

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, May 6, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Earl, Deputy Mayor  
Joseph Mastrodomenico, Trustee  
John Root, Trustee  
Ray Perry, Trustee (arrived at 8:37 a.m.)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert M. Blais, Mayor

Others present: Clerk Deb McKinney, Superintendent Dave Harrington, and Thom Randall (Journalist).

At 8:35 a.m., Deputy Mayor Earl called the Special Meeting to order, and asked Superintendent Harrington to give an explanation about the Northern Border Regional Commission funding. Mr. Harrington explained that this is an opportunity to apply for \$500,000. in federal, grant money for the WWTP Improvement Project.

Based on Superintendent Harrington's recommendation Trustee Mastrodomenico, seconded by Trustee Root, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 38, 2019**

**VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING  
FROM THE NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION  
STATE ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS, Congress established the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) in 2008, NBRC is a partnership between the federal government and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont;**

**WHEREAS, NBRC is accepting grant applications up to \$500,000 through its State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program for infrastructure projects categorized as transportation, public, telecommunications, renewal and alternative energy;**

**WHEREAS, NBRC is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress in its service area to designate eligible counties and determine the percent match that is required for NBRC funded projects, Warren County is identified as "Distressed"; therefore, eligible for 80% funding requiring a 20% match;**

**WHEREAS, NBRC partnership is aided by recognized Local Development Districts (LDD) known in New York as the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board in which the Village is required to engage the LDD to administer the investment at no more than 5% for the first \$100,000 and 1% for funds in excess of \$100,000 of the total amount of the NBRC award;**

**WHEREAS, each State scores the applications received within their state independently and final decisions about awards are approved jointly between the Federal Co-Chair and the Governor's Alternates (the five members that make up the board of the Northern Border Regional Commission);**

**WHEREAS, New York Department of State has broadly defined program priorities measuring regional significance, project need, project impact, implementation capacity and commitment, budget and work plan and timeline;**

**WHEREAS, the Village desires to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility to protect Lake George water quality, reverse the moratorium on development, mobilize private investment, induce job creation and enable the tourism sector to thrive;**

**WHEREAS, the Village submitted a Letter of Notification to NBRC March 2019 expressing interest in the program, identifying the Town of Lake George as potential Co-Applicant and assurance in providing local match resources to reconstruct its wastewater treatment facility; and**

**WHEREAS, the grant application process requires that the applicant's legal authority to authorize submission of the application and related actions; now,**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the Deputy Mayor to submit application to the NBRC and to act in connection with the submission of the application, including execution of all required certifications and forms and to provide such additional information as may be required.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 3      Earl, Mastrodomenico, Root  
                 Nays: 0  
                 Absent: 1      Blais, Perry**

**RESOLUTION NO. 38, 2019 ADOPTED.                      May 6, 2019**

Superintendent Harrington presented a proposal from Chazen Companies to prepare two conceptual designs, a cost estimate and an application for a Smart Growth Grant. Mayor Blais requested that Dave get some ideas for upgrades to the upper level of Shepard Park. It is in need of some improvements. Dave noted that we would have the funds available in the engineering appropriate. Trustee Root commented that as Parks and REC Commissioner he is upset that trees were recently cut down in the Park, and he wasn't notified. He expressed his displeasure that he is not being consulted when decisions are being made in his departments. Trustee Root went on to say that he feels that before we start building new things, our priority should be to do regular maintenance on what we already have. He mentioned that for example, the Visitor Center has been in need of staining for some time. Superintendent Harrington replied that he has been considering that and has the color details, but it just hasn't worked into the schedule. Dave also noted that the deadline for this grant is June 7<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the upper portion of the Park needs to be dressed up. DPW staff will be working on repairing some of the wall, and in the near future grass seed will be planted in the barren area. Superintendent Harrington reported that there is a problem with pigeons roosting and making a mess at the Visitor Center; bird nets have been ordered and received, and are going to be put up down there. Trustee Perry agreed with Trustee Root and recommended no action on this proposal. The Board was in agreement to take no action on the Chazen proposal due to impending higher priority projects.

