

Minutes of the Special Meeting and Budget Hearings of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 6:42 p.m. This meeting began immediately following the completion of the Annual Organizational Meeting. This meeting was held during the COVID-19 virus outbreak and public attendance was prohibited. The public was allowed access via teleconferencing which was publicized on the Village's web site and Facebook page.

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

Also present were: Clerk Debra McKinney, Treasurer Danae Bock, Superintendent Keith Lanfear, Tony Hall – Lake George Mirror, Michael Goot – Post Star, Thom Randall – the Sun, Robb Hickey, and Scott McFarland.

At 6:42 p.m. Mayor Blais opened the following Public Hearings for the proposed Village budgets to run concurrently:

- General Fund budget for June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021
- Water Fund budget for June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021
- Special Assessment District budget for June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021 - Lakefront Walk Way district in which the individuals who own property in that particular area are under contract to pay for this portion that was built several years ago.

Mayor Blais began by reviewing the General Fund budget, and noted that anyone that would like a copy could just let us know, and we can email or mail it to them. He explained that the amount to be raised in taxes for the General Fund budget is \$1,483,377. to support a total budget of \$5,423,321. The Village is anticipating a substantial amount of revenues coming from other sources. The tax rate will increase .14 from \$6.29 last year to \$6.43 per \$1,000. of assessed valuation for the upcoming year. The average homeowner would be faced with an increase of approximately \$35. per year. The increase in the amount to be raised by taxes in the new budget is \$41,320. He went on to say that because of virus crisis, we have decreased the revenues by approximately \$56,000., and we're pretty certain we will see decreased revenues. The largest debt will be the new Waste Water Treatment Plant which will increase our debt to \$622,503., which will be the largest single increase in the budget. This debt will be bonded for 30 years. Fortunately we have gotten a little over \$17M in debt funding, and the County is supporting the Plant in the amount of \$75,000. each year for ten years. The largest increase in the budget expenditures is the health insurance cost. Pay stations will continue to be installed, as well as new antique lamp posts in the north end of the Village. Employees will receive a \$.25 per hour increase, with no increase for elected officials. Mayor Blais continued and noted that these figures are probably speculative depending on the outcome of the virus outbreak, specifically if some of the Special Events, such as Americade get cancelled. If revenues are less than expected, unnecessary services, such as concerts in Shepard Park, fireworks, hours at the Visitor Center, Second Chance Program, and support for Village organizations will have to be cut so that necessary services such as fire, water and sewer can remain.

Mayor Blais noted that thanks to our partners, such as the State of New York, Warren County, North Country Alliance, and continued services with the Town of Lake George, we were able to hold the budget increase to .14

Mayor Blais reported that due to the virus outbreak, the April Board meetings have been cancelled, unless in case of an emergency.

Mayor Blais asked for any additional comments on the Proposed Budgets. Trustee Root asked if he had any information about assistance for local governments from the Federal level. Mayor Blais noted that he is aware of a couple of programs, but hasn't heard anything definite. He has asked Dan Barusch and Sean Doty from Chazen to look for any possibilities.

Mayor Blais confirmed that Village employees are being paid at the present time during the crisis and hope to continue to pay them.

Thom Randall asked for a confirmation of the budget figures. Mayor Blais confirmed that the estimated revenues are \$3,439,944. with \$500,000. coming from the unexpended balances. Tony Hall asked about the anticipated loss of revenues. Mayor Blais pointed out that the largest decline could be in parking revenues which are anticipated at \$800,000. The revenues were reduced from the prior tentative budget because of the virus outbreak. He reviewed the water budget as well, and noted that there will be no increase in water fees.

Mayor Blais noted that the Public Hearings will now remain open.

Mayor Blais presented the minutes from a Regular Meeting held on March 16, 2020. Trustee Root made a motion, seconded by Trustee Perry, unanimously approved by the Board to approve the minutes of March 16, 2020.

