

## Village of Lima Board Meeting

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Present:** John Skiptunas, Mayor; Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor; Trustees Joshua Petraitis, Carolyn Fleming, and John Wadach.

**Others Present:** Matthew Lenahan, Attorney; Elissa Sackett, Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Steve McGrath, Fire Chief; Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief.

**Absent:** Larry Teta, WWTP Operator; Charlie Floeser, CEO.

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order by Mayor Skiptunas at 7pm Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St.

### *Motion*

Motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to approve meeting minutes from March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Skiptunas started the Village meeting with the appointment of Brian Smith as Deputy Mayor. He thanked Trustee John Wadach for acting as Deputy Mayor for the past two years and for his dedication to the Village.

**Public Hearing for Local Law #6 of 2023, Revision of the Village of Lima Sign Code will remain open until April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

### **Guests**

**Steve Werner** – Mr. Werner gave an update on the Pumpkin Festival. He has opened a bank account for the festival with Marty Gardner and himself as authorized signers, and he has sent out ads to local Pennysavers advertising the festival. The Town of Lima has requested that Mr. Werner carry a liability insurance policy of at least \$2.5 million and required that all vendors have insurance as well. He questioned if this amount was necessary, and if all the vendors need to carry insurance as vendors for the Crossroads Festival are not required to carry insurance. He asked that craft vendors be able to have the same policy as Crossroads Festival Vendors, which requires vendors to either carry insurance or sign a liability waiver. Attorney Lenahan agreed that \$2.5 million would be adequate coverage for the festival, and Mayor Skiptunas will meet with Supervisor Falk to discuss having the insurance requirements waived for craft vendors. He will follow up with Mr. Werner on this. Cathy Gardner and Marty Gardner were present to show their support for Mr. Werner and his dedication to the festival, as well as bringing agriculture into the spotlight. **Trustee Wadach recommended that the Village be the lead agency for the festival so that Mr. Werner would have one governmental contact to coordinate with.**

### **Department Reports**

#### **Fire Department – Steve McGrath, Fire Chief**

Chief McGrath stated the fire department is running smoothly right now. He asked Mayor Skiptunas if he was able to reach out regarding options for purchasing a fire truck. Mayor Skiptunas is still working on possible options for purchasing or remounting the current pumper. He will send correspondence again regarding truck options, and follow up with Chief McGrath.

Chief McGrath asked if there was any more news regarding the 10% tax reduction for first responders. The Village board agreed that this is beneficial to our members and will work on

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passing a local law so the credit can be applied to next tax year. Mayor Skiptunas will also discuss with Supervisor Falk to see if it is something the Town would consider for first responder residents. Trustee Wadach discussed coming up with some sort of incentive to those who are first responders, but do not own property in the district to help retain members. Lastly, Chief McGrath noted that he has been elected for another term as Chief.

### **Ambulance – Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief**

The Ambulance report was passed around and discussed. Chief Rose discussed the stats and informed the board that two out of the four calls missed this past month were due to the calls being second in the district. The ambulance currently has a daytime medic approximately 70% of the time, however she needs drivers as Harold Falls has expressed interest in retiring. If a medic is on duty, they can respond to a call using the fly car, but they cannot transport. She is putting out “feelers” in the community to see if she can get any interest.

Chief Rose said more trainings are being held at the base, and key fobs are set to be installed by the end of April. Once those are installed, the base will be available to hold events. The bunk room has been moved around to accommodate individuals who need to test out pediatric medical equipment, plus it is quieter for staff who stay while on shift. She also mentioned that a student from Rochester Institute of Technology made a documentary about Lima EMS for a project. Once completed she will send it to the Village board to watch.

Lastly, Chief Rose had one new member application. Jodi Pierce is currently an active EMT and is looking to pick up a couple shifts when available.

### ***Motion***

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Fleming to approve Jodi Pierce as a new member of the Lima Ambulance. Motion passed unanimously.

### **WWTP – Larry Teta (Absent)**

See report provided by Mr. Teta. Mayor Skiptunas discussed the illicit discharge coming into the plant. A sample has been submitted to a chemical engineer to determine the substance so the Village can then hopefully pinpoint where the substance is coming from. The investigation is ongoing, and he will continue to work with Mr. Teta to find out who is dumping the substance into the sewer system so the situation can be rectified. The board commended Mr. Teta for bringing the concentration of ammonia in the discharge of our WWTP below permitted levels.

### **Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Charlie Floeser**

See report provided by CEO Floeser.

### **DPW – Ben Luft**

Mr. Luft started by discussing a few issues with drainage/water in the Village that he has been working on the past couple weeks. A resident on 15A has been having issues with water going into their basement, but the way the water is running he believes it might be an issue with a service line. There is also an issue with a service line at Elim. He believes the issue with Elim is fixed and will continue to monitor, and he will continue to work on the issue on 15A.

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The request for bids for the NYSERDA funds have been published in the Sentinel, and bid specs are available at the Village Clerk's office. Bids must be sealed and are accepted until Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Bids will be opened and read publicly immediately following. Once opened, the lowest responsible bidder will be awarded and the equipment will be ordered.

