

Village of Lima Board Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 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; Dominic Muscato, Ambulance Asst. Captain; several residents.

Absent: Larry Teta, WWTP Operator.

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order Mayor Skiptunas at 7:00pm Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve the meeting minutes from December 10th, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Skiptunas started the meeting by opening Public Hearing for the following local laws:

1. Local Law #1 of 2025 – Amending Chapter 86 of the Village of Lima Code, Entitled Hunting and Firearms.
2. Local Law #2 of 2025 – Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law.

Mayor Skiptunas asked if anyone in the audience had any comments regarding each public hearing. Resident asked to explain the purpose of the tax levy override. Attorney Lenahan explained the process and why the Village needed to pass the local law. No other comments.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee C. Fleming to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 and Local Law #2 at 8:15pm. Motion carried.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve Local Law #1 – Amending Chapter 86 of the Village of Lima Code, Entitled Hunting and Firearms, and Local Law #2 – Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Fire Department – Dick Garey, Fire Chief

Chief Garey discussed the December report and passed out an end of year report to the board for review. He said that the truck committee is looking at financing options and hopes to present at the next board meeting. Chief Garey will forward information to Clerk Sackett regarding the costs of the new truck so she can discuss with the municipal advisors.

Ambulance – Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief

Chief Rose discussed the December Ambulance report and passed out an end of year report for the board to review. Resident Bonnie Wadach was present to ask about updates from the last meeting on what the Village board is doing to help Chief Rose obtain paid staff, and how to make everyone aware of the needs of the ambulance. Mayor Skiptunas explained again budget constraints and that Village taxpayers would see approximately a minimum of 20% increase in

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Village taxes just to cover expenses of a paid part time staff. In order to fund paid staff, this would be something that has to be done in conjunction with the Town of Lima to cover expenses. He plans to meet with the Town Board to discuss the issues. Trustee M. Fleming is working on public awareness, and asked Ms. Wadach if she would like to help with coming up with solutions to public awareness.

WWTP – Larry Teta (Absent)

See report provided by Mr. Teta. Mayor Skiptunas discussed the Asset Management Program that Mr. Teta has been working on and concerns with the project. Mr. Luft and Clerk Sackett stated that since several parts of the project have already been completed, it was best to move forward and finish.

Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Charlie Floeser

CEO Floeser discussed his report. He discussed water issues at the trailer park on Rochester St., and issues with a resident on College St. The board asked CEO Floeser about the Fire Marshall Fee's so they could be adopted. All Fire Marshall inspections will now be subject to a \$50 fee.

Motion

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee C. Fleming to implement a \$50 fee for all Fire Marshall inspections. Motion carried.

DPW – Ben Luft

There was a water main break Sunday on McDonald Drive at 5pm that lasted until approximately 1am. A big rock was on top of the water main. There were issues with shutting down the water main, so the crew had to do the repair while the line was “live”. Mr. Luft is going to look into why the valving did not work and turn off the main like it should have as it has worked on previous leaks.

Mr. Luft is starting to look into replacing the backhoe. The current one is a 2016 and needs to be replaced. The replacement schedule is every 5 years, but he has stretched it out to almost 9. The cost of the new backhoe will be approximately \$150k and he will either trade the current backhoe or take it to auction. He anticipates having quotes by the next board meeting and then the Village can advertise to take the money from the reserves.

Lastly, Mr. Luft again stressed that winter is here and that there is no parking on the streets. Last storm there were several cars along the side of the road, and it makes it extremely difficult for the crew to plow around them. If cars continue to be parked along side of the road while crews are plowing, they risk having their car plowed in.

Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett

Clerk Sackett passed around the budget calendar for all to review for any conflicts. There is a budget workshop scheduled for March 25th as that would be the date if the Village still had two board meetings per month. Clerk Sackett suggested keeping that workshop so the board can focus solely on the budget. She will advertise in the Sentinel for this meeting.

The new website is now live. The Governor has passed a bill with different requirements for municipal websites, so these changes will be implemented over the next several months.

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Changes include moving to a “.gov” website, having agendas posted at least 24 hours in advance of board meetings, and links to all local laws.

Last meeting the board approved moving forward with the GOGov citizens notification software. Mayor Skiptunas requested moving forward with the GOGov project and the board agreed. The contract with GOGov for the citizens notification software was presented to Mayor Skiptunas for signature.