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

**MOTION PASSED**

The following correspondence was reviewed:

- Cindy Sherwood from Glens Falls Hospital sent a thank you for the Village's support. Operator Shudt had delivered a few face masks to the hospital.
- NYS Comptroller Report of Fiscal Stress Scores. Mayor Blais noted that in both categories of Fiscal Stress and Environmental Stress, the Village is designated as "No Designation". He reported that the Village remains in good financial condition.

Mayor Blais reported that Climate Smart Communities has awarded the Village with the Bronze Level Certification for 2020. He commented that the Town has also received this certification. This has been a result of the work by the Go Green Committee.

Clerk Deb McKinney read the following resolutions for the Board's consideration:

- WWTP Construction Change Order No. 1 for Integrated Control Systems Proposal for SCADA system PLC addition – to add a PLC to the existing CP enclosures in the Septage Receiving building at an additional cost of \$11,450.  
Proposal for SCADA system redundancy update for WWTP at an additional cost of \$23,750.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 15, 2020**

4-6-2020



These funds are to be put towards the debt service for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17, 2020**

**WHEREAS, Warren County currently receives a share of the parking revenues from the Beach Road Parking Lot and there is a contract to that effect; and**

**WHEREAS, Warren County has agreed to support the Village's construction of the new WWTP in the amount of \$75,000. per year over the next ten years beginning in 2021.**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that in consideration of services provided by the Village for the years 2021 through 2030, the Village shall retain the County's share of the proceeds in an amount not to exceed Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.) annually through the end of the year 2030.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village does hereby authorize Mayor Blais to sign an intermunicipal agreement with Warren County to that effect.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 17, 2020 ADOPTED.**

**April 6, 2020**

- Year End Purchases & transfers  
Deb McKinney reported that there are several items that we need that could be purchased out of this year's budget with some appropriate transfers.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 18, 2020**

**WHEREAS, there are funds available in the 2019-2020 budget to make some additional purchases;**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village approves the following purchases and transfers:**

Additional Purchases from 2019/2020 Budget	Cost	Account	From:	
Firehouse boiler	\$ 7,400.00	A.1620.22	A.1620.4	\$ 7,400.00
DPW Computer	\$ 1,400.00	A.1640.22	A.5110.1	\$ 1,400.00

Trash Cans Qty 12-16 @ \$878 each	\$ 12,000.00	A.5110.22	A5110.1	\$12,000.00
Ford F150 pickup truck w/light	\$ 29,000.00	A.5110.22	A.5650.41	\$29,000.00
REC Center furnace	\$ 2,850.00	A.7020.22	A.1320.4	\$ 2,850.00
WTP 3 Actuators & valves installed	\$ 25,000.00	F.8320.22		\$ 2,000.00
			F.1420.4	\$ 2,000.00
			F.8310.4	\$ 8,000.00
			F.8340.4	\$10,000.00
			F.8350.4	\$ 3,000.00

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 18, 2020 ADOPTED.**

**April 6, 2020**

- Vested Rights – Health Insurance  
When the handbook was updated on March 9, 2020 for these health insurance vested rights, it was noted that previously there was criteria that “the employee must have continually been on the Village of Lake George health insurance plan.” It was recommended that that caveat be added to the recent revision.

Trustee Root asked for an explanation on this, and mentioned his specific instance in regards to the fact that he was off the health insurance for a brief period when he was not a trustee for a period of time. He was wondering how that would affect his vested coverage. There were other board members that commented that they, too, were not on the health insurance for all of their years of service. Clerk Deb McKinney suggested that in those cases, the Board would make the decision on whether the retiree would be eligible. It was suggested that it will be a Board decision if anyone wanting to take the vested benefit doesn't fit the exact criteria.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 19, 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves the handbook changes underlined as follows with an effective date of June 1, 2020:**

