

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held at the Village Administration Building on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joseph Mastrodomenico, Jr., Trustee

Also Present: Deb McKinney (Clerk), Danae Bock (Treasurer), Superintendent David Harrington, Thom Randall (Journalist), Fran Coccozza – Lake George High School Principal, Caldwell Presbyterian Church Pastor Ali Trowbridge, Supervisor Dennis Dickinson, Kathie Erceg (Joint Youth Commission) and Haley Pogonowski (Teen Center Director).

At 9:00 a.m. Mayor Blais opened the Special Meeting and commented that the Village has put \$6,853. in next year's budget to help fund the Teen Center. The Town has contributed the same amount. He introduced School Principal Fran Coccozza and asked for brief explanation about the Center. Mr. Coccozza noted that the Teen Center has a seven member coordination team. The Town of Lake George has allowed them to use the Senior Center, which they use two days a week with a third day being offered through the Caldwell Library or the Hillside Library. The program is open to students in seventh through twelfth grades, and they have 10 to 20 students per session. The program was operated by volunteers last year, but they have now hired Haley Pogonowski as the Director. Last year the Lake George Steamboat Company did a cruise fundraiser for them and raised over \$6,000. The program is being operated in cooperation with the Caldwell Presbyterian Church, who handles the finances for them. He went on to say that they are looking for an "umbrella" organization, possibly the Joint Youth Commission or the Student Connection. They are hoping to be able to sustain their operations in the future.

Mayor Blais recommended that a more permanent solution would be to put the Center under the auspices of the Joint Youth Commission to be funded in the Town wide taxes and that would be most fair to the tax payers. He commented that the Student Connection Committee has applied for 501c3 status, but they have not had any discussions about the Teen Center or taking on the responsibility for it.

Trustee Perry inquired as to whether the organization has approached the Knights or Rotary for possible funding. Mr. Coccozza replied that the Rotary has given them a donation, and that is a good idea to contact the Knights. He noted that the ceiling for the organization now is really the funds, and they are always looking for all sorts of revenues.

Trustee Earl wanted to confirm where the Town's portion of the funds were paid from so as the Village taxpayers didn't pay twice. It was confirmed that it was taken from the B fund, which is Town wide, and does not include the Village. Supervisor Dickinson confirmed that the Town also bills the Town of Queensbury for a payment towards the Youth Commission.

Kathie Erceg pointed out that the Youth Commission requires registration and waivers by anyone that participates.

Trustee Root inquired as to whether the cruise fundraiser would be an annual event. It was noted that they are not sure if it will be offered again or not, but it was a sold out event!

Mayor Blais commented that some nonprofits have been allowed to have fund raisers at the Village's Fridays at the Lake. He offered to allow them to set up some dates with him on that. Supervisor Dickinson, Kathie Erceg, and Mayor Blais agreed to meet for further discussion about the Joint Youth Commission overseeing the Teen Center responsibilities.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 245, 2018**

**WHEREAS the Village Board has agreed to support the Teen Center this year, and has allocated \$6,853. in funds in its 2018/2019 budget,**

**SO BE IT RESOLVED that there will be a one-time payment no later than September 21, 2018 upon submission of required voucher with the understanding that continued support will be based on an evaluation of the program in January 2019 and that the funding and oversight will come from the Joint Youth Commission.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 4      Blais, Earl, Perry, Root  
                 Nays: 0  
                 Absent: 1      Mastrodomenico**

**RESOLUTION NO. 245, 2018 ADOPTED                      March 13, 2018**

Mayor Blais noted that he has requested an amended agreement to cover the prorated payment schedule for the shared service of the Director of Planning and Zoning position for the 2018 calendar year. He noted that Mr. Barusch has agreed to continue to administer and oversee Planning and Zoning including attending the meetings. The revised agreement will be available for consideration at the Regular Village Board meeting on Monday, March 19, 2018.

Mayor Blais reiterated that the Chamber is willing to staff the Visitor Center Info Booth, but does not want to reimburse \$5,000 annually towards the utility costs as originally agreed. Mayor Blais has been in contact with Warren County Tourism, and is awaiting a decision from them as to whether they would be interested in taking over the staffing. Warren County already contributes \$25,000. Towards operation of the Visitor Center. Due to increased security at the Municipal Center, the Tourism department does not have a good outlet for their promotional brochures. The Visitor Center may be a good fit for them. If they decide not to, it may be a possibility to bid out use of the Visitor Center to other local businesses. Trustee Root noted that allowing a business in the Visitor Center will change the way it is used. A business will have a priority for sale of their tickets and advertising.

Mayor Blais reported that the bids for the Shepard Park Restroom Improvement Project were opened yesterday. One bid from A.J. Catalfamo Construction in the amount of \$202,100. was received. Superintendent Harrington noted that this is considerable above our budget, and he is recommending that the Board reject the bid and rebid. He has been in contact with Saratoga Associates, who prepared the bid specs, and they could revisit the scope of the work and the materials list. They talked to the bidder and other potential bidders to try and find out why we only got one bid. One problem was on the day of the walk through, there was a snow storm, which may have deterred some contractors. Another commented that the cost of just the plumbing portion of the bid was about \$70,000., so some changes to the toilets and some of the plumbing layout could be made. Also, some suggestions were made on changing the electrical materials. A couple of contractors that he spoke to told him that spring is the best time for them to do the work, so he would like to recommend reviewing the bid specs and putting it right back out to bid with a substantial completion date of June 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 246, 2018**

**WHEREAS the Shepard Park Restroom Improvement Project received one bid in the amount of \$202,100. from A.J. Catalfamo Construction Inc**

**AND WHEREAS the bid amount is considerably more than the budgeted amount**

**SO BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George hereby reject the bid and notify the vendor.**

**AND BE IT RESOLVED that the specifications be reviewed, so the project can be redesigned and the specs be revised so as to lower the cost and go out to bid on the project again.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 4      Blais, Earl, Perry, Root  
                 Nays: 0  
                 Absent: 1      Mastrodomenico**

**RESOLUTION NO. 246, 2018 ADOPTED                      March 13, 2018**

Mayor Blais pointed out that the Teen Center was added to the tentative budget, and the revenue from the Visitor Center was removed. The revenues for the Sales tax and occupancy tax were increased slightly because they have been running higher than anticipated. The bottom line is a tax rate of \$5.99 per \$1,000 per assessed valuation. Trustee Root made a motion, seconded by Trustee Earl, unanimously carried to set and advertise the Public Hearings on the budgets for Monday, April 2, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Blais noted that he has a few more volunteers to help with Fridays at the Lake this year.

Mayor Blais reported that there seems to be a problem with the sidewalks being cleared at the Gateway Project. He has notified Town officials.

There was a motion by Trustee Perry to adjourn at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
Village Clerk