

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. This meeting was held during the COVID-19 virus outbreak and public attendance was prohibited. The public was allowed access via Zoom teleconferencing which was publicized on the Village's web site.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert M. Blais, Mayor
John Earl, Deputy Mayor
John Root, Trustee
Ray Perry, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Mastrodomenico, Trustee

Also present were: Clerk Debra McKinney, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, WWTP Operator Tim Shudt, and others via Zoom.

At 8:35 a.m. Mayor Blais opened the meeting and noted that he had received a thank you from County Administrator Ryan Moore in regards to his 2020 Citizen of the Year award.

Mayor Blais asked if we had a response to our questions about the status of the fireman that lives outside the district and is applying to join our department or in regards to the Vice President of the Company moving outside the district. Clerk Deb McKinney replied that she had not heard anything, but wasn't sure if there had been a response via the Mayor's email.

Mayor Blais reported that the new part-time year round Planning/Zoning Board Clerk, Talia Stortini has started work.

Trustee Earl, seconded by Trustee Perry, offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 120, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the hiring of Talia Stortini as a part time year round Planning & Zoning Clerk at a starting rate of \$14.00 per hour with an increase of .50 per hour after a six-month satisfactory probationary period;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that she will be compensated a flat \$50. for each evening Board meeting that she participates in.

VOTING **Ayes: 4** **Blais, Earl, Root, Perry**
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 **Mastrodomenico**

RESOLUTION NO. 120, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

Mayor Blais asked Superintendent Keith Lanfear for an update on the new employee for the DPW Laborer position. Keith noted that he would like to table this as he is still trying to make arrangements with the potential employee.

Mayor Blais gave an update on the state grant for the WWTP Improvement Project. He received confirmation from the Capital Region Representative Sam Parker that the funding will still be available, but may be delayed.

The following resolutions were considered:

- Edward Bartholomew Honor
Mayor Blais commented that we had a moment of silence at a previous meeting in Mr. Bartholomew's honor, and he drafted a resolution as well.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 121, 2020

WHEREAS, Edward Bartholomew was a valued, important and true friend of the Village, and;

WHEREAS, Ed worked tirelessly and energetically to improve our County and the City of Glens Falls, and;

WHEREAS, Ed Bartholomew was a model elected official, appointed executive and a true gentleman in every way, and;

WHEREAS, through his efforts, knowledge and commitment made our region a better place to live and visit;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George do hereby honor him, respect him and will miss him greatly and extend our sincerest sympathy to the members of his family.

**VOTING Ayes: 4 Blais, Earl, Root, Perry
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Mastrodomenico**

RESOLUTION NO. 121, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

- J1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program Support
Mayor Blais noted that this resolution if approved, would support continuation of the Summer Work Travel Program. He recommended that the Village encourage this program be reinstated on January 1. Trustee Root questioned the timing of the resolution. Mayor Blais explained that many communities across the country are adopting resolutions to be submitted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 122, 2020

WHEREAS the Village of Lake George, its residents, local businesses, and tourists depend on and value the students who participate in the J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program - Summer Work Travel Program to meet the demands of visiting tourists during the summer season; and

WHEREAS the Presidential Proclamation issued on June 22, 2020, suspended the Summer Work Travel Program through December 31, 2020, with the possibility of extension; and

WHEREAS during the 2019 season there were approximately 1,000 Summer Work Travel participants employed within the Lake George Region, and

WHEREAS due to the suspension and loss of Summer Work Travel Program participants, Summer Work Travel Host Employers have needed to reduce services and operating hours, close off portions of their facilities, and turn away customers; and

WHEREAS a recent survey of Summer Work Travel Host Employers found the average employer laid off or furloughed ten employees each, and lost on average \$250,000. in revenues, because of the loss of Summer Work Travel participants; and

WHEREAS the Village of Lake George is committed to ensuring American employees are protected during these difficult economic times, but that not nearly enough Americans are applying for the seasonal jobs offered in Lake George, and certainly not enough to replace the lost Summer Work Travel Program participants; and

WHEREAS the Presidential Proclamation 10014 of April 22, 2020, as amended by the Presidential Proclamation of June 22, 2020 has a specific provision for periodically reviewing the suspension of programs like the Summer Work Travel program from the Proclamation's suspension, such as the 30 and 60 day reviews directed by the modifications to Section 4 of the Presidential Proclamation 10014; and