**Section V Benefits**

**K. Vested Rights for Retiree's Health Insurance**

1. Any employee hired prior to January 20, 1988, in order to be eligible for vested rights, must:
  - (a) Have completed twenty (20) years of service and retired through the New York State Retirement System, or
  - (b) Have completed ten (10) years of service, attained the age of fifty-five (55), and retired from the NYS Retirement System.
  - (c) Vested rights pertaining to health and dental insurance premiums will be

deemed according to the eligibility as listed above in Section J for the individual and his or her dependents, if claimed on employee's Federal Income Tax forms, for those hired prior to January 20, 1988. The retired employee or elected official only is eligible for Social Security Medicare Part B reimbursement on a quarterly basis. Effective June 1, 2018, the reimbursement rate shall be a fixed \$125. per month per eligible employee. (2/12/18)

2. For any employee hired after January 20, 1988 or official elected after January 20, 1988 and before January 1, 2017 with ten years of service or more, be at least 55 years of age when leaving the Village, and retire from the NYS Retirement System, **and must have continually been on the Village of Lake George health insurance plan.** they can elect to remain in the Village health insurance plan and pay 100% of the cost or be offered COBRA in accordance with federal law. There will be no dental or drug coverage offered. Costs associated with the coverage must be paid at least 30 days in advance of the due date. The Village reserves the right to cancel anyone who fails to make the payment in accordance with the above provisions.
3. Effective June 1, 2020 for any employee hired after January 20, 1988 or official elected after January 20, 1988 and before January 1, 2017 with fifteen to nineteen years of service or more, be at least 55 years of age when leaving the Village, and retire from the NYS Retirement System, **and must have continually been on the Village of Lake George health insurance plan.** they can elect to remain in the Village health insurance plan and pay 50% of the cost for the retiree and/or spouse (single or two-person coverage) or be offered COBRA in accordance with federal law. If the retiree needs the "family" coverage, they must pay 100% of the difference between the cost of two-person and family coverage. There will be no dental or drug coverage offered. Costs associated with the coverage must be paid at least 30 days in advance of the due date. The Village reserves the right to cancel anyone who fails to make the payment in accordance with the above provisions.
4. Effective June 1, 2020 for any employee hired after January 20, 1988 or official elected after January 20, 1988 and before January 1, 2017 with twenty years of service or more, be at least 55 years of age when leaving the Village, and retire from the NYS Retirement System, **and must have continually been on the Village of Lake George health insurance plan.** they can elect to remain in the Village health insurance plan and pay the same percentage of the cost as when they were an active employee for the retiree and/or spouse, (single or two-person coverage) or be offered COBRA in accordance with federal law. If the retiree needs the "family" coverage, they must pay 100% of the difference between the cost of two-person and family coverage. There will be no dental or drug coverage offered. Costs associated with the coverage must be paid at least 30 days in advance of the due date. The Village reserves the right to cancel anyone who fails to make the payment in accordance with the above provisions.

**It would be at the Village Board's discretion In any case where the Employee/official would like to take the vested benefit but may not meet all of the criteria exactly as stated.**

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

4-6-2020

Nays: 0

**RESOLUTION NO. 19, 2020 ADOPTED.**

**April 6, 2020**

- **Water Relevy**

Due to the fact that there are no more Board meetings scheduled for April, and the water relevy will need to be sent to the County, Ms. McKinney asked the Board to preapprove the water relevy process prior to receiving the actual figures. She noted that she will email the figures to them and requested that they respond for the record.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 20, 2020**

**WHEREAS, in light of the recent virus outbreak, the Village Board will not be having a Regular Meeting in April, but the Village customers' unpaid water rents need to be relayed on to the June 2020 tax roll,**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY hereby authorizes Treasurer Danae Bock to relay the unpaid water rents of Village customers onto the June 2020 tax roll in an amount to be determined at a later date, which will include penalties plus a \$25.00 relay charge per parcel.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board will be notified of the total amount and will complete the authorization via an email approval.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 20, 2020 ADOPTED.**

