

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held at the Village Hall on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. Zoom teleconferencing was also available.

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

Also Present: Clerk Debra McKinney, Julie Allen, WWTP Operator Tim Shudt, Dan Barusch, and others via Zoom.

At 4:30 p.m. Mayor Blais opened the Regular Meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Blais asked for a moment of silence in honor of Bill Dow. Mayor Blais thanked everyone for their help and support on the special election. He noted that September 13, 2022, will forever be an important date in the history of the Village of Lake George.

Mayor Blais presented the minutes from a Regular Meeting held on August 15, 2022, a Special/Joint Meeting held August 22, 2022, a Special/Joint Meeting Public Hearing held September 7, 2002, at 6pm, and a Special Meeting Public Hearing held on September 12, 2022. Trustee Root made a motion, seconded by Trustee Earl, unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Blais presented the minutes from a Special/Joint Meeting Public Hearing held on September 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Trustee Root made a motion, seconded by Trustee Earl, unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the Special Joint Meeting Public Hearing held on September 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

VOTING **Ayes: 4** **Blais, Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root**
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1 **Earl**
MOTION PASSED.

Monthly reports were presented for Superintendent of Public Works, Sanitation Department & CSD, Meter/Dock Revenue, Planning & Zoning Admin & Code Enforcement, REC Center, and Meter/Dock Revenue. Trustee Perry noted that there had not been any monthly report from the Fire Department in several months. Trustee Root asked if we could add cumulative totals for the prior year to the parking meter dock revenue report.

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

- Bill Seggos, Commissioner of DEC, thanking Village for a warm welcome at ribbon cutting ceremony, and Mayor Blais for being a champion for the environment.
- An email from Sheriff Jim LaFarr stating the car show was a success.
- Robert T Cuva, Senior Risk Control Specialist sent an email going over our risk management recommendations, our best report to date.
- Steve Betts, a concerned citizen, sent an email expressing his disgust in the window display at DILLIGAF.
- Mayor Blais also received two emails with well wishes on a positive outcome from the dissolution vote from Tracy M. Clothier, AICP, CEP and Robert Schneider, Mayor,

Village of Stamford

Mayor Blais read the Dissolution Vote Special Election results. 269 No votes to 59 Yes votes. Trustee Root asked Mayor Blais – What's next? Are we looking at Consolidation? He responded that it was a topic at the Town Board meeting, and there was dissention. The Town Board tabled the discussion. Mayor Blais felt that we should give ourselves a little time and maybe look at it again in November. Trustee Root questioned whether there is a need to look at it because of the overwhelming vote results. Mayor Blais suggested a public information meeting to see if it is something the Village wants. The question is whether it is worth the \$30k cost as it is not in the budget, and that there currently is no grant money available to do the study. Mayor suggested that all three possible options would be considered: Annexation, Co-terminus, and consolidation. Trustee Root believes Annexation would be best.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 128, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves the Special Event application for John Carr of the Adirondack Pub & Brewery to have the Adirondack Oktoberfest for Charity 2022 on October 15, 2022. They are also requesting the closing of 100' Sewell Street from 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The approval is contingent upon receipt of all fees, insurance, and other necessary documents.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 128, 2022 ADOPTED. **September 19, 2022**

Clerk McKinney reviewed the proposed resolutions for consideration.

Discussion to move vote on Concealed weapon in Adirondack Park to end of resolution discussion.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 129, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes payment to be processed for the WWTP capital project for EFC payment requests, which may include: Stilsing Electric, R. F. Gordan, Blue Heron, Family Danz, W.W. Grainger, and La Bella Associates, and any other request that comes in prior to the next Village Board meeting. Upon receipt of the transfer of funds from EFC, checks will be issued at the next available payroll/audit.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 129, 2022 ADOPTED. **September 19, 2022**

Mayor motioned, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 130, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves and authorizes Mayor Blais to sign a contract with Mountain Medical/Standard Medical Services to handle the random drug testing of Village employees for the period January 1-December 31, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 130, 2022 ADOPTED. **September 19, 2022**

WWTP Operator Tim Shudt explained improvements and preventive maintenance needed on Shepard Park pump station, and preventive maintenance for WWTP pumps. Shudt explained the streetlights and poles needed.