WHEREAS Section 3(b)(iv) the Presidential Proclamation of June 22, 2020 provides that the Secretaries of State and/or the Secretary of Homeland Security can determine which groups, like Summer Work Travel, can be exempted from the suspension because their entry would be in the national interest of the United States; and Resolution No 20-09-XXX Support of J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program BOC Meeting September 2, 2020

WHEREAS Section 4(a)(i) of the Presidential Proclamation of June 22, 2020 further directs those Secretaries, along with the Secretary of Labor, to define categories like the Summer Work Travel program to be exempted per the procedures of Section 3(b)(iv) who can facilitate the immediate and continued economic recovery of the United States can determine which groups, like Summer Work Travel, can be exempted from the suspension because their entry would be in the national interest of the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Lake George determines the immediate resumption of the Summer Work Travel Program is necessary to the immediate and continuing economic recovery of businesses within the Village of Lake George, wholeheartedly endorses the State Department's Summer Work Travel program, and:

- 1. Petitions the White House and Trump Administration to issue a National Interest Exemption for Economic Recovery during the next 60-Day Review, as provided by Section 3(b)(iv) and 4(a)(i) of the Presidential Proclamation of June 22, 2020;**
- 2. Asks the federal Congressional delegation for the Village of Lake George to engage the White House in support of this National Interest Exemption;**
- 3. Directs the Clerk of the Village to send a copy of this Resolution to the President and all federal Congressional Members representing Lake George;**
- 4. Encourages all Village residents to participate in events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the need for the resumption of the Summer Work Travel**

Program and to engage their Congressional Representatives asking them to support this program as well; and

5. Supports the Lake George Student Connection and Summer Work Travel Program sponsors as they help our Village resume this program.

VOTING Ayes: 4 Blais, Earl, Root, Perry
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Mastrodomenico

RESOLUTION NO. 122, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

- **Proposal from Adirondack Studio**
Mayor Blais reported that he has been notified that the Forum building is under contract to be sold. He noted that the remainder of the property is still for sale and could be considered for public parking. He reviewed the original estimated figures, and commented that with the original estimates the pay back would be eight or nine years, but that was with using the Forum for Special Events. The additional properties could park about 200 cars, but there would be a substantial investment to make the property ready. He polled the Board for their opinion on whether we should pursue the additional property for parking. The general consensus of the Board was that we are not interested. Mayor Blais will let the owner know.
- **Lake George Park Commission Proposed Stormwater Regulations**
Mayor Blais noted that the Lake George Park Commission is looking for the support of their most recently drafted Proposed Stormwater Regulations. The Board discussed the proposed regulations, and it was noted that these are a little more relaxed than the previous version, but stricter than the current legislation.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 123, 2020

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George would like to cooperate with the Lake George Park Commission with the Proposed Stormwater Regulations Updates beginning year 2021 including:

- Item 1: Logging and Agricultural Activities**
- Item 2: Fertilizer Applications**
- Item 3: Standard Setback for Stormwater Facilities for Residential Projects**
- Item 4: Stormwater Retrofits for “Minor” Project Applications and Draft Stream Corridor Regulations;**

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George do hereby support their endeavors to update the regulations.

VOTING Ayes: 4 Blais, Earl, Root, Perry
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Mastrodomenico

RESOLUTION NO. 123, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

Superintendent Lanfear explained the progress of the Water Treatment Plant Main Control Panel and SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) Upgrades. The work was budgeted for and a capital project was set up in the last fiscal year, but Aqualogics was delayed in getting here to get the job completed. Since the Water Treatment Plant must be shut down for an 18-hour period during the upgrade, it needs to be done during low usage. The flows should start slowing down now so the target date for the work will be later in November. Superintendent Lanfear reported that the vendor has shipped all of the equipment, and we have it in our possession. The vendor is asking for a progress payment that would cover the cost of the equipment. Keith also, informed the Board that it will be necessary to upgrade our internet connection at the Water Treatment Plant from DSL to allow for better connectivity in the near future.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 124, 2020

WHEREAS, Aqualogics submitted Proposal #Q1-19-077-A on July 16, 2019 for the Water Treatment Plant Main Control Panel and SCADA Upgrades;

WHEREAS, a capital project has been set up for this work;

WHEREAS, Aqualogics has purchased the control equipment, and it has been delivered to the Water Treatment Plant and is in our possession;

WHEREAS, it is more feasible to do the work during low flow periods, and;

WHEREAS, the job scheduling has been pushed off until November, 2020 when the Water Treatment Plant flows will be lower;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes a progress payment to Aqualogics on Invoice #IN19-176-01 in the amount of \$70,000. to cover the cost of the equipment which the Village has possession of a check will be issued at the next available payroll/audit.