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

- Ambulance Fund: \$8356.58
- General Fund: \$56264.30
- Sewer Fund: \$16771.23
- Water Fund: \$38895.68
- Capital Fiber: \$270.00
- Grand Total: \$120557.79

Motion

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

Guests

Steve Werner discussed the possible community center to be built at Mark Tubbs Park. He passed along packets of different local towns that they visited for ideas for the new community center. Him, along with members of the Park’s Commission and Ms. Ginny Tubbs will be meeting with Andrea Bailey’s office to discuss funding for the project. The board reviewed the packet and discussed other uses for the building and possible tenants to help with ongoing costs that the building will have (gas, electricity, water, etc.).

Jason Molino, Executive Director of Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority discussed the current status of the Town of Lima’s water project. A presentation and memo were passed around for the board to discuss, and he requested a support letter from the Village for the project. The letter does not commit the Village to the project, it is just a support showing that the Village is in favor of the project moving forward. Jeanne Beutner asked questions about the project and how it would positively affect village residents. If the project were to move forward, the Village could potentially benefit by being able to purchase water from LCWSA at a cheaper price than currently from the City of Rochester. Other infrastructure will be upgraded, cost sharing would increase to a 75/25 split instead of the current 90/10, and the village would still keep all the current out of district customers. Mr. Molino said the Town has scheduled a public hearing for February 11th, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall. Meeting will be held upstairs as it is the same night as the Village board meeting.

Cindy DePue asked about the use of pool meters. She stated that during summer months she will be using more water for gardens and expressed that she did not feel that she should have to pay the increase in sewer for this. Mayor Skiptunas informed her that the board unanimously decided that when the billing switched from quarterly to monthly, they also voted to no longer use pool meters.

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Old Business

Fiber Optic Update – Clerk Sackett received the budget forecast from Empire. The forecast includes what Empire believes the final pole applications will cost, and any outstanding fees that Empire will have. Currently the project is forecasted to be approximately \$30k under budget, but there will be a few additional expenses such as fees from Donegan’s office for work on the bond anticipation note. Marketing materials will be sent to the Village to go on the website and to be added in the February water bills.

New Business

Streetlight Issues – Clerk Sackett informed the board that Quantela has suspended operation of their lighting department. The Quantela system is how the Village monitors the street lights. New York Power Authority has given all affected municipalities several options since eventually the system will no longer work. The options are the following:

1. Do nothing – The nodes when they go out will be replaced with a photocell which means the lights will turn on/off based on the daylight. No cost to the Village
2. Migrate to Signify – Replace all the existing nodes (even if functional) and move to Signify for operation. The associated cost is approximately \$67k. No financing offered.
3. Migrate to Signify as Quantela Equipment Fails – Cost is approximately \$29k and would be spread out over a 10-year period.
4. Purchase Discounted Nodes from Signify but Customer Pay for Installation – Cost approximately \$16k but would remove Village from the maintenance program offered by NYPA.
5. Purchase Discounted Nodes from Signify and have NYPA Install as Nodes Fail – Cost same as option 4 but would mean the Village would still be able to be in the NYPA maintenance program.

The board discussed all options and opted to go with option 1 as the costs associated are not feasible at this time. Clerk Sackett does not use the Quantela system often, and she continues to notify NYPA if a streetlight is out.

Clerk Sackett also briefly discussed the maintenance contract with NYPA. The extension is set to expire on March 1st. The new contract is supposed to be available by the end of the month for review. She has discussed with other municipalities who have created their own RFP, and quotes that they have received are double what the current contract costs. She suggested the Village still publish their own RFP to see what quotes come in and then decide from there if they wish to continue with NYPA or to choose another contractor.

Round Table

Deputy Mayor Smith:

- Discussed briefly about using the Village Green for Crossroads Festival again this year.
- Discussed the costs of the EV charging station and if it is worth continuing to pay the costs when it is not making a profit for the Village. Clerk Sackett will research when the current EV Connect contract expires.

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Trustee Dodzweit:

- Inquired if he could still submit the information for the Pro-Housing Choice Community or if it was too late. The information can still be submitted. Mayor Skiptunas will work on this with Trustee Dodzweit.

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.**