**April 6, 2020**

- **Transfers & Audits for April 20, 2020 pay date.**

Ms. McKinney reported that she would like to keep the regular schedule and pay bills and complete transfers on the third Monday of the month. Due to the fact that there will not be a regular meeting, she asked the Board to preapprove the transfers and audits prior to receiving the actual figures. She noted that she will email the figures to them and requested that they respond for the record.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 21, 2020**

**WHEREAS, in light of the recent virus outbreak, the Village Board will not be having a Regular Meeting in April, but the Village needs to make transfers and audits for the regular audit date of April 20, 2020,**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY hereby authorizes Treasurer Danae Bock to pay the monthly bills and make the necessary transfers.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board will be notified of the exact transfers and audits and will complete the authorization via an email approval.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 21, 2020 ADOPTED.                      April 6, 2020**

- Fire Department Officers  
The Fire Department will not be holding their annual elections on April 7<sup>th</sup>, so Mayor Blais sent them notice that they are to hold over their current officers until an election can be held.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 22, 2020**

**WHEREAS, in light of the recent virus outbreak in which public meetings have been banned, and the Fire Department will not be able to hold their annual election which was scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2020;**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Blais will officially postpone the Fire Department's election indefinitely until the restriction is lifted by Governor Cuomo; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the present line officers will continue in their current positions until such time that an election can be held.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 22, 2020 ADOPTED.                      April 6, 2020**

Mayor Blais presented a Facility Use Application for use of the public docks by Ed Becker for the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake George Rendezvous on August 28 & 29, 2020.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 23, 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves a Special Event Application for use of the Village docks by Ed Becker on behalf of the Antique and Classic Boat Society Adirondack Chapter to hold the 47<sup>th</sup> Lake George Rendezvous Antique & Classic Boat Society Show on August 28 and 29, 2020 contingent upon receipt of all fees, insurance and other necessary documents;**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 23, 2020 ADOPTED.      April 6, 2020**

Mayor Blais asked for approval of the proposed 2020-2021 employees' salaries.

Trustee Root made a motion, seconded by Trustee Earl, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 24, 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby approves the proposed 2020-2021 employees' salaries.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 24, 2020 ADOPTED.      April 6, 2020**

Mayor Blais reported that Sasha Pardy has requested that in light of the virus crisis the vendor fees for the Adirondack Wine Festival scheduled for the third week in June be waived. She would also like the County to waive or reduce some fees. Mayor Blais reported that we probably collect about \$40,000 annually with these different miscellaneous fees. He noted that if we waive fees for one organizer, we probably should waive them for all of the organizers/vendors. Mayor Blais noted that the ESTRRA Tow Truck show has been cancelled. The Village's fee for each transient vendor is \$50. per year. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to decline the request.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 25, 2020**

**WHEREAS, in light of the recent virus outbreak, overall Village revenues may possibly be lower than anticipated in next year's budget.**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby denies the request by Sasha Pardy to waive the transient vendor fees for the Adirondack Wine Festival in June, 2020.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 25, 2020 ADOPTED.      April 6, 2020**

Mayor Blais reported that he recently met with Adirondack Nationals Car Show organizers. They were looking to explore the possibility to shut the block down from McGillis Avenue to Mohican Street. He went on to say that they, like us, get many complaints about the burn outs that go on after their cruise. They have suggested that maybe the Village's stage could be set up and a band could be scheduled. They are thinking it would help to stop the dangerous activity. Mayor Blais noted that maybe it could be a block party or maybe the street in that area could just be blocked off. The Car Show organizers are willing to contribute some funds to the cost to do this. The Board discussed several different options and the ramifications of doing this, along with the safety issues. Mayor Blais commented that it is important for the organizers to find out about this now so that they can let their participants know if they are changing their schedule, etc.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 26, 2020**

**WHEREAS the Adirondack Nationals Car Show annually brings large crowds to the Village creating much stress on the safety of pedestrians and attendees due to unruly and reckless behavior by non-registered attendees; and**