Superintendent Harrington recommended hiring the following new employees:

David Anderson	Full-time Permanent	DPW Laborer	\$ 18.00
Earl Canale	Full-time Seasonal	DPW Laborer	\$ 12.00
Trevor Dunsmore	Seasonal	DPW Laborer/mower	\$ 12.00

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 39, 2019**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve hiring of the following employees with the full-time permanent pending pre-employment drug testing: David Anderson – Full-time permanent, DPW Laborer at \$18.00/hour; Earl Canale – Full-time seasonal, DPW Laborer at \$12.00/hour; and Trevor Dunsmore – Seasonal, DPW Laborer/mower at \$12.00/hour.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 39, 2019 ADOPTED.                      May 6, 2019**

Superintendent Harrington reported the following list of streets to be paved for 2019:

- Schuyler Street from McGillis Avenue to a point 260' North being 28' wide and overlay with tack coat
- Helen Street from Mohican Street to Caldwell Avenue plus intersection and overlay with tack coat
- Iroquois Street from Montcalm Street to corner heading South & corner to sidewalk on Canada Street

Trustee Perry asked about Helen Street and whether it would be milled first as the road is rough. Superintendent Harrington remarked that it will not be milled, because the blacktop is not thick enough there. Trustee Perry also mentioned the need to repair the old guardrail, and Dave noted that we already have the guardrail in stock to replace it. Superintendent Harrington reported that we are getting CHIPS and Pave NY funding to cover the cost of the paving. Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico, unanimously carried to approve letting the bid out.

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

Superintendent Harrington explained that the staff at AquaLogics installed and have taken care of the Water Treatment Plant instrumentation and control system since the Plant was built twenty years ago. He noted that a large upgrade is needed and is planned out of next year's budget. He recommended hiring AquaLogics as they have extensive knowledge, have always been dependable and have always responded when they are needed, are trustworthy and have fair pricing. He would like to standardize so that they are the only company that does work on the instrumentation and control systems at the Plant.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 40, 2019**

**WHEREAS, the Village of Lake George is in need of upgrading its Programmable Logic Control at the Water Treatment Plant**



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

**RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2019 ADOPTED.                      May 6, 2019**

Clerk Deb McKinney reported that the contract with Direct Energy, a third party supplier for natural gas, will be expiring at the end of the month. They submitted a two-year fixed price of \$4.130 per Dth. We asked for other quotes, but the vendors said they can't be competitive with the quantities that the Village uses. Superintendent Harrington remarked that we looked at National Grid pricing which is slightly lower, but it is a fluctuating price, and could vary substantially at any given time, there is no consistency. Dave recommended that we sign a new two-year contract with Direct Energy with the fixed rate pricing to assure that we can stay within our budget.

Based on Superintendent Harrington's recommendation Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Root, offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 43, 2019**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby authorizes Deputy Mayor John Earl to sign a new contract with Direct Energy for the Village's natural gas for the period June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2021.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 43, 2019 ADOPTED.                      May 6, 2019**

The regular agenda was concluded. Trustee Perry was concerned about a substantial tax increase as a result of completing the WWTP project. He inquired as to what the outcome of choosing not to build a new WWTP might be? Superintendent Harrington noted we will not meet the consent order and doesn't know what would happen with fines. He commented that if we don't award now, the price is certain to increase the next time we bid it. The cost is not going to go down. He remarked that we've been trying to get funding for five years, and we are down to 60 days for a decision. The real impact is the cost. Trustee Perry noted that we just can't raise taxes to the point of unsustainability. The State is our partner with stewardship of the lake, but isn't committing.

Trustee Root asked about the status of the meters. Superintendent Harrington responded that we are working on getting demo pay and display machines from two different vendors, then will make a decision on which ones we want to purchase. Discussion continued about whether we could deploy a parking ap. The Board agreed that they would like a decision about the best pay ap possibly for the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Deputy Mayor Earl left at 9:34 a.m.

Trustee Perry wanted to know about the status of the WiFi. Superintendent Harrington reported that he ordered the basic Spectrum package for now because this needs to be set up for the lifeguards' time clock. The more robust connection, which would allow 300 to 500 people using it, costs about \$500. per month. Discussion ensued. Trustee Perry would like to pursue the

Shepard Park WiFi and possibly going out to bid. He talked about having Spectrum put in the wiring for the better connection when they do the installation for the basic package. When they quoted before, they said they would waive the installation fees for this. Trustee Perry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Root to investigate further leading towards a more robust internet connection and unanimously carried.

**VOTING**      **Ayes: 3**      **Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root**  
                 **Nays: 0**  
                 **Absent: 2**      **Blais, Earl**  
                                 **MOTION PASSED.**

There was a motion by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Mastrodomenico to adjourn at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. McKinney, CPPB  
Village Clerk