

Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. Zoom teleconferencing was also available.

Present: Raymond Perry, Mayor
Joe Mastrodomenico, Deputy Mayor
Jose Filomeno, Trustee
Alyson Miller, Trustee
John Root, Trustee

Also Present: Clerk Julie Allen, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, WWTP Operator Tim Shudt, Jeff Varmette, Robert Blais, Scott & Jackie Wright, Vincent Cianciolo, High Sullivan, Tony Hall, Doni Smith, and others via Zoom.

At 4:30 p.m. Mayor Perry opened the Regular Meeting and asked former Mayor Robert Blais to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Perry presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 18, 2023.

Trustee John Root asked for the workshop that was held on September 21, 2023 to be noted in the September 18, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes.

Trustee Root made a motion, seconded by Trustee Miller, unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 18, 2023 with the addendum ** notation ** of the Special Events Workshop.

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

MOTION PASSED

Monthly reports from the Sanitation Department and Caldwell Sewer District, Superintendent of Public Works, Planning & Zoning Office, Fire Department, Teen Center, Parking Meters Collections, the Director of Events, and REC Center were presented and made available to the public.

Mayor Perry asked Judy Gearwar, head of Beautification, to present to the Board her request for a press release. She presented the press release regarding Light up the Village and asked the Village Board for its approval to release. The press release explains the theme of the botanical garden this year. The Board members read the release and Mayor Perry gave permission to release the announcement.

Mayor Perry asked Special Events Director Robert Blais, to go over the report he submitted to the Board regarding the Special Events Income. Mr. Blais said that at the prior events workshop it was questioned what monetary value our special events provide. The report he submitted was in response to that question. He went on to say that the Village had accounts set up for each Revenue stream. He went over the numbers for each account and explained that in total, the revenue that events generated is approximately \$590K. He then went over the expenses that the events created and showed the total at roughly \$90K. Mr. Blais then explained that this means an approximate income of \$500K for the Village of Lake George. He continued to say that without the revenue from events, the Village tax rate would need to increase by double to sustain Village expenses. Mr. Blais also stated that there would be a lot of not-for-profit organizations that would see big losses in revenue if unable to hold fundraising events.

Trustee Miller thanked Mr. Blais for the document. Trustee Miller asked if there was a way to measure how much each individual event generates. She said that she would like to see something like a survey that asks retailers how much an event helps/hurts them. Mayor Perry said that there is the Smith report that can show her how a hotel/motel does during a particular event. Mr. Blais said that events that charge attendance will be much easier to get numbers from than ones that do not. He said that the Chamber has these types of reports that she can ask them for. He explained that on the applications for Occupancy Tax funding, the event organization must show their expenses. Trustee Mastrodomenico said he likes the idea of getting a survey from places like gas stations, hotels, restaurants, bars, and retail establishments. He explained that the true way to see how well an event is doing is by asking retailers. He explained that the last thing a person will spend money on is retail. Trustee Miller asked if there could be a decision. Mayor Perry recommended that her first stop should be the Chamber for numbers. Mayor Perry suggested that Trustee Miller and Trustee Root spearhead getting the answers Trustee Miller is looking for. Trustee Root said that they also want to look at how the events affect the quality of life in Lake George. He explained that he would also like to look at the wear and tear an event has on the infrastructure. Trustee Root said the Car Show needs to be looked at. He said the show at Fort William Henry was very good but that what happened on Canada Street during the Cruise is embarrassing.