**WHEREAS, this behavior occurs in predominately one area of the Village; and**

**WHEREAS, we believe such behavior is detrimental to the image of our community and the promoters of this great special event,**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George hereby agrees to cooperate with the Adirondack Nationals Committee in holding a block party on Saturday evening of the Car Show event, September 12, 2020 creating a “safe zone” in the area heretofore mentioned as the site of reckless and unsafe behavior.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 26, 2020 ADOPTED.                   April 6, 2020**

Mayor Blais requested that the Board consider approval of a resolution to be sent to the County as strictly an advisory and ask that they consider elimination of the traveling public from local accommodations, unless the guests are associated with the health care industry or working in connection with the virus. There is a lot of concern with the influx of visitors with the spread of the virus, and that our health care facilities will be overwhelmed. He noted that several communities have shut down their accommodations already. Mayor Blais suggested that the hotels stop renting rooms until the Governor lifts the non-essential business order. It would be a good way to isolate health care professions as many of them are staying away from their homes. Mayor Blais noted that enforcement could come from the local department, as well as the Sheriff's Department and possibly the County if we need assistance. Mayor Blais noted that he will talk to the Task Force about this on Wednesday when he meets with them. The Board was in agreement and noted that it sends the right signal.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 27, 2020**

**WHEREAS the entire nation has been affected by the COVID-19 virus and in particular the New York City metropolitan area and New Jersey; and**

**WHEREAS, this area represents a substantial portion of our annual visitors; and**

**WHEREAS, we have seen an influx of visitors from that area affected by the virus and seeking refuge in our resort area; and**

**WHEREAS, their presence in Warren County will increase our population, our risk of exposure and place a burden on our limited health facilities.**



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

**RESOLUTION NO. 29, 2020 ADOPTED.                      April 6, 2020**

Motion by Trustee Perry seconded by Trustee Earl to adopt the proposed 2020-2021 Special Assessment District Fund budget:

**RESOLUTION NO. 30, 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George, NY, hereby establishes the Special Assessment District Fund for the purpose of collecting taxes from the property owners in the Special Assessment District, and for making payments on the principal and interest on the bond for the Special Assessment District improvements, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board adopts the following budget for the Special Assessment District Fund for the fiscal year June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 as follows:**

<b>Special Assessment District Fund Appropriations</b>	<b>\$29,130.</b>
<b>Less Special Assessment District Fund Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,884.</u></b>
<b>Amount to be raised by taxes</b>	<b>\$26,246.</b>

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 30, 2020 ADOPTED.                      April 6, 2020**

Mayor Blais asked for any other business.

- Trustee Perry made a suggestion for verbiage on the LED signs.
- Trustee Earl asked about, and it was confirmed that the Special Meeting scheduled for April 9, 2020 has been cancelled.
- Trustee Root commended and thanked Mayor Blais for his leadership and all that he has done during these unprecedented times. He commented that he is glad that Mayor Blais is at the helm. Mayor Blais thanked him and said that the rules are coming down every day, and there are changes all the time. He said he feels that Governor Cuomo and Ryan Moore and the Chairman of the Board at the County deserve a tremendous amount of credit.
- Superintendent Lanfear reported that he has prepared the Annual MS4 report. He plans to have it posted on the web page on Thursday, April 9. After which, Mayor Blais can sign it, and it can be submitted to NYS DEC. Stormwater activities throughout the year from March of 2019 are accounted for in this report.

Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Earl, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 31, 2020**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual MS4 report will be accepted upon its posting to the Village website and review by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Blais is authorized to sign the Report for submittal to New York State DEC.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 31, 2020 ADOPTED.                      April 6, 2020**

- Superintendent Lanfear reported that employees are out doing spring clean up and other spring duties. Mayor Blais reported that the Town of Bolton had to close their park and not allow access to their benches. He recommended that the Village's benches not be put out at this time.

Mayor Blais noted that if the press has any questions, they can contact any member of the Board after the meeting.

There was a motion by Trustee Perry to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB  
Village Clerk  
Purchasing Agent