

Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, and the Town Council, held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, at 20 Old Post Road, Lake George, NY.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Perry, Mayor
Joseph Mastrodomenico, Deputy Mayor
Jose Filomeno, Trustee
Alyson Miller, Trustee
John Root, Trustee

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT: Vincent Crocitto, Supervisor
Marisa Muratori, Councilwoman
Nancy Stannard, Councilwoman
Ed Pagnotta, Councilman
Chris Hawley, Councilman

Also Present: Clerk Julie K Allen, Clerk Patty Shuster, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, Thomas Randall, Sheriff James Lafarr, Fire Chief Jim Barber, Michael Menter, Rob Ristau, Janet Loonan, Fire President Doni Smith, and Tony Hall

At 3:59 p.m. Supervisor Vincent Crocitto called the meeting to order. He offered the floor to Mayor Raymond Perry. Mayor Perry said there were two house cleaning items that the Village Board needed to vote on. He presented two resolutions for consideration:

Trustee Root, seconded by Trustee Miller, offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 293, 2025

WHEREAS, the next general Village election will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, and

WHEREAS, no person shall be entitled to vote at any village election whose name does not appear on the register of the election district in which he claims to be entitled to vote, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lake George has abolished registration days in the Village of Lake George pursuant to Chapter 217 of the Laws of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the Village Election will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, from noon to 9:00 p.m. at the Town Administration Building;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Christine Molella and Margaret Mannix be appointed election inspectors, with Margaret Mannix serving as the Chairwoman, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Rosemarie Sandora Earl be appointed as an alternate election inspector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the compensation for the election inspectors will be \$16.00 per hour worked at the polls or preparing the roll.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village will use only the names from the Warren County registration list for the Village of Lake George general election, and

Voting for the forthcoming Village election shall be conducted upstairs at the Town

Office Center, 20 Old Post Road, Village of Lake George, NY from 12 noon to 9 p.m.

VOTING **Ayes: 5** **Perry, Filomeno, Mastrodomenico, Miller, Root**
 Nays: 0

RESOLUTION NO. 293, 2025 ADOPTED.

January 9, 2025

Trustee Filomeno, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 294, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes payment to be processed for John Deere Financial for a lease on the 444 P-Tier Loader for the DPW in the amount of \$21,969.20. The check will be issued at the next available payroll/audit and be paid from account A.9785.6.

VOTING **Ayes: 5** **Perry, Filomeno, Mastrodomenico, Miller, Root**
 Nays: 0

RESOLUTION NO. 294, 2025 ADOPTED.

January 9, 2025

Mayor Perry opened the public safety discussion pertaining to traffic and pedestrian control after large events such as the Fourth of July, he asked Councilman Chris Hawley to speak on the subject.

Councilman Hawley explained that historically there had been very long delays with emptying the Village of traffic after large events like the Fourth of July, Americade, and the Car show. He explained that the two Boards together needed to come up with a solution to mitigate the problem and an agreement on who would pay for it. He explained there were suggestions like people who were traveling South wouldn't be permitted to make left turns. Supervisor Crocitto questioned if he meant for it to include back streets as well. Councilman Hawley said they shouldn't have to because if the main street is cleared, then the back streets will follow.

Mayor Perry asked Sheriff James Lafarr to speak. Sheriff Lafarr said he agreed with Councilman Hawley, that there needed to be a better solution to the traffic and pedestrian issues during and after large events. He said that he felt that the public safety concern fell on the shoulders of the sheriff department. He went on to say that last year there were patrol cars in the Village but because there were so many disorderly conduct calls that pulled the cars into service instead of being able to address the traffic. He said that the sheriff's department would handle the Fourth of July this coming year, along the same lines as they handle the Car Show. He said that the only cost to the Village would be for some additional manpower to help with traffic deterrents on smaller intersections.

Trustee Filomeno asked the Fire Chief if he felt that having the firemen help direct traffic would be helpful. Fire Chief Barber responded that most pedestrians do not heed the direction of firefighters. He said that having firefighters directing traffic could potentially create a risk if there were a fire call.

Councilman Hawley brought up the subject of people burning rubber and asked if they could have a meeting to discuss how to mitigate the problem.

Sheriff Lafarr said that there would be meetings between the Village, the Car Show, and the Sheriff where those concerns would be addressed. He went on to say that the sheriff's department could not be omni present but that had expanded their presence into the Town, and that they had saturated the Village well. He said that the sheriff's department had done an excellent job so far and that they have had no serious accidents in the Village.

Trustee Miller asked if the Sheriff would address the massive number of open containers that she had witnessed in previous years. Sheriff Lafarr said that whenever an officer witnesses an open container, the person is required to empty the container. He went on to say that they do not ticket because it would draw their attention away from traffic safety and that they prioritized safety above all.

Supervisor Crocitto said that he felt the sheriff department has done a great job with these large events and that he wasn't sure that all people could be stopped from acting inappropriately. Sheriff Lafarr agreed that he felt they would be unable to stop everyone. He said that the only way to stop it would be to not have the event. Sheriff Lafarr went on to say that if the Village were to try to hire someone to come in and try to stop people, there would be a potential for someone to get hurt. He explained that officers are trained to diffuse situations and that putting someone in the position without authority, would put them at risk.