Events Director Blais said that this year he would like to expand Lite Up the Village. He said that Ice Castles USA would be having their Grand Opening at Wood Park on Friday November 24, 2023. He said that they would be offering special admittance pricing for locals. He went on to say he was looking for permission to plan Lake George Community Days. He said the event would be held in May and be geared towards residents. He said everyone from the community like Churches, American Legion, Rotary Fire Department, etc. would be invited to participate. Mr. Blais said he would like to block off a couple of streets and have James Street parking lot set up as a children's playground. There would be no admission fee to get in. He said he felt that this will help rejuvenate moral and community involvement. Mayor Perry said he really liked the idea.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 150, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby approves extending the event “Lite up the Village” to include Friday November 24, 2023, and the event “Lake George Community Days” to be held May 18 & 19, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 150, 2023 ADOPTED. October 16, 2023

Mayor Perry presented the special events applications one at a time to the board for consideration. He said that all approvals are for dates requested and that the fees would be contingent on the passing of a new schedule of fees that is being worked on. Trustee Root questioned if they were going to address the car show. Trustee Miller asked if they could meet with the sheriff and the car show representatives. Mayor Perry responded that they do that every year before the show. Trustee Root suggested that the Village take control of the cruise at the car show. Mayor Perry asked Trustee Root if he would be the one to do that. Trustee Filomeno suggested the Village lean heavily on the sheriff to control it better. Trustee Miller suggested they invite the Car Show representatives to the next event workshop.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 151, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby approves the Special Event application for the use of Shepard Park for the following event contingent upon receipt of all fees, insurance, and other necessary documents:

- Lake George Polar Plunge, Chris Hughes, November 18, 2023 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 151, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry presented the request from the Northeast Instrumental Festival to bring in food trucks on November 17, 2023 to help feed the participants at their event. Mayor Perry said he felt that there was no need to as there were plenty of restaurants to handle the amount of people attending. He said he does not want to take away business from local restaurants that have decided to remain open year-round.

Trustee Root, seconded by Trustee Miller, made a motion to deny food trucks for the Northeast Instrumental Festival.

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

MOTION TO DENY APPROVED

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

RESOLUTION 152, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves the Special Event application from Luke Dow, of the Lake George Steamboat Company for Rock the Dock Music Fest to be held on the Steel Pier July 13, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the approval is contingent upon receipt of fees, insurance, and other necessary documents.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 152, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 153, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approves holding the Lake George Triathlon August 31, 2024 – September 1, 2024, contingent upon receipt of fees, insurance, any

necessary documentation as well as compliance with NYS and Warren County regulations:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 153, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 154, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby approves the use of Shepard Park for the following event contingent upon receipt of all fees, insurance, and other necessary documents:

- Rockin' for Ronald, Robert Blais, August 1- 3, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that §148-45 to §148-48 of the Village's code will be waived for all applications hereafter referenced and indicate the sale of beer and wine on the premises during the event is hereby approved contingent upon proof of licensing from the New York State Liquor Authority, and

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

RESOLUTION NO. 154, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry went over the events that were tabled at the September Regular Board meeting.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 155, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves the following Special Events/Facilities use contingent upon receipt of all fees, insurance, and other necessary documents:

- Kelly's Angels, Shepard Park, Mark Mulholland, July 18 – 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- Americade, Christian Dutcher, Beach Road Parking Lot, May 27 – June 2, 2024, 12:01 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 155, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 156, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves to waive the \$500 fee for the Country Living Festival that was held June 10 & 11, 2023 in Shepard Park.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 156, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry presented a letter received from Patty Kirkpatrick requesting her deck at The Sweet Shop Cafe be permitted to stand permanently. He explained that the Village Board had permitted a trial run to leave it up last year and there were no issues.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 157, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby approves a variance for Patty Kirkpatrick of Ninas Sweet Shop, from the Local Law requiring her to remove her deck every winter. The variance is contingent on her maintaining a clear sidewalk and entire walkway in front of her business and her business being open every day;

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

RESOLUTION NO. 157, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry offered the following resolutions to be considered:

- Approval of Policy Adoption of Preferred Name and Pronoun

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

RESOLUTION NO. 158, 2023

WHEREAS, New York State Legislature has adopted legislation requiring NYS Public Service Commission to promulgate rules whereby entities, including municipalities, that supply water and/or sewer service, to designate a preferred name and/or pronoun, subject to legal limitations; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Fuller has adapted a form and policy for this purpose;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves and adopts the policy and use of the provided forms to comply with NYS legislation.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 158, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

