

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held on Monday December 11, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at the Village Office. The Zoom connection was publicized on the Village's website, listed on the agenda, but unavailable for connection that would allow public participation. Members of the Village Board physically attended at the Village Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Perry, Mayor
Joe Mastrodomenico, Deputy Mayor
Jose Filomeno, Trustee
Allyson Miller, Trustee
John Root, Trustee

Also Present: Clerk Julie Allen, Tony Hall, Robert Blais, Debonnay Meyers, Vincent Cianciolo, Dan Barusch, C. Labruzzo, and others via Zoom.

Mayor Perry opened the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

Mayor Perry invited Vincent Cianciolo to present his documentation on his losses for the farmers market. Vincent submitted a handwritten sheet to Trustee Miller that showed his insurance costs, booth costs, etc. Trustee Root asked him how he arrived at the \$8,000.00 bid. Mr. Cianciolo said the first year he submitted a bid of \$1,500.00 and the next year he bid \$5,000.00. He said last year he bid \$8,000.00 because the initial setup of the farmers market would allow more vendors. Trustee Filomeno asked him what his vendor count was, to which Mr. Cianciolo responded that the count went from thirty-two down to eighteen. Trustee Mastrodomenico asked if he felt the decrease was because the event was pulled off the sidewalks to which Mr. Cianciolo responded yes. Mayor Perry asked Mr. Cianciolo if he would agree to a split of the remaining balance, which would be \$2,000.00 each. Mr. Cianciolo said that he is asking to have \$3,000.00 of the \$4,000.00 balance waived so that he would pay \$1,000.00. Trustee Miller said that she would like to see documentation that proved the drop in attendance. Mr. Cianciolo said it would be difficult to provide. Mr. Cianciolo said he was only willing to pay \$1,000.00 because he is not taking any Occ Tax, and he added that he had paid for the road space but could not use it. Trustee Root said that he felt Mr. Cianciolo was a victim of circumstance.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 198, 2023

WHEREAS, there were extenuating circumstances that were not of the vendors (Vincent Cianciolo) making, that made the farmers market more difficult to keep vendors participating;

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of the Village of Lake authorizes waiving fees in the amount of \$3,000.00 leaving a balance of \$1,000.00 due by the vendor (Vincent Cianciolo) immediately.

VOTING **Ayes: 4** **Perry, Filomeno, Mastrodomenico, Root**
Nays: 1 **Miller**

RESOLUTION NO. 198, 2023 ADOPTED. **December 11, 2023**

Mayor Perry moved the car show discussion to the next agenda item to allow Undersheriff Terry Comeau to be involved in the discussion. Mayor Perry started by saying that the Sheriff's Department had done an impeccable job over the years. Undersheriff Comeau said that the people of the car show were terrific to work with, and that they have regular meetings to discuss the car show. He went on to say that the most troublesome spot during the show was the area that they call the "Pit to the Hill". He said the department makes sure that everyone is scheduled to work the weekend of the car show. He said to help mitigate some of the problems they have with early morning burnouts, he can look at scheduling two cars from 9:00am on. Mayor Perry said he felt that the main days of concern were Friday and Saturday. Trustee Root said his main concern was the Cruise that goes on for hours. He said he had concerns for safety for people who ride in the back of pick-up trucks etc. He said the pre-cruise and after cruise would be when most of the problems arise. He also said that businesses had less sales during the cruise event as the roads were closed to the public.

Undersheriff Comeau said that the Cruise was sponsored by the Car Show and that participants must have a sticker to participate. He went on to say that participants found to be doing something unsafe or breaking a rule, they are pulled from the Cruise and can be pulled out of participating for years after. Trustee Root asked if a vehicle that has people riding in an open back would be pulled. Undersheriff Comeau replied that they would not pull someone from the Cruise for that as the vehicles would be traveling very slowly. Trustee Miller asked if people who are not permitted can sneak into the Cruise. Undersheriff Comeau responded that it would be very difficult to sneak in as all vehicles are checked for stickers as they line up, and all public access to the Cruise is blocked off. Special Event Director Robert Blais provided some history by saying prior to the Cruise, people would burn out all over town. He said the Cruise was organized specifically to help mitigate the issue.

Trustee Miller asked if there was a way to help stop open containers during the show. Undersheriff Comeau said that open container laws are under Village ordinance and would have to be ticketed by Village enforcement. Trustee Mastrodomenico commented that there are far too many people to police during the show. He said it would be like putting out a match during a forest fire. Trustee Filomeno suggested putting out a Village press release warning of open container enforcement. Trustee Miller said she was just looking for a solution to help reign it in. Mayor Perry said that the show has gotten a lot better over the years. Trustee Root said that it had gotten better, but public consumption had gotten worse. Undersheriff Comeau said no matter what, the Sheriff Department would not lose control of the Village.