Councilwoman Muratori asked if the Sheriff had any suggestions as people who bring in events. Sheriff Lafarr said he felt the best bet would be to engage with businesses and residents to get their take on the events.

Trustee Miller expressed her concern over how intoxicated people act. Mayor Perry said that the people who were walking around creating issues were not the same people who were participants of the event. He said that the year they cancelled the Car Show was one of the worst years the Village experienced.

Sheriff Lafarr invited the Board members to come see the show from the sheriff's department perspective.

Trustee Root asked if the sheriff's office had any new technology like drones to help oversee large crowds. Sheriff Lafarr responded that they do not. Trustee Root asked if he felt getting traffic cameras to take snap shots of offenders would help. Sheriff Lafarr answered that with the snapshot cameras you cannot always determine who the operator of the vehicle was. Trustee Root asked if there could be more enforcement located near DJ's as that is where a lot of the offenses take place. Sheriff Lafarr said that he has spoken with the owner of DJ's and they have done all they can to help mitigate the problem. Councilwoman Muratori asked if the Sheriff's office will be ticketing for oud mufflers. Sheriff Lafarr responded that they will not and that they will be focusing on traffic safety. Councilman Pagnotta said that he had noticed a lot more police presence during the show.

Mayor Perry asked if blocking off the areas of concern would help. Sheriff Lafarr said that they would welcome the help. Superintendent Keith Lanfear said that the Village has the materials to block off the areas and that the Village should charge the event for the additional materials and manpower needed.

Trustee Filomeno asked Sheriff Lafarr if he felt that the Village has the infrastructure to accommodate adding video surveillance. Sheriff Lafarr responded yes, but that he suggests following attorney's guidelines to meet state requirements. He also said that the surveillance would not be any function of the sheriff's office.

Trustee Miller asked if there could be a police presence on Thursday and Friday before and after the start of the school day. Sheriff Lafarr explained that they already do.

Supervisor Crocitto asked if there was any public comment. Trustee Miller asked if there could be a meeting to go over things like how to get EMS in during events in case of emergencies. Supervisor Crocitto said that they would put together a meeting.

Councilwoman Muratori presented a paper she had written regarding events coordination for the Town and Village. She read through the proposal. In it she suggested that it should not be a part time position held by one person and that it should be a committee.

Mayor Perry said that events have an oversight committee, the Village of Lake George Board of Trustees. He said what they don't have is an advisory committee. He said he felt a committee would be best used by having them attend all events and reporting back to the Board. He went on to say he felt it should be a mix of business owners and concerned residents.

Councilwoman Stoddard asked Councilwoman Muratori if she wanted the committee to decide what events happen. Councilwoman Muratori said that it would be part of what they would do, but there would be more.

Supervisor Crocitto said that the Town has no say over what happens in the Village events. He asked who would have authority to decide what events happen. Councilwoman Muratori said the committee would make suggestions to the Village Board and the Village Board would determine what events happen.

Trustee Root said that what had happened too often in the past is that he found out about events in the paper. Supervisor Crocitto asked how he, as a Trustee, would not know of an event. Mayor Perry asked Trustee Root what event he was talking about. Trustee Root said the block party and the lights in the park. Mayor Perry said that there was a Board vote on having the Community Block Party to which he was a part of, as for the Lights at the Lake, they are an amenity that the Village offered to residents and visitors for free. Trustee Root said that what was happening was that there were times when he heard about the proposed event before they were brought to the Board meeting for approval, which made it hard to say no to the event. He said that he felt a committee would offer more diverse opinions. Councilman Pagnotta asked him what had happened recently that made Trustee Root want to have a committee. Trustee Root said that the fact that they are the same events, and the same music, and that he would like to see some new ideas. Councilwoman Stannard asked if what he was suggesting is that there not be a single person like a Director of Events, but instead a committee to bring forth the suggestions to the Board. Councilwoman Muratori said that she felt it would be more of a steering committee, that would help direct what kind of events the Village would like to offer.

Councilwoman Muratori asked Mayor Perry what he felt an event coordinator would do. Mayor Perry said that an event coordinator was not the right title, because that job is already done by someone in the Village office. Councilwoman Muratori asked what he felt the position would entail. He said that they would help with the logistics of the event, making sure that the event had what it needed to hold a successful event.

Supervisor Crocitto asked what Councilwoman Muratori was asking for in regard to Occ Tax. She answered that they would make recommendations as to who gets what amount of money. She said that it would help to steer the kind of events that are held. She said that a committee would also look at how the events affect the residents.

Trustee Root said that he felt thanks to the DRI, the Village has been given a chance to rebrand itself.

Trustee Miller said that her questions were “what was the goal with these events, and what is the mission statement.” She said that she felt right now there is not direction. She asked what the metrics would be for who gets what amount of money for Occ Tax. She asked if others were comfortable with the goals.

Councilman Hawley said that he believes it is a large part of the job for the Mayor to be a promoter of the events that occur in the Village.

At 5:16 p.m. there was a motion by Mayor Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Stannard, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie K Allen
Village Clerk