- Unpaid Water Rent Relayed to Town

Water Clerk, Lori Bott submitted the list of unpaid Water Rent to the Town of Lake George.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 159, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Treasurer to relay to the Town of Lake George the list of unpaid Village Water Rent for the November 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023 period in the amount of \$26,135.02 plus interest in the amount of \$4,317.71 for a grand total of \$30,452.73.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 159, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

- Request to waive fees for one time Fire House use.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 160, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby waives the fees associated with the use of the Village of Lake George Fire House to Vickie Gosnell on October 21, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 160, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry explained that every year to keep our Tree City USA Certification, we must make a proclamation for Arbor Day.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 161, 2023

Whereas, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Now, Therefore, I, Raymond Perry, Mayor of the Village of Lake George, do hereby proclaim April 30th of each year as Arbor Day in the Village of Lake George, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations. UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 161, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry presented the equipment loan agreement form and asked Superintendent Lanfear to explain it. Superintendent Lanfear explained that it is a new form we are looking to implement for when someone uses our equipment. He said he is currently working on what fees should be imposed on what equipment as well as what hourly charge he will use for when our operators are required. He said he would come back to the Board for fee approvals when he has it done.

Mayor Perry explained that we received two flower bids, and that Garden Time was the lowest bidder.

Mayor Perry, seconded by Trustee Miller, offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 162, 2023

WHEREAS THE Village of Lake George requested bids for the 2023 Flowers for both the Village Portion (Sections 1 and 2) and Town Portion (Sections 3 and 4); and

WHEREAS proposals were received from two competent vendors – Garden Time, and Jim Girard Landscaping, and Garden Time being the lowest bid at \$10,779.00 Village Portion (Sections 1 and 2) and \$5,025.00 Town Portion (Sections 3 and 4);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby approves the hiring of Garden Time to complete the necessary Village and Town work.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 162, 2023 ADOPTED **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry explained to the Board that DPW employee John Pettit applied for his retirement effective November 2, 2023. He went over the figures for payout on his remaining vacation, personal, and sick time.

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

WHEREAS the Village Board created a Compensated Absences Reserve which currently has a balance of \$29,518.18.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY hereby authorizes a transfer from Compensated Absences Reserve in the amount of \$3,570.00 to reimburse A5110.0100 Street Maintenance Personnel Services account for the payout of John Pettit's balance of sick, personal, and vacation time.

DR A0836 COMPENSATED ABSENCES \$3,570.00

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO A5110.01 \$3,570.00

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

RESOLUTION NO. 163, 2023 ADOPTED. October 16, 2023

Merry Perry announced to the Board that the Village is closing out the WWTP from short term and moving to long term on October 26, 2023. The amount to go to long term financing is \$8,471,971.00 with M&T Bank.

Mayor Perry asked Superintendent Lanfear to explain what the DPW is looking for to upgrade WIFI. Superintendent Lanfear explained that he had recently asked Lori Bott over to the DPW to help set up his computer and deemed that the current internet connection was far too slow. He went on to say that there is a basic Spectrum package offered to businesses for just \$49.99 per month.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 164, 2023

WHEREAS the DPW requires faster internet to complete their work; and

WHEREAS Spectrum internet is already used at the Village Hall, Visitor Center, WWTP, and WTP, and it makes sense to standardize for ease of use; and

WHEREAS Spectrum internet can provide basic internet connection at a rate of \$49.99/month; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves the DPW to have Spectrum internet installed at their facility.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 164, 2023 ADOPTED. October 16, 2023

Mayor Perry went over the different options available to upgrade five different crosswalks with flashing yellow caution lights. He said that he is currently looking for a grant to cover the costs. He said that if he does not get the grants he will be submitting a request to the Town for Occ Tax to cover them. Trustee Miller said she feels the LED crosswalks are a very good idea. She asked where the money would come from if not approved for a grant or Occupancy Tax. Mayor Perry said the Village has the money. Trustee Miller asked if it was budgeted. The Mayor responded that it was not budgeted but that there was money in revenues from the parking meters.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 165, 2023

WHEREAS the Village wishes to provide safer crosswalks to pedestrians in the Village; and

WHEREAS the Village has received several different quotations for new flashing yellow safety crosswalk signs and the cost will exceed \$20,000.00; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves purchasing flashing yellow pedestrian crosswalk signs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves applying for grants, Occupancy Tax, and in the event not approved, using funds from the revenue of the parking fees.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 165, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Mayor Perry presented the Water changes to the Board.