Trustee Miller said she liked the idea of a press release for the open containers. Special Event Director Robert Blais said closing off the streets in the past couple years has helped a lot. Undersheriff Comeau said they will help in any way they can. He gave everyone his cell phone number if they wished to call him.

Mayor Perry presented the Lake George Community Benefit Days event for discussion. Trustee Root said that the event had grown much larger than what was originally presented. Special Events Director Robert Blais explained that all seventeen organizations that had been invited had agreed to participate. He said that the organizations participating would be using the event to solicit funds. He said there would only be a few things that would charge money like the pony rides and the community meals offered by the churches. Trustee Root asked how this was playing to the locals. Special Events Director Robert Blais responded that the advertisements would only be in local papers, and on local radio stations. He said that they had set a budget of \$9,000.00 and was looking to fund it through Village and Joint Occ Tax in the amount of

\$4,500.00 each. Trustee Miller said it was much bigger than she thought it was going to be and that it was now two days. Trustee Filomeno said that he thought it sounded good. Trustee Miller said she would like to see a survey done during the event to see if the community likes the event.

Mayor Perry presented an overview of the current and pending events for review.

Mayor Perry began the discussion on the fee review for events. Trustee Mastrodomenico suggested the Board look at the fees for trash removal. Mayor Perry suggested that the Board should consider increasing the Shepard Park fees to \$350.00 per day during the season and down to \$300.00 per day during the off season. Trustee Root said he would like to hear input from Superintendent Keith Lanfear and supervisor John Helms regarding road closures. He suggested the form to have a deadline and it must be submitted no later than thirty days prior to the event. Trustee Miller said that the fees affect our budget and that there should be hard and fast rules for when the fees should be waived. Mayor Perry said that the Trustees need to look at the fees, come up with suggestions to change them, and they can discuss their suggestions at the upcoming meeting.

Mayor Perry explained that we had just received the Ice Castle Water Use agreement for \$2.00 per gallon and was looking for permission to go ahead and sign it. He said the fee was the same rate we used last year.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 199, 2023

WHEREAS, Warren County has approved the Ice Castle Group for use of Wood Park and construction of the Ice Castle Park Feature; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lake George agrees to provide water for the construction and water rates need to be set;

BE IT RESOLVED that the applicant shall pay a fee of \$2.00 per gallons of water used.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby authorizes Mayor Perry to sign a Water Supply Agreement with the Ice Castle Group which stipulates the fees and criteria for use of Village Water.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 199, 2023 ADOPTED. December 11, 2023

Mayor Perry requested the Board vote on proceeding with the Comprehensive Plan. He said that he did not want to have the consolidation study done at this time. Trustee Root said that he is opposed to doing the comprehensive plan first. He said that he feels a united Lake George would be stronger, and that he felt that the Village was too reliant on revenues to fund its budget. Trustee Filomeno said that he was with the Mayor and that it has been 20 years since the last comprehensive plan was completed. He added that there should be a new plan made. Trustee Miller said that she believes a comprehensive plan would be helpful if consolidation happens. She said she would like to have a date as to when the consolidation study would

happen if it were decided to do the comprehensive study first. Mayor Perry said that the Village would look at doing a consolidation study once the comprehensive study is completed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 200, 2023

WHEREAS the Village Board is interested in completing a Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Lake George; and

WHEREAS the Village Board would like to have the Comprehensive Plan completed prior to any consolidation study;

BE IT RESOLVED that Dan Barusch is authorized to send out Request For Proposals to solicit for a consultant to complete a study as such, for review and consideration by the Village Board.

VOTING **Ayes: 4** **Perry, Filomeno, Mastrodomenico, Miller**
 Nays: 1 **Root**

RESOLUTION NO. 200, 2023 ADOPTED. **December 11, 2023**

Mayor Perry explained that he had just heard back from Beth Gillis from the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Development Board, and that the Village of Lake George had been awarded the WQIP grant for the design development of a Stormwater Treatment Park. The grant is in the amount of \$75,000.00.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 201, 2023

WHEREAS the Village Board has been awarded a Grant from the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Development Board in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the design of a Stormwater Treatment Park;

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Perry is authorized to send out Request For Proposals to solicit for a consultant to complete a study as such, for review and consideration by the Village Board.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 201, 2023 ADOPTED. **December 11, 2023**

Mayor Perry asked if there was anything else the Board would like to address to which there was no response.

There was a motion by Trustee Mastrodomenico to adjourn at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Allen
Village Clerk