

Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.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
Joseph Mastrodomenico, Trustee
Ray Perry, Trustee
John Root, Trustee

Also present were: Clerk Debra McKinney, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, and Operator Tim Shudt

At 4:30 p.m. Mayor Blais opened the meeting and began with a list of training sessions for Board consideration:

- Adirondack Water Works Conference, March 30, 2022 at the Century House in Latham at a cost of \$55.00, Chris Buckley and Chris Andrews
- New York AWWA Operators Day Training on April 13, 2022 in Saratoga Springs, Chris Buckley and Chris Andrews at \$75.00 each
- New York Rural Water 43rd Annual Technical Training May 23-25, 2022 at Turning Stone Resort, Keith Lanfear and Tim Shudt

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

RESOLUTION NO. 242, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves Village staff to attend the following:

- Adirondack Water Works Conference, March 30, 2022 at the Century House in Latham at a cost of \$55.00 each, Chris Buckley and Chris Andrews
- New York AWWA Operators Day Training on April 13, 2022 in Saratoga Springs, Chris Buckley and Chris Andrews at \$75.00 each
- New York Rural Water Association's 43rd Annual Technical Training 2022 on May 23 through 25 at Turning Stone Resort, Keith Lanfear and Tim Shudt

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

The annual bricks & pavers order has been placed, and the funds that were collected for these need to be transferred to the expenditure account.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 243, 2022

WHEREAS, the Village of Lake George continues to sell Centennial Bricks and Pavers for the Shepard Park fountain area, the budget needs to be increased for the total of the latest order;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the following changes to the General Fund Budget:

DR A7110.044 Parks – Bricks and Pavers	\$ 1,516.00
CR A2710 Gifts and Donations	\$1,516.00

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

RESOLUTION NO. 243, 2022 ADOPTED. **March 7, 2022**

Mayor Blais presented an Occupancy Tax Application and a request to fund a North Country Jazz Project performance in Shepard Park as follows:

Occupancy Tax Application:

- John Myers, Entertainment One Presents Rock the Lake – 80's Tribute Fest slated for Wood Park on August 13, 2022 \$2,000. A6410.4
- Albert J. Tolomeo, Jr. and the North Country Jazz Project for a Performance in Shepard Park on August 4, 2022 \$2,000. A6410.4

Mayor Blais noted that it would be our intention to encumber the funds for these two and encumber any remaining funds in that account towards Second Chance staffing. A transfer from the A6410.1 to A6410.4 was suggested.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 244, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes Occupancy Tax funds awards/expenditures as follows:

\$2,000. John Myers, Entertainment One Presents Rock the Lake – 80's Tribute Fest slated for Wood Park on August 13, 2022 upon presentation of valid receipts

\$2,000. Albert J. Tolomeo, Jr. and the North Country Jazz Project for a Performance in Shepard Park on August 4, 2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the following General Fund Budget transfer: from A6410.1 Occupancy Tax personal services to A6410.4 Occupancy Tax O&M in the amount of \$2,489.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 244, 2022 ADOPTED. **March 7, 2022**

Mayor Blais recommended appointment of a Sewer Rate Committee to work with Jeff Smith of Municipal Solutions to get a proposal ready for a Village-wide sewer rate for the 23/24 budget. He appointed the following to the Committee: Trustee John Root as Chairman, Trustee Joe Mastrodomenico, and Treasurer Danna Bock.

Mayor Blais reported that since the Board changed the septic haulers rates to \$55.00 per 1,000 gallons on February 28, 2022, we have been advised that the City of Glens Falls has a rate of

\$60.00 per 1,000 gallons. He commented that in the past we have generally followed suit with them and matched their rate. He asked the Board if they would like to rescind Resolution No. 239, 2022 which set the rate at \$55.00 per 1,000 gallons and change the rate to match the City of Glens Falls. He cited increased costs to operate our Plant as the reason, and the increased revenue will help balance the budget. Operator Shudt is recommending the rate be increased to \$60.00 per 1,000 gallons, as well.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 245, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George hereby rescinds Resolution No. 239, 2022 adopted on February 28, 2022;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George authorizes the increase of the septic haulers rates by \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons making the new rate \$60.00 per 1,000 gallons effective April 16, 2022.

