

Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.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

**MEMBERS VIA ZOOM:** Joseph Mastrodomenico, Trustee  
Ray Perry, Trustee  
John Root, Trustee

Also present were: Clerk Debra McKinney, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, Treasurer Danna Bock and others via Zoom.

At 4:30 p.m. Mayor Blais opened the meeting. He made note that there were several errors in the recent Post Star article in regards to the budget.

Mayor Blais reported because of the tremendous amount of money that our new budget is going up, we are looking for items that we can purchase out of this year's budget instead.

The following list of items were considered to be purchased out of 20/21 Budget

20/21 Purchase	cost	transfer amount	allocation from	allocation to
Shepard Park fence	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	A1930.4	A7110.22
		\$ 15,000.00	A3320.1	A7110.22
Repairs to Central Garage doors	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	A1640.4	A1640.4
		\$ 4,000.00	A1940.2	A1640.4
		\$ 6,000.00	A3320.1	A1640.4
4 IPS pay & display machines	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 29,000.00	A3120.1	A3320.22
Asphalt crack filler machine & material	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	A8140.4	A5110.4

As far as the request for new pay and display machines, it was noted that replacement CPU's for the MacKay machines are no longer available, so we need to start replacing the old MacKay displays. Superintendent Lanfear described the use and value of the asphalt machine. Trustee Root asked if the Visitor Center work was going to be planned in the new budget as it has been discussed a couple of times and needs to be done. Trustee Root also asked if new garbage cans could be purchased. Mayor Blais noted that the budget was very tight, and most big items were removed. Trustee Perry inquired about the Shepard Park fence, and wanted to know if we could further discuss that. Mayor Blais noted that it is on the agenda to put it out to bid; we can transfer the funds, then see what the bids come in at, then the Board can decide whether to award or not. Mayor Blais commented that the fence itself helps to regulate the crowd and keep beach goers off the beach during closed hours. The fence allows us to comply with NYS DOH without having to staff the beach after hours. The repair of the Lake Avenue fence was brought up, too, and Superintendent Lanfear confirmed that he has been taken care of.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 197, 2021**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees approves the above list of items and necessary transfers for consideration of purchase out of the 2020/2021 budget.

**VOTING**      **Ayes: 5**      **Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Root, Perry**  
                 **Nays: 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 197, 2021 ADOPTED.                      February 22, 2021**

Mayor Blais reported that the Board actually awarded the bid for fireworks to Santore's World Famous Fireworks for a period of three years, plus two extension years if both parties agree back on March 16, 2020. However, the contract was never signed as it was delayed due to COVID. Mayor Blais noted that he has put ten regular Thursday night shows and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July show in the budget. He plans to seek funding from Warren County Occupancy Tax as well getting other sponsors.

Mayor Blais requested permission to go out to bid for the fence and installation so that we can see what the cost would be.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 198, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board would like to consider placing a fence around the Shepard Park Beach similar to the way it was done during 2021 with temporary fencing;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of Trustees of Lake George, NY hereby authorizes going out to bid for the fencing and installation.

**VOTING**      **Ayes: 5**      **Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root**  
                 **Nays: 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 198, 2021 ADOPTED.                      February 22, 2021**

Mayor Blais presented a request for support from the South Warren Snowmobile Club, Inc. Mayor Blais recommended that the Village continue to give them funding support.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 199, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, South Warren Snowmobile Club, Inc. has provided the use of its snow grooming equipment and expertise to the Village of Lake George to maintain the REC Center's cross country ski trail system,

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees of Lake George, NY hereby authorizes the payment of \$2,500.00 from the 20/21 budget to the South Warren Snowmobile Club, Inc. for these services.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 5      Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root**  
**Nays: 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 199, 2021 ADOPTED.                      February 22, 2021**

Mayor Blais recommended supporting the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for the 2021 season.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 200, 2021**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves a payment to the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board in the amount of \$300.00 for the services of the Review Board during their 2021 calendar year.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 5      Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Root, Perry**  
**Nays: 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 200, 2021 ADOPTED.                      February 22, 2021**

Mayor Blais noted that since all employees are now being randomly drug tested, the handbook needs to reflect a penalty for noncompliance.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 201, 2021**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves the handbook changes underlined as follows with an effective date of February 23, 2021:**

**Section VI – Rules & Regulations**

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**G.      Drugs and Alcoholic Beverages**

1. No employee shall report to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, either on regular work hours or on over time call in.
2. Should an employee report to work in such condition, employee will be subject to a drug test, sent home without pay, and a written record will be added to the employee's personnel file. Should the employee refuse or not submit to testing, suspension of five days without pay will commence on that day. (10-19-2020)
3. There shall be no use of drugs or alcoholic beverages while on the job.
4. All full-time employees will be subject to random testing and/or at the request of Department Heads for just cause during the performance of their duties. (10-19-2020)
5. Any employee involved in an accident occurring as a result of their operation of a motor vehicle, truck, or other piece of equipment owned and/or insured by the

Village of Lake George including the Fire Department/Company shall submit to a drug test prescribed by the Superintendent of the Department, the Fire Chief, or the Mayor of the Village within a 24 hour period. Failure to submit to such a test shall cause termination of the employee or failure of a drug test may result in termination of employee or member of the Fire Department/Company.