- Proposal for Professional Services –KSPE- Shepard Park Pump Station and Force main Improvements

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

RESOLUTION NO. 131, 2022

WHEREAS the Shepard Park wet well needs to be brought up to code;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves a proposal in the amount of \$19,5000. from KSPE for Professional Services to prepare a report for Shepard Park Pump Station and Force main Improvements Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes a transfer from A8120.4 Sanitary Sewer System to A1420.4 Engineering to cover this cost.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 131, 2022 ADOPTED. **September 19, 2022**

- Proposal for Preventive Maintenance- Fleet- Shepard Park pumps- annual

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

RESOLUTION NO. 132, 2022

WHEREAS the four Shepard Park Flygt pumps need to be inspected and serviced on an annual basis.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves a proposal for Preventative Maintenance Agreement from Fleet Pump & Service Group in the amount of \$540. annually.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 132, 2022 ADOPTED. **September 19, 2022**

- Proposal for Preventive Maintenance- Fleet- WWTP pumps on a semi-annual basis

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

RESOLUTION NO. 133, 2022

WHEREAS the SBR tank pumps at the WWTP need routine maintenance and service;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves a proposal for Preventative Maintenance Agreement from Fleet Pump & Service Group in the amount of \$2,752.00 for the term of 8/4/22 through 8/3/23.

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

Resolution NO.133, 2022 ADOPTED

September 19, 2022

- Street Light Fixtures and Poles – Thorpe Electric for WWTP

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

RESOLUTION NO. 134, 2022

WHEREAS two more light poles are needed for lighting at the WWTP;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves a proposal from Thorpe Electric Supply Company in the amount of \$10,500. For the purchase of the pole and fixtures with Village staff to do the installation.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 134, 2022 ADOPTED.

September 19, 2022

- Exempt the Adirondack Park as a sensitive area from Bills for Restricted Concealed Carry Weapons
- Discussion on the Concealed Weapon in Adirondack Park: Trustee Root Feels it is too controversial and contradictory as we are independent in The Village of Lake George. Root felt we could opt out like we did for the of selling cannabis because it was not conducive to a family environment.
- Mayor Blais noted he felt it was an oversight by the state when they said park.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 135, 2022

WHEREAS, On July 1st, 2022, The Assembly and Senate of the State of New York voted on new legislation proposed in the Assembly and Senate under bills A41001 and S51001, respectively, which Restrict Concealed Carry Weapons, under a Message of necessity, a 3-day message, which allows for passage of Law without public comment or public hearings, and

WHEREAS, On July 1st, 2022, Governor Hochul signed the Bill into Law, which clearly states that all Parks are sensitive areas, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park is a State Park by Law and is unique in its size at nearly 6 million acres, and with the ownership which is both public and private, and **WHEREAS**, the Residents and property owners of the Adirondack Park, live, work and recreate on both public and private lands in the Adirondack Park, deserve clarity in this law, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has advertised the Public and Private Lands of the Adirondack Park as a destination Park, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has purchased Conservation Easements on over 500,000 acres of Private Lands, these Easements have signs declaring these areas as New York State Department of Conservation areas and open to the public, although they are still private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board is concerned that there will be unintended consequences of not excluding the Adirondack Park specifically in the afore mentioned Law as it will create hardships and possibly felony charges to the roughly 100,000 permit holders that reside in the counties that make up the Adirondack Park, and

WHEREAS, the Law requires that the roughly 100,000 Law abiding Permit holders in our region, attend training, the infrastructure does not exist to train that many permit holders, as is suggested in the afore mentioned Law, and

WHEREAS, the messaging from the Governors office is inconsistent, the Legislation as passed clearly states all Parks are sensitive areas, yet the press release on this legislation posted on the Governors website has no mention of Parks as sensitive areas, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board believes the above referenced issues are only a few of the possible scenarios that the uniqueness of the Adirondack Park could create, further be it

RESOLVED, the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board hereby calls upon Governor Hochul, Temporary President of the Senate Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie to work together to exempt the Adirondack Park as a sensitive area as defined in the afore mentioned Law, and be it also, CLINTON COUNTY | ESSEX COUNTY | FRANKLIN COUNTY | FULTON COUNTY | HAMILTON COUNTY | HERKIMER COUNTY LEWIS COUNTY | ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY | SARATOGA COUNTY | WARREN COUNTY | WASHINGTON COUNTY