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

Mayor Blais explained that after some further evaluation, he feels that now is not a good time to proceed with a reorganization study. He prepared a resolution citing priority for our new WWTP funding and making sure that we remain eligible. As long as the Board is in agreement, Mayor Blais will notify the consultants that submitted proposals as well as letting DOS know that we will not be accepting the grant.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 246, 2022

WHEREAS, the Village and Town Lake George are considering a joint restructuring study of the Village that includes the dissolution of the Village, and;

WHEREAS, the Village is in the process of securing financing for a \$24M Waste Water Treatment Plant, and;

WHEREAS, the Village is negotiating financing in excess of \$8M for the Plant, and;

WHEREAS, the Village has a contract with the Town that offsets much of this long-term financing, as well as other contracts, and;

WHEREAS, it became apparent dissolution might impact this financing, and;

WHEREAS, the Village of Lake George is otherwise in excellent financial shape;

BE IT RESOLVED, that, we the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George do hereby determine that we do not want to proceed with this study at this time, and that this resolution is in the best interest of all of our tax payers.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 246, 2022 ADOPTED.

March 7, 2022

Mayor Blais made a suggestion for DPW staff to switch to a 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. shift, so that they can get out on the street earlier before there's traffic and pedestrians. Superintendent Lanfear noted that there are some employees that work that shift now and in the summer both weekdays and weekends. The sweeper goes out early and the garbage crew gets out there early, too. Beautification Department staff also works an early shift. Superintendent Lanfear pointed out that when there are sidewalk jobs or other such projects, it is necessary to work later in the day. Also, there is a transition of staff for the restrooms at 3:30, leaving at 2:30 makes for a gap in coverage, if something needs to be done or corrected. The other issue is that Village Hall receives calls and needs DPW assistance many times after 2:30 p.m. and before they leave at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Blais stated that he received a request from Greg Teresi in regards to access for standup paddle boards on to the lake. Mr. Teresi wants to offer paddle board rentals from his current business location near Lake George Beach Club. The Board discussed some different options for access, but were in agreement that the southern basin is very busy; and they were not in favor of adding paddle boards rentals at that location. All Board members were concerned that the use was not appropriate particularly due to rental boats, cruise ships, and the lack of experience by users.

Mayor Blais presented a contract from Turf Management for treatment of the fields up at the REC Center. It was noted that there was a 24% increase in this cost, but it seems inevitable.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 247, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George does hereby approve the Turf Management Company Inc. proposal for labor and material for treatments of the REC Center Little League Fields - \$2,314.81; Football Field - \$591.72. and Soccer Fields - \$1,055.44.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 247, 2022 ADOPTED.

March 7, 2022

Mayor Blais started to review the tentative proposed wages and asked the department heads to leave the meeting. Upon return, the Mayor Blais informed them that the Board wanted to increase the across the board employee raises from .50 to .75 per hour, so the budget will be revised accordingly.

Mayor Blais reviewed the Water Fund Budget, and noted that it is balanced. One big item included is \$60,000. for the purchase of new radio read meter heads. While the staff is installing these new heads, they are also surveying the service lines to check for lead. The water rates will stay the same.

Mayor Blais started going through the General Fund appropriations. He pointed out that the General Fund budget includes a raise in the hourly rate for our attorney from \$175. to \$190. per hour, which is a reasonable rate locally. Mayor Blais noted that he is still trying to find a location for a Sheriff substation, but it is not included in this budget; we will still be paying the Sheriff's Department for additional patrols. There is a payment in the current budget and in the new budget for a new Vac truck which has already been ordered. Operator Shudt reported that the Vac truck that was ordered months ago is supposed to be delivered soon.

Superintendent Lanfear pointed out that we have \$120,000. budgeted in the streets account. This is the final appropriation so that we can order a new gas F750 dump/plow truck to replace the 2004 International. A portion of the funds necessary to purchase this new truck were budgeted two years ago. Also, a bobcat with a 4' attachment for plowing is in this budget.

In light of recent increases in electricity costs, there was discussion about pricing out the LED conversion kits for our streetlights.

Mayor Blais reviewed the itemized list for the occupancy tax account, bands account and celebrations account.

Mayor Blais informed the Board that there is a substantial increase in the WWTP appropriation to cover the cost of operating the new plant. The estimates were based on the engineer's recommendation.

Mayor Blais went through the list of anticipated revenues, and reported that there are \$2.9M in unallocated reserves. He suggested that we hold the Public Hearings for the budgets at the regular meeting scheduled for March 21, 2022.

Mayor Blais reported that he received an inquiry from Kathy Muncil in regards to a problem with frozen water lines at the Ice Castle. Superintendent Lanfear explained that one of their flexible lines froze and caused pressure problems for them. Our pressure was adequate throughout their use.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 248, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees agrees to set the date and time of March 21, 2022 at 4:30 PM for the 2022-2023 Budget Hearings.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 248, 2022 ADOPTED. March 7, 2022

There was a motion by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico to adjourn at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB, Village Clerk

3-7-2022 spec budget workshop