

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held at the Village Administration Building on Monday, December 30, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert M. Blais, Mayor
John Earl, Deputy Mayor
Joseph Mastrodomenico, Jr., Trustee (arrived at 5:04 p.m.)
Ray Perry, Trustee
John Root, Trustee

Also present: Clerk Debra McKinney, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, Patricia Dow, Luke Dow, and Journalists Michael Goot and Thom Randall

At 5:00 p.m. Mayor Blais opened the Regular Meeting, and asked for a moment of silence in honor of the passing of longtime residents Caryl Clark and Les Edwards.

Mayor Blais began and noted that the first year the Americade Block Party was held on Canada Street and last year it was held on Beach Road. There were some complaints at both locations, mostly businesses that were blocked off so that there was not good access. Christian Dutcher had planned to attend tonight, but due to the inclement weather, he did not come. He is requesting approval to have the block party on Beach Road in the same location as last year.

Patricia and Luke Dow were both in attendance on behalf of the Lake George Steamboat Company. Patricia explained that the block party on Beach Road last year had quite a few implications as far as their business. Staff and patrons were not allowed to pass the road blocks to get to parking and their boats. She gave a detailed accounting for the hundreds of customers that were affected by the block party. She also commented that they chose not to take some charters because of the block party. She explained how the block party disrupted their business. She said she not necessarily requesting that it not be done, but would like to be involved in the planning. She made several suggestions.

Mayor Blais reported that he was aware of some of the problems and noted that if it impacts businesses adversely, we need to make some changes. Mr. Dutcher was aware of some of the problems as well.

Luke Dow made a recommendation to move the block party further south down past Shepard Park on Canada Street. Mayor Blais noted that the Post Office is in that section of the street, and that cannot be blocked.

Mayor Blais pointed out two different locations where it might work. The first was on Beach Road in the block between West Brook to the east in front of Battlefield Park. There are no businesses there. The second being at the top of the hill on Canada Street by the Lobster Pot. The Fort William Henry is there, and that is Americade's headquarters.

Trustee Root asked about the Festival Commons. Mayor Blais replied that Americade already rents that out, as well as uses the Beach Road Parking Lot. Mayor Blais agreed to continue this discussion with both Mr. Dutcher and the Dows at the next Village Board meeting scheduled for January 13.

Sasha Pardy of the Adirondack Winery submitted a request for an outdoor display. She wants to place a custom carved bear in front of the business at 285 Canada Street. She submitted a photo of the proposed carving. The bear would be placed on Village property in the section in front of her store. Mayor Blais noted that there are Adirondack chairs, barrel

planters, and an "A" frame sign already there on Village property. He pointed out that the Adirondack Brew Pub and Duffy's both have licenses to encroach. They both pay \$500. a year for theirs. Trustee Perry remarked that he doesn't have a problem with it. Trustee Root referred to the rendering and noted that the bear has a glass and a bottle in its paws. Would there be business names listed there? If so, that is a form of signage. Mayor Blais asked Superintendent Lanfear about leaving the items there during the winter. Keith replied that it shouldn't cause a problem. Mayor Blais remarked that if the Board wants to approve it, they need to come up with a fee.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 192, 2019

WHEREAS Sasha Pardy has submitted a request and rendition to place a carved bear in front of her business, the Adirondack Winery located at 285 Canada Street; and

WHEREAS any of these items in front of her store would actually be placed on Village property and need Village Board approval;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George approves the carved bear as presented in the drawing, as well as the barrel planter can remain. The Adirondack chairs must be removed. The bear must not have any printing, logos, or labeling of any kind. The encroachment fee will be \$150. per year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board authorizes Mayor Blais to sign an agreement for a term of five years to this effect.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 192, 2019 ADOPTED December 30, 2019

Mayor Blais reported that it is time to renew the agreement for the shared position of the Planning and Zoning Administrator Dan Barusch. He advised that he has been working with Town officials in regards to sharing the services of the Code Enforcement Officer, Doug Frost, as well. They have drafted agreements for each. The proposal is for Code Enforcement to put fully on the Town's payroll and health insurance policy, and this would be effective June 1, 2020. There would be a cost savings to the Village even with the proposed \$14,000. for 2020 services; and \$24,236. for 2021. The caveat is that when Doug Frost retires, because of his years of service with the Village, he would be allowed to come back on the Village's health insurance and pay for his coverage less the Village's stipend as laid out in the handbook.

The Intermunicipal Agreement proposed for the Director of Planning & Zoning position includes a \$5,000. pay increase for adding grant writing to the services. There was a question as to how many grants would he be willing to complete. As detailed in the addendum this would include a minimum of two grant applications. Mr. Barusch would continue to administer and oversee all Village planning and zoning matters as well as the Code Enforcement Officer, while the secretarial duties, files and records would remain at the Village Office. The administrator would continue to attend Village Planning & Zoning meetings. Mayor Blais noted that he is not sure how many grants the Village will want to apply for with our main focus being construction of the new WWTP at this time. He noted that Dan has done a good job, and he likes the idea of the Town handling the Code

Enforcement. Trustee Root noted that there has been some success with the grants that Mr. Barusch has done for the Town. Also, there was a note that if both agreements are approved, then they will add inspection of the properties that handle the J1 students. Mayor Blais noted that he may be able to get some funding from the Student Connection in that case.