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Stewart-Cousins scousins@nysenate.gov, Senate Minority Leader Ortt Ortt@nysenate.gov, Assembly Speaker Heastie Speaker@nyassembly.gov Assembly Minority Leader BarclaW@nyassembly.gov, Senator Griffo griffo@nysenate.gov, Senator Tedisco tedisco@nysenate.gov, Assemblyman Jones jonesb@nyassembly.gov, Assemblyman Simpson SimpsonM@nyassembly.gov, Assemblyman Smullen smullenr@nyassembly.gov, Assemblyman Blankenbush blankenbushk@nyassembly.gov, the Association of Adirondack Towns & Villages.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 135, 2022 ADOPTED

September 19, 2022

Mayor Blais announced that Clerk Debra McKinney has submitted notification that she will be retiring on October 31, 2022, with her last day in the office to be September 30, 2022. She submitted a request for an exception to the Employee Handbook in payout of 20 days of accrued time at 100% versus the 50%. She noted that due to the Office being very busy during the past few months, and with submittal of the petition, she was not able to take much time off prior to retirement and use up her accrued time.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 136, 2022

WHEREAS, The Village off Lake George has been very busy, and Clerk Debra McKinney has not been able to take much time off during the past few months and has accumulated a substantial number of hours of vacation, sick and personal time, using some during the month of October, and is requesting to use an additional 20 days at 100% rate vs the allowable 50% listed in the Employee Handbook;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board waives the Employee Handbook and approves payment of 20 days of sick time at 100% rate to Debra McKinney, with the balance of the sick hours to be paid at the allowable 50%.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 136, 2022 ADOPTED

September 19, 2022

Mayor Blais reviewed the list of appointments for Julie Allen and suggested adding the Office Manager position to the list of annual appointments.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 137, 2022

WHEREAS, Clerk Debra McKinney is retiring effective October 31 with the last day of work to be September 30, 2022;

BE IT RESOLVED, that her replacement, Julie Allen, will be designated with the following appointments and authorizations effective October 1, 2022:

Clerk

Deputy Treasurer

Records Management Officer

Acting Purchasing Agent – with the Procurement Policy, Resolution No. 10, 2022 adopted on April 4, 2022, to be updated, as well

Registrar of Vital Statistics

Village Board Minute Taker

Incident Response Manager

Safety Committee

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following appointment and authorization be added effective October 1, 2022:

Office Manager

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon appointment on October 1, 2022, the new Clerk Julie Allen is authorized, on behalf of the Village of Lake George, and in its name, to sign checks, receipts, wire transfers for the payment or withdrawal of funds deposited in said accounts or deposited to the credit of the Municipality and the Bank is hereby authorized and directed to honor and pay any said checks, receipts, wire transfers or orders for the payment or withdrawal of funds deposited to the credit of the Municipality when so signed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 137, 2022 ADOPTED **September 19, 2022**

The Board agreed to set the Clean Up Days dates as suggested by Superintendent Lanfear.

Motion by Trustee Root, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, to set Fall Clean Up Days for October 28, 2022 through November 13, 2022. Legal ads to be published on October 27 and November 3, 2022.

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

The following training was considered:

- SUNY ACC- Waste Water Treatment Course- Fall Semester 2022 – Andrew Kehlenbeck Mayor Blais questioned if this was to get Kehlenbeck certified as assistant, and Operator Shudt verified that it is the first step in getting the certification completed.
- SAMPO Annual Fall Conference- Albany – Julie Allen

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

RESOLUTION NO. 138, 2022

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

SUNY ACC- Waste Water Treatment Course- Fall Semester 2022 for Andrew Kehlenbeck at a cost of \$800.

SAMPO Annual Fall Conference in Albany on October 5, 2022, at a cost of \$100. for Julie Allen

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

RESOLUTION NO. 138, 2022 ADOPTED **September 19, 2022**

Mayor requested authorization to put out to bid early the following contracts:

Fireworks- 3 years

Farmers Market- 2 years

Carriage rides – 1 year

9-19-22 regular

Fridays at the lake- 1 year

Motion by Mayor Blais, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, to approve the bids being let out.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Blais noted that the Village of Lake George School Tax bill for the Waste Water Treatment Plant was received, and the tax bill has increased over \$99K from last year to this. He presented email from Attorney Fuller, who has discovered that pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law 406(3), the taxing jurisdiction must consent to any sort of tax exemption for municipal property. Mayor Blais agreed to write a letter to the Town, County, and School to see if they will exempt all, or a portion of the taxes for the WWTP. Mayor Blais noted that we will not receive any money back from this bill as the time to dispute has already passed.

