

Village of Lima Board Meeting Minutes

March 4th, 2025

Present: John Skiptunas, Mayor; Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor; Trustees Melinda Fleming, Carolyn Fleming, and Ben Dodzweit.

Others Present: Matthew Lenahan, Attorney; Elissa Sackett, Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Dick Garey, Fire Chief; Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief; Jennifer Myers and Dominic Muscato, Lima Ambulance; Charlie Floeser, Code Enforcement Officer; several residents.

Absent: Carolyn Fleming, Trustee.

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order Mayor Skiptunas at 7:00pm Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion

A motion was made by Trustee M. Fleming and seconded by Trustee Dodzweit to approve the meeting minutes from February 11th, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports

Fire Department – Dick Garey, Fire Chief

Chief Garey discussed the February report. Chief Garey discussed changes made to the run card to help with efficiency. He also discussed working with Mr. Luft to install a dry hydrant at Elim. He hopes this will be completed prior to the Rural Water Supply Drill scheduled for June 9th. Attorney Lenahan passed around a draft installation and access agreement to be reviewed and sent to Elim for review.

Ambulance – Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief

Chief Rose discussed the February report. The current radios the ambulance has are no longer able to be repaired and will need to be replaced. The ambulance plans to send letters out to local businesses discussing the aging equipment at the base. These letters will either be mailed or hand delivered. Lastly, Chief Rose discussed the changes in officers. Instead of appointing another officer the duties will be split amongst several volunteers.

WWTP – Larry Teta, Plant Operator Trainee

See report provided by Mr. Teta.

Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Charlie Floeser

CEO Floeser discussed the February report. He said the home at the top of College St. is set to be demolished. He will also reach out to Attorney Lenahan regarding issues with a homeowner on Seneca Ave.

DPW – Ben Luft

Mr. Luft has received quotes for the new backhoe. After trade in it appears that the cost will be approximately \$125k. Mr. Luft requested motion that when the final decision is made Mayor Skiptunas can sign off on the final approval and the order can be placed.

Motion

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Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to authorize Mayor Skiptunas to sign off on the final approval for the purchase of the new backhoe. Motion carried.

Mr. Luft has started the search for a new sidewalk tractor. The current sidewalk tractor that is up for replacement should have been replaced three years ago. He anticipates having a new one before next fall.

Work has begun on the water tower for the Dish satellite. That is what the crane is up at the tower for.

There were some issues at the pumphouse. A car took out the telephone pole next to it, so there was no internet and phone connections for almost a week. This resulted in daily and nightly checks at the pumphouse since there was no communication system. The internet and phone are now been restored.

Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett

The two-year maintenance contract has been approved by NYPA and should be distributed shortly. Requested approval to authorize Mayor Skiptunas to sign the contract after it has been reviewed and approved by Attorney Lenahan.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to authorize Mayor Skiptunas to sign the two-year maintenance agreement with NYPA upon approval from Attorney Lenahan. Motion carried.

The New York Conference of Mayors Annual Conference will be held on May 28th – May 30th at the Sagamore Hotel. Requested approval from the board for Mayor Skiptunas to attend.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Dodzweit to approve Mayor Skiptunas attend the New York Conference of Mayors Annual Conference May 28th – May 30th. Motion carried.

Nathan Brady from the US Department of Agriculture has requested permission to survey/trap for European Cherry Fruit Fly (ECFF) in various locations throughout Lima, and some locations may be on Village owned property. The board approved Mr. Brady to perform his study and authorize him to do so on Village property if necessary.

The citizen notification applet is now available in the Google Play and Apple stores. Residents will need to search “My Lima” in the search bar and will be able to find the app. Currently the app has several sections that redirect to the most used sections on the Village website, and it also has a notification tab. We are still learning how to use the app, and in time the Town of Lima will join, and their information will be added as well.

Several invoices were available to the board for review/approval. Payments were the following:

- Ambulance Fund: \$6381.46
- General Fund: \$16013.81

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- Sewer Fund: \$6309.85
- Water Fund: \$17270.60
- Capital Fiber: \$12214.00
- Grand Total: \$58189.72

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve payment to invoices as listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests

Erika Reinhardt-Roggow discussed the negativity recently in the community. She asked the residents present as well as the board about doing something to bring positiveness to the community.

Callie Rabe discussed issues with a speaker that is going to be at Elim Bible College on March 18th. She read a statement released by a community in the Pacific North West prior to this individual speaking in their community. Mayor Skiptunas stated he has already had discussions with the President of Elim Bible College about the guest attending the college.

Chelsea Helfond read a speech she prepared to the audience and board regarding the same issues with an emphasis on not accepting hate in the community.

Old Business

Fiber Optic Update – Clerk Sackett received updated financial numbers from Empire. The quote given was that the project will be over by approximately \$47k. This is solely for the changes for pole application 3. National Grid has yet to approve the final make ready, so the cost may be a little more or a little less. The bond anticipation note will also need to be refinanced. Delays in NBRC disbursements, as well as the delays and issues with pole application 3 make it impossible to pay off the note by the end of May. Clerk Sackett will reach out to Donegan’s office to start the process of the refinance. This will also result in another finance charge that will need to be added to the 25-26 Village budget. Mayor Skiptunas will reach out to Livingston County to see if there is any grant that can be offered to help with these unanticipated costs of the project.

Short Term Rental Law – Attorney Lenahan explained that the STRL was subject to an environmental assessment (SEQRA). Part 1 lists the Village of Lima and the intent to be lead agency. This will be sent to the Town of Lima as well as Livingston County.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve that the Short-Term Rental Law required a Type 1 SEQRA, and the Village of Lima is declared the lead agency. Motion carried.

Round Table

Mayor Skiptunas discussed the school zone with the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office. They are going to have a Deputy patrol the area and watch for speeding. Trustee M. Fleming discussed adding orange flags to the crossing areas, like they use at the school. The flags are

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bright orange and help individuals see when someone is crossing the street. Mr. Luft will purchase the flags and make holders for them to sit in.

Trustee Dodzweit inquired on who purchased the GCC building. It was unknown who the individual is at this time.

Deputy Mayor Smith met with Dan Marcellus from SkyPort to discuss the required computer upgrades for this coming year. Several computers will need to be replaced or upgraded to meet the Windows 11 operating system. Mr. Marcellus will provide the Village with updated numbers to consider for this coming fiscal year. He also discussed updates needed to the Village Master Plan. The Village should invite Livingston County to participate in the update.

Attorney Lenahan presented a document signed by Mr. Sanders for the property on Maplewood and requested signature from Mayor Skiptunas. This has been an ongoing property transaction for about a year now. He also received redline changes in the property contract for the O'Brien property. He will forward these changes to the Park's Commission for review.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to enter executive session at 9:09pm to discuss personnel issues in relation to civil service. Executive session ended 9:19pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elissa Sackett
Village Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Lima

***All documents listed in the minutes are available to review at the Village office during regular business hours.**