Since there was some confusion as to the number of grant applications included in the price, Trustee Root made, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, to table the agreements until the January 13th meeting.

Trustee Perry clarified that there is a note that says if time permits, another grant could be written along with the two application minimum.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 193, 2019

WHEREAS there is currently an agreement with the Town of Lake George for the shared services of the Planning & Zoning Administrator Dan Barusch, which began on January 1, 2018, and;

WHEREAS the Village Board would like to continue the agreement for the calendar year 2020;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George would like to continue the shared services for the Planning & Zoning Administrator and agrees to pay the Town a fee of \$24,551, which is inclusive of NYS taxes and retirement costs, and will be due by July 1, 2020. The fee includes an additional \$5,000. For grant writing services as described in Addendum 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board authorizes Mayor Blais to sign the Shared Services agreement.

WHEREAS the Town of Lake George has offered shared services for the position of Code Enforcement, currently occupied by Douglas Frost, for the years of 2020 and 2021 with evaluation at the end of each year;

WHEREAS the employee would be covered by the Town's health insurance and be fully on the Town's payroll;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George would like to share the services of the Code Enforcement Officer and agrees to pay the Town a fee of \$14,000 due in July 2020 for services beginning on June 1, 2020; and for the 2021 calendar year a fee of \$24,236 payable July 2021. This agreement will be reevaluated at the end of 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustee of the Village of Lake George agree to allow the current Code Enforcement Officer Douglas Frost, upon his retirement, to come back on the Village's health insurance. His share of the cost of the coverage will be based on his years of services, currently at 26 years, as per the Village Handbook Section K(3) and will waive the employee's requirement for continuous coverage in order to receive the vested rights.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 193, 2019 ADOPTED **December 30, 2019**

Mayor Blais asked the Board to consider water use fees for a company that may potentially want to contract to use the Festival Commons next year 2021 for a period of four months during the wintertime. The County is considering a separate fee schedule for winter use. The Company would have a large water use and based on charges by other venues, was wondering if there could be a reduced fee based on the use during the winter months. The usage would probably be about three times what the Holiday Inn normally uses. Mayor Blais noted that there would be adequate water supply from the hydrant, and he reviewed our current charges. He also mentioned that there would be supply and labor costs associated with keeping the rest rooms open during a time when they would normally be closed. Mayor Blais suggested a Festive Space winter rate water use fee of \$2.15 per 1,000 gallons. He noted that this event could draw a lot of people at a normally slow time of year.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 194, 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George hereby sets a special discounted water rate of \$2.15 per 1,000 gallons of water used specifically for the potential Festival Space 2021 Winter Wonderland attraction pending further contract negotiations.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 194, 2019 ADOPTED. **December 30, 2019**

Mayor Blais recommended adding Alex Lombard to the 2020 Joint Occupancy Tax Committee.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 195, 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George hereby authorizes the appointment of the following to the 2020 Joint Occupancy Tax Committee: Mayor Blais, Trustee Root, John Strong, Carollee LaBruzzo, Alex Lombard, Amanda Metzger, and Dave Mentor along with Supervisor Dennis Dickinson and Councilman Vinnie Crochitto.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 195, 2019 ADOPTED. **December 30, 2019**

Mayor Blais received notification that we were not successful on the New York State Department of State 2019 Consolidated Funding Application in requesting funding for the

installation of a Fire Tower on the south parcel of the Wood Park. He recommended that we pass on the Fire Tower, and the Board agreed.

Mayor Blais presented the registration form for the 2020 Saratoga County Planning & Zoning Conference scheduled for February 5, 2020 at the Saratoga Springs City Center at a cost of \$70.00 each.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 196, 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves Village staff and board members to attend the 2020 Saratoga County Planning & Zoning Conference scheduled for February 5, 2020 at the Saratoga Springs City Center at a cost of \$70.00 each.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 196, 2019 ADOPTED. December 30, 2019

An amendment to the Intermunicipal Agreement with Warren County dated August 31, 2018 for the cost sharing, reimbursement, maintenance and supervision of the Wood Park has been submitted by the County. The revision adds the allowance of expenses related to repairs of the security system.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 197, 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby authorizes Mayor Blais to sign a revision to the Intermunicipal Agreement titled “Cost Sharing, Reimbursement, Maintenance, and Supervision for the Charles R. Wood Park” dated August 31, 2018 with Warren County so that the Village can be reimbursed for the expenses related to repairs of the security system.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 197, 2019 ADOPTED. December 30, 2019

Mayor Blais asked for any other business. Trustee Root noted that he read Mayor Blais' newsletter and agrees with the Car Show comments.

Mayor Blais thanked the Board for their service and the members of the press for their work with the Village. He also went on say that the Village was very busy this past weekend, and he proposed an event for after Christmas next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB
Village Clerk
12-30-19 special