Mayor Blais provided information about the American Legion's 100th Anniversary Celebration to be held October 2, 2022. There will a parade at 12:00 p.m., and Dan Stec will be presenting an award to Sgt. Eddie Ryan. There will be a Chicken BBQ from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., a Community Band Concert at 7:00 p.m., and fireworks after. The parade route is the same as the Memorial Day Parade.

Mayor Blais presented information about the Harbor, Lakeview Project. We are being asked by the Town if we would like to share in the cost to continue the study. We had agreed to pay for half of the initial appraisal which is completed. The Village's half for this initial study is \$1,500. The additional soft costs of this study would be another \$20K. At this point, the J1 housing builder (Holts Builders) has not agreed that these properties would even work, we have invited them to come look but they have not. Dan Barusch said at this point they are looking into grants, but the time to receive the money would not be until next year. Mayor Blais suggested holding a joint public information meeting with the Town where we would go over this and the possibility of consolidation to see if there is any interest in either. Mayor Blais asked the Trustees if they were in favor. All said not in favor at this time. Too many unanswered questions, perhaps if we could get the County involved, or grants. Dan Barusch is looking into getting money elsewhere to help pay for the soft costs.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 139, 2022

WHEREAS the Town of Lake George has requested that the Village pay half of the appraisal fee for the Lakeview Motel for the J1 student housing project;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves paying Bauer Appraisal Group a share equaling \$1,500.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 139, 2022 ADOPTED

September 19, 2022

Mayor Blais proposed that the parking meters local law be amended from Seasonal to Year-Round use. Mayor Blais believes the Village of Lake George is losing out on a good deal of revenue. The Board agreed that the amendments could be drafted.

Mayor Blais commented that he has been advised that there is Disability Exemption for Property Tax. A draft law was submitted for the Board to review.

Debra McKinney presented an email from Attorney Fuller stating from a legal/security standpoint, the Village should consider switching all office employees, and trustees over to Digital Towpath "villageoflakegeorge.us" email addresses. Agreed by All.

Mayor Blais asked the Board to consider hiring of a new employee.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 140, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the hiring of Loren Wheeler as a DPW seasonal employee at a rate of \$ 15.00 per hour.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 140, 2022 ADOPTED **September 19, 2022**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 141, 2022

SEPTEMBER 2022 WATER CHANGES

SEPTEMBER PENALTIES **\$1,097.74**

FINAL READS

S Puricelli	#369	\$ 28.53
C. Gordon	#4649	\$ 101.74
H. Manios	#4776	\$ 46.30

NEW METER:

L. Line	\$ 400.00
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The above resulted in the following Journal Entries:

DR F0350 WATER RECEIVABLE	\$1,274.31
CR F2140 WATER METERED	\$ 176.57
CR F2148 WATER PENALTIES	\$1,097.74

DR F2655 SALE OF EQUIPMENT	\$400.00
CR F0350 WATER RECEIVABLE	\$400.00

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

RESOLUTION NO. 141, 2022 ADOPTED **September 19, 2022**

Mayor Blais, seconded by Trustee Root, offered the following resolution:
9-19-22 regular

RESOLUTION NO. 142, 2022

TRANSFERS:

From:		To:		Amount:
F1940.4	Contingency	F1910.4	Insurance	\$6,000.00
A8120.4	Sanitary Sewer	A8120.22	Inventory	\$2,545.00
7/28/2022	General	\$103,104.23		
	Water	<u>\$25,998.95</u>	230255- 230277	36663-36670
		<u>\$129,103.18</u>		
8/11/2022	General	\$68,241.12	230278- 230288 230381- 230384	36672-36679
	Water	<u>\$11,819.45</u>		
		<u>\$80,060.57</u>		
8/15/2022	General	\$147,531.80	230289- 230380 230385- 230386	36680-36741
	Water	<u>\$6,312.30</u>		
		<u>\$153,844.10</u>		
8/16/2022 Special Audit	Sewer Plant Improv(HK)	<u>\$502,346.89</u>	230387	36742
		<u>\$502,346.89</u>		

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

RESOLUTION NO. 142, 2022 ADOPTED

September 19, 2022

Mayor Blais asked if there were any comments or issues the Trustees would like address.

Trustee Root offered congratulations on outcome of the special election. He commented that he feels that annexation would be the ultimate answer.

Trustee Mastrodomenico brought to light this was the last meeting for Debra McKinney and offered her congratulations on her retirement.

Trustee Perry also offered congratulations to Clerk McKinney and stated she will be missed.

There was a motion by Mayor Blais, seconded by Trustee Perry to adjourn at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie K. Allen
Minute Taker