**VOTING Ayes: 4 Blais, Earl, Root, Perry
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Mastrodomenico**

RESOLUTION NO. 124, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

Mayor Blais asked Trustee Perry to report on what he found out about upgrading the equipment in the Boardroom so that there would be audio and visual capabilities for teleconferenced meetings. Trustee Perry had Adirondack Audio & Video come and look at our set up so they could submit a quote to make the upgrades. Some of the wiring could be done by our own staff. Additional items, such as two 40" TV screens and a laptop would also be necessary, probably another \$400. worth of equipment. The funds were not budgeted, but can come out of the buildings account and, if a transfer is needed, it can be done at later date. In light of the fact that the virus is changing the way things are done, the Board agreed that they would like to get the upgrades done.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 125, 2020

WHEREAS the Village Board would like to upgrade the downstairs boardroom to allow for better audio and visual communications;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves purchase of the equipment, along with installation as discussed from Adirondack Audio & Video in the amount of \$4,922.63 as well as the purchase of some other necessary equipment to complete the job, all to be charged to the A1620.22 buildings account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes a transfer to cover these costs.

VOTING **Ayes: 4** **Blais, Earl, Root, Perry**
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 **Mastrodomenico**

RESOLUTION NO. 125, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

On behalf of the Treasurer Danae Bock, Clerk Deb McKinney requested permission to pay an additional interest fee for the Visitor Center bond. A check was issued based on the amortization schedule, but the invoice came in at a different amount. This payment is due by October 13th, so Ms. McKinney asked for permission to process a check at the October 8th payroll.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 126, 2020

WHEREAS a Visitor Center bond interest payment in the total amount of \$11,000. Is due to Glens Falls National Bank by October 13th, but a check in the amount of \$9,900. was issued on September 21st;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes an additional payment of \$1,100. be processed on October 8, 2020 so that the payment can be submitted in the correct amount and in a timely manner.

VOTING **Ayes: 4** **Blais, Earl, Root, Perry**
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 **Mastrodomenico**

RESOLUTION NO. 126, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

Mayor Blais reported that he has been checking the Village's finances. He has been working on budget figures to see the status of the anticipated revenues and expenditures. He has sent notification to the agencies that usually receive funding from the Village letting them know that we are conserving funds. He plans to give the Board more details at the next regular meeting in October, but just wanted to make them aware that there will probably be a shortfall due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Mayor Blais suggested that it might be a good idea to combine the COVID Inspector's duties with a part-time Code Enforcement Officer's duties. He noted that Troy LaBelle would be able to do the job duties on a part-time, year round basis. At this time of year, he estimated probably ten to twelve hours per week. This position would be under the direct supervision of the Mayor and then the Director of Planning & Zoning with an office at the Village Hall. Mayor Blais noted that he has received positive feedback on his work, and Trustee Perry agreed that he seems to be doing a fine job.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 127, 2020

WHEREAS, the Village Board authorizes a combination position that will include COVID Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer duties and will be considered a part-time year round position at a rate of \$18.00 per hour;

WHEREAS, Troy LaBelle is currently the COVID Inspector, and he would be willing to add Code Enforcement duties and serve under the title of Code Enforcement Officer;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby appoints Troy LaBelle as the part time, year round Code Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

**VOTING Ayes: 4 Blais, Earl, Root, Perry
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1 Mastrodomenico**

RESOLUTION NO. 127, 2020 ADOPTED. October 5, 2020

Mayor Blais asked for an update on the WWTP Improvement Project. Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Tim Shudt reported that the new plant is progressing better. The contractors are working on getting the Blower Building enclosed for winter, and they also focusing on the Head Works Building. Mr. Shudt invited the Board for a tour of the new construction after the meeting.

Mayor Blais reported that Jesse Hayes, who has been in charge of the softball activities up at the REC Center is asking if one of the fields could be lit up at night. Superintendent Lanfear took Stilsing Electric up there to look and see what would be need to done, and he was asking them to give us a rough quote. Mayor Blais noted that the Rotary is interested in supporting this as well.

Superintendent Lanfear informed the Board that the normal seasonal usage at the Water Treatment Plant is usually 1.4 million gallons. It has dropped down to just under a million gallons at this time. Operator Tim Shudt commented that the flows at the WWTP were slightly lower this summer, but the flows are normal now for this time of year.

There was a motion by Trustee Perry to adjourn at 9:30 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB
Village Clerk
Purchasing Agent