a fast-charging station could have for the Village of Lima. Documentation regarding the grant, project summary, quote for charging station and financial analysis were passed to all board members for review. The board asked for more information regarding the estimated costs for when the charger is no longer under warranty and discussed concerns over the costs to operate. Anthony Powell explained that the team will continue to research financially feasible options for the fast-charging station, and that there may be other companies that can provide a better quote. Mr. Wadach did state the board could research other operating companies instead of staying with EV Connect to help reduce costs.

### Old Business

**SAM Grant** – Mayor Skiptunas mentioned reaching out again to local representatives about the status of the SAM Grant.

### New Business

**Planning Board Vacancies** – Mayor Skiptunas informed the board that Paul Osborne and Erica Gruschow have both resigned from the Planning Board. Matthew Grant and John Wadach have both expressed interest in filling the vacant seats.

### *Motion*

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Dodzweit to appoint Matthew Grant and John Wadach as Village representatives for the Planning Board. Motion passed unanimously.

**Business Association Tree Lighting** – Deputy Mayor Smith was approached by members of the Downtown Business Association requesting the Village lift the open container ban in the business area on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to midnight to accommodate the Tree Lighting event. Attorney Lenahan advised against lifting the open container ban.

### *Motion*

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Motion was made by Mayor Skiptunas and seconded by Trustee Dodzweit to lift the open container ban in the downtown business district on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to midnight to accommodate the Tree Lighting event. District is designated as Main Street from Genesee St. to Buell Avenue, and Rochester Street from the American Hotel to Kwik Fill. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution in Support of Increased State Aid for Local Governments** – See attached resolution.

**Round Table**

Deputy Mayor Smith discussed the possibility of building a community center at the park. There will need to be more discussion about ongoing maintenance costs should the center be built.

Attorney Lenahan gave the following updates:

- Transfer of property on Maplewood to Nathan Sanders is almost complete.
- No updates on the park property donation from O'Brien family. Has reached out to the seller's attorney a few times but has not heard back.
- Next month will have the updates to the Hunting Law for review. After that, a public hearing will be scheduled.
- Recommended holding public hearing to override the Tax Cap. This is done yearly and will be repealed if the Village does not go over the Tax Cap.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Dodzweit to enter Executive Session at 9:14pm to discuss personnel matters. Motion passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 9:35pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elissa Sackett  
Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Lima

**\*All documents listed in the minutes are available to review at the Village office during regular business hours.**

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The Following Resolution was presented by Deputy Mayor Brian Smith and seconded by Trustee Benjamin Dodzweit:

**Resolution in Support of Continued and Increased  
State Aid for Local Governments**

**Whereas**, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

**Whereas**, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

**Whereas**, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

**Whereas**, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

**Whereas**, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

**Whereas**, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

**Whereas**, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that [Your Municipality] calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

**Be it further resolved** that the Village of Lima urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

*A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Pamela Helming, Assemblymember Marjorie Byrnes and the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).*

Dated: November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024