Trustee Root, seconded by Trustee Filomeno, offered the following resolution for the Water Changes:

RESOLUTION NO. 166, 2023

OCTOBER 2023 WATER CHANGES

OCTOBER PENALTIES	\$ 749.62
NOV, DEC, JAN PENALTIES	\$ 1,176.91
TOWN RELEVY FEES	\$ 1,575.00
 TOWN UNPAID WATER RENT RELEVY	 \$30,452.73

The above resulted in the following Journal Entries:

DR F0440 DUE FROM OTHER GOV'T	\$30,452.73
CR F0350 WATER RECEIVABLES	\$ 27,700.82
CR F2148 WATER PENALTIES	\$ 2,751.91
 DR F0350 WATER RECEIVABLES	 \$ 749.62
CR F2148 WATER PENALTIES	\$ 749.62

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

RESOLUTION NO. 166, 2023 ADOPTED. **October 16, 2023**

Transfers and Audits:

Trustee Root, seconded by Trustee Filomeno, offered the following resolution for the Water Changes:

RESOLUTION NO. 167, 2023

10/4/2023

TRANSFERS:

From:	To:	Amount:	
		Voucher Numbers	Checks
10/5/2023	General	\$90,154.77	240620-240645
	Water	<u>\$14,704.00</u>	38299-38305
		\$104,858.77	
10/17/2023	General	\$325,992.97	240646-240741
	Water	\$10,870.46	
	Sewer Improv (HK)	<u>\$420.00</u>	
		\$337,283.43	

payroll ck#38303 voided
voucher#240669 voided

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

RESOLUTION NO. 167, 2023 ADOPTED. October 16, 2023

Superintendent Lanfear said that the engine blew in the DPW watering and brine truck and needed to be replaced. He said that there would be money available that had originally been budgeted for the culvert repair. He explained that after the engineer came in it was found that there was a much simpler solution to repair the culvert using pipe that the Village Storm Sewers already had. He said there would be approximately \$67,000.00 available to use in the A.8140.0400 account.

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

Motion by Trustee Filomeno, seconded by Trustee Miller, offered the following resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 168, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George approves going out to bid on an F-350 with Flatbed for the DPW department.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 168, 2023 ADOPTED October 16, 2023

Mayor Perry asked each Trustee if they had anything they would like to add to the meeting.

Trustee Root said that he was recently in Albany and was very impressed with the ease of use of their parking meters.

Mayor Perry said that he is helping in conjunction with Warren County to request pricing for a new playground in Wood Park.

Trustee Mastrodomenico stated he attended Oktoberfest and felt that it went well.

Trustee Filomeno had nothing to add.

Trustee Miller said she was working with head of Beatification, Judy Gearwar regarding tree planting in the Village. She said that Judy had requested the Boards opinion on the type of trees to plant. She asked if it would be OK to plant five Honeylocust Trees. Each trustee responded they had no issue with Honeylocust Trees being selected. Mayor Perry said the DPW will be building raised tree pits around the trees to create a place to sit.

Superintendent Lanfear announced that paving will begin on October 23rd and will be on Cooper, Helen, and Schuyler.

Mayor Perry said the Board is still working on a livestock law for poultry.

John Root asked if there was any news on the sewer rate study. Mayor Perry said he had recently received more information, but they are still working on it.

The Mayor asked if there was anything else to discuss. There was no reply.

At 6:37 p.m. there was a motion by Trustee Mastrodomenico to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie K Allen
Village Clerk