

Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting was held during the COVID-19 virus outbreak. The public was allowed access via Zoom teleconferencing with connection information being publicized on the Village's web site.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Mastrodomenico, Trustee
Ray Perry, Trustee

Also present were: Clerk Debra McKinney and Superintendent Keith Lanfear

At 9:00 a.m. Mayor Blais opened the meeting and began by saying that WWTP Operator Shudt requesting that the Board consider an increase to the sludge hauler fees. Due to the increased cost of operation and maintenance of the new plant, increasing the sludge hauler fees would help to defray some of that cost. The rate has not been increased in several years. Mayor Blais suggested the new rate be effective on April 1, 2022, and estimated that an increase of \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons should increase the revenue in the 2022/2023 budget by about \$40,000. Mayor Blais noted that Operator Shudt feels that the current haulers will still utilize our plant.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 239, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George authorizes the increase of the septic haulers rates by \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons making the new rate \$55.00 per 1,000 gallons effective April 1, 2022.

VOTING **Ayes: 3** **Blais, Earl, Root**
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 2 **Mastrodomenico, Perry**

RESOLUTION NO. 239, 2022 ADOPTED. February 28, 2022

Mayor Blais reported that he has had some interest from Farmers Market organizers, so he sent out an RFP. Previously we only received fees from the vendors' licenses, but he thought we could collect a fee from the organizer as well. He asked Clerk McKinney, to read the results. Ms. McKinney noted that two proposals were received. Vincent Cianciolo of Catskill, NY bid \$5,000. and Rene Lussier of Salem submitted a proposal in the amount of \$3,000. to \$3,500. Mayor Blais commented that Vincent Cianciolo has been a participant in our market in previous years. He also noted as part of the criteria for this year's market, the organizer must have over 70% of the vendors that offer food products.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 240, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George hereby awards the Farmers Market proposal to the highest bidder, Vincent Cianciolo, 399 W

Bridge, Catskill, NY 12414 at a fee of \$5,000. for the 2022 season, with 50% payable by 6/15/22 and the balance to be paid by 8/15/22. The Farmers Market will begin on Wednesday, June 22 and run through September 7, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in front of Shepard Park

VOTING **Ayes: 3** **Blais, Earl, Root**
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 2 **Mastrodomenico, Perry**

RESOLUTION NO. 240, 2022 ADOPTED. February 28, 2022

Clerk McKinney presented the current pricing for third party supplier electricity, which is at .08451/kwh for a fixed rate price period of 44 months. There was discussion about recent increases in the National Grid bills, and the advantage of signing a contract for a fixed rate plan.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 241, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign a new contract with Constellation as our third party supplier for electricity for a period of 44 months or at the best rate available at contract signing.

VOTING **Ayes: 3** **Blais, Earl, Root**
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 2 **Mastrodomenico, Perry**

RESOLUTION NO. 241, 2022 ADOPTED. February 28, 2022

Mayor Blais confirmed the following upcoming April meeting dates:

- Monday, April 4 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Annual Organizational Meeting
- Thursday, April 7, 2022 at **8:00 a.m.** Special Meeting for consideration of Fire Officers
- Monday, April 18, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Regular Village Board Meeting

Mayor Blais started to review the tentative proposed budgets and the salaries. Trustee Root informed the Board that if the Village-wide sewer rate is not in this budget, he is not in favor of moving forward with setting a public hearing or adopting this budget. Mayor Blais replied that without having a better idea of the cost to operate the new plant, setting a sewer rate at this time is not recommended by our consultant. He also explained that setting up a sewer rate requires setting up a separate sewer fund, which means that most of the current revenue that we take into the General Fund could not be used to help mitigate the cost of the new plant. As it stands now that revenue is spread across the General Fund budget including the WWTP. Mayor Blais noted that this has been a difficult budget, with estimating the cost to operate the new plant and all of the other rising costs, but we got it in under the tax cap with just a .19 increase. Mayor Blais reiterated that it is bad timing to work on setting a sewer rate until we see a year of expenses for the new plant. Mayor Blais suggested another budget workshop on Monday, March 7 at 4:30 p.m., and the rest of the Board agreed. Clerk McKinney will check with the absent members to see if they are available, and set up the next meeting. Trustee Root requested a budget review with Superintendent Lanfear prior to the next workshop, and they

agreed to set a time.

There was a motion by Trustee Root, seconded by Mayor Blais to adjourn at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB
Village Clerk