6. Smoking or using tobacco products while actually working in the public will not be permitted. Smoking in a discreet manner will be allowed at other times but never in Village buildings or vehicles. Employees found in violation will be issued a written warning for the first offense; three days suspension without pay will be given on the second offense, and further violations may lead to dismissal. (8-20-18)

7. Any employee who tests positive for a non-prescribed substance will be immediately removed from duty and suspended without pay for a period of two weeks on the first offense, thirty days on the second offense and discharged from employment on the third offense. **EXCEPTION:** Evidence solely of alcohol and/or cannabinoids shall result in a notice of same being placed in the employee file. A second offense will result in a 5-day suspension without pay and a third offense subjects the employee to further disciplinary action and/or dismissal. CDL drivers will be subject to federal regulations.

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**New text is underlined.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 5      Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root**  
**Nays: 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 201, 2021 ADOPTED.                      February 22, 2021**

The Town of Lake George submitted a voucher for the Beatty Road project for a reimbursement on the C100230 contract which Warren County is administering. The Town asked for payment to be processed as soon as possible as they are in the process of closing their books for 2020. Mayor Blais commented that these are funds are reimbursed by the State.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 202, 2021**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes payment to be processed for the Town of Lake George Contract C1000230 in the amount of \$27,715. at the next possible pay date, which will be February 25, 2021.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the transfer of funds to cover the cost and final payment on this contract.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 5      Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root**  
**Nays: 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 202, 2021 ADOPTED.                      February 22, 2021**

Mayor Blais began the budget review by saying that the tax rate will actually go down from \$6.43 last year to \$5.53 with this draft budget. The reason for the decrease is because the Town's re-evaluation has been done, which is now hitting our books. The Village's assessed valuation went up to \$265,345,784., about a \$35M increase. The amount to be raised by taxes

is \$1,448,408. With \$500,000. also coming from the fund balance. Mayor Blais noted that he has estimated some of the new tax bills and many of the residences increase is minimal, the commercial properties, especially lakeside may be more. He reviewed some of the sample assessments that he figured out. He noted that working on the budget was very complicated with this assessed valuation increase, with the debt payment for the new sewer plant, along with the anticipated substantial increase in operating cost of the new plant which should be online in the fall. He pointed out that big purchases for the most part are out of the budget. Employees' pay increases are approximately 1%. Trustee Root inquired as to whether we should consider raising the Mayor's salary to make the position more attractive to future candidates. Mayor Blais said that he had not considered that and would like to keep the salary the same as it has been for several years.

Mayor Blais then began to review the budget page by page. Following are the highlights of the review:

A1440 Engineering Funds were added to cover the possible follow up with the Sky Harbor property. This would be a joint Town/Village project of a combination parking lot.

A1375 Credit Card Fees increased to account for more credit card accepting pay and display machines

A1910.4 Insurance has increased to cover the addition of the new WWTP to the policy.

A3320.1 Meter Enforcement Personal Services amount was reduced.

A3410 Fire Services amount was reduced because the Chief's car was out for 20/21 and is not in for 21/22, either.

A3620.1 Code Enforcement Personal Services has funds, but Mayor Blais noted that he is going to try to do the day-to-day work himself and possibly hire an on-call Enforcement Officer.

A5182 Street Lighting electric has been reduced as we have LED's now.

A8130 Sanitation has a large increase due to the estimated cost of operating the new WWTP, perhaps it will be ready to go in November. Much of the cost increase is electricity and sludge hauling. We are using figures provided by our engineer. Also, the debt service had to be increased because our first payment will be due. The impact of the new WWTP will have a substantial impact on the Town of Lake George tax payers as well.

Mayor Blais reviewed the anticipated revenues and noted that it is really hard to tell what to expect this season again. Mayor Blais noted that the lease purchase of a new vac truck is in the budget, and sale of the old truck is in, too. Trustee Root inquired as to whether we should restructure the parking meter rates and increase the revenues. Mayor Blais commented that anything is on the table; we don't know what to expect. Mayor Blais agreed that we could try to do some figures and see what it does to the numbers. The Board discussed a few different options for parking meters fees and a possible increase in the rate. Mayor Blais pointed out that the budget comes in under the tax rate as it stands, but still have some work to do on it. He commented at the end of this year, our financial status could be different. He continued and said that he is still trying to find more funding for the WWTP to help defray expenses.

Mayor Blais asked for any other suggestions on the budget, and said he would look at the meter revenues and look at the impact, so these draft figures are subject to change.

There was a motion by Trustee Earl, seconded by Trustee Root to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB  
Village Clerk