### ***Motion***

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to authorize Trustee Wadach and Mr. Luft to accept the lowest responsible bidder and purchase the equipment for the NYSERDA grant project. Motion passed unanimously.

Updates regarding the crew: Terry (add last name) and Aaron (add last name) both attended their first set of water classes and obtained their Grade D Water License. Both employees will be attending classes the week of April 17<sup>th</sup> to obtain their class C license. Once completed, they will meet with the Department of Health to finish the license process. Dave Kirkwood attended sewer school and passed the course. He will need to pass a laboratory course and then he will be eligible to take his license exams.

Brush pick-up is being held this week. Next week hydrants will be flushed so residents may experience low/no water pressure for a short period of time. Mr. Luft will try to flush some hydrants this week if time permits as he will be short-handed next week.

Part of the I&I sewer study has been completed. Mr. Luft along with Dave Kirkwood and Aaron Bissett from MRB did the overnight study. They inspected approximately 26 manholes starting around 9:30pm and worked until 3am. Some areas can be fixed by the DPW crew, other areas could benefit from a chemical injection process. The smoke test will be completed around June. Once an exact date is picked out, letters will be sent to residents informing them of the study. He will continue to be in touch with Mr. Bissett from MRB.

### **Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett**

Clerk Sackett passed out updated budget documents reflecting the adjustments made by the board at the preliminary budget work session. No other changes are requested, and the budget hearing will take place at the April 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting. A tentative budget has been added to the Village website for review and is available to review during regular business hours.

The streetlights on Lake Ave. should be repaired this week. She has not heard back from National Grid regarding purchasing the mapping/shape files. She had copied Attorney Lenahan on the last email sent, so he will attempt to reach out on the Village's behalf.

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

- Ambulance Fund: \$2742.39
- General Fund: \$16841.33
- Sewer Fund: \$70397.68
- Water Fund: \$1533.91
- Capital Water: \$0.00
- Capital Sewer: \$0.00
- Grand Total: \$91,515.31

### ***Motion***

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Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Fleming to authorize payment for said invoices. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Wadach told Clerk Sackett he has reached out to Doug Weishaar from GreenSpark Solar regarding solar allocation discrepancies on the National Grid bills. Mr. Weishaar will also reach out to his contact at National Grid to discuss and hopefully receive answers. He also said that Mr. Weishaar confirmed that in the past it has been allowable to transfer excess credits from one account to another.

### **Old Business**

**Short Term Rental Law** – Tabled to April 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**Fiber Optic Project** – Trustee Wadach, along with Mayor Skiptunas and Clerk Sackett attended a Fiber Update Project meeting with Empire Access and Richard Sutherland. The meeting was to discuss the bid for the underground utilities portion of the project. Trustee Wadach stated that the designs need to be firmed up as they were just drawn on a google map docs. He requested Empire Access to review the tax maps with the Assessors office and ensure that all designs are in the Village right of way. He also stated that he requested the engineering designs be reviewed and stamped by a licensed Professional Engineer. Trustee Wadach communicated that Empire has been informed again that as part of their proposal, they will be required to complete the bid package and reiterated again to Empire that the bid must comply with all municipal bidding regulations. Attorney Lenahan suggested asking Pat Nicoletta and Richard Sutherland look at the bid package once completed to ensure it follows NBRC regulations.

### **New Business**

**Buell Ave Remediation Project** – Mayor Skiptunas met with the County regarding the remediation of the old furniture stripping business on Buell Ave. The county has the property listed to possibly go back to residential, but after discussions with the Gotcsik's it was noted that the Lima Vision Plan states that a trail should be in that area. He will keep everyone updated on what the county decides to do with the land as they are the owners of the property. Attorney Lenahan suggested having conversations with Supervisor Falk about this as he is the local representative for the county.

**Be Well Livingston** – Mayor Skiptunas and Supervisor Falk met with local representatives from the Department of Health looking for opportunities to create wellness opportunities in the community. He will work with local liaisons to come up with various activities to promote healthy eating and exercise. Trustee Wadach suggested creating organized walking groups, and other suggestions included a 5k walk/run to be held during other events in the community.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

Trustees discussed the following information during the roundtable discussion:

Trustee Petraitis:

- There was a dog attack at the dog park. Mr. Luft has secured the gates with padlocks on all the gates in the area except for the main gate. We are still waiting to receive the lock adapter kit that was ordered. Once received, the main lock will be installed. It was

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recommended that registration of dogs and completion of liability forms begin immediately.

Trustee Fleming:

- Has been following the State budget hearings and a big topic of discussion is Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) and incentives for them. She asked the board to keep minds open of how these units can work best for our community.

Trustee Wadach:

- Climate Smart Community – Request for volunteers for the Climate Smart Task Force has been added to the April water bills. Once this task is completed, the Village will have all the points needed to become a Climate Smart Community.
- Talked to Doug Weishaar about green investments and that can get up to 70% tax credits for projects that qualify under the Inflation Reduction Act. Trustee Wadach mentioned that one area that could be turned into solar is the Village dump. Developers could pay a sizeable lease payment which would be another revenue stream for the Village.
- All portals for the NYSERDA funds have been set up. Once we have purchase orders, he will submit to the portal and the Village will receive 25% reimbursement for the purchase. Once all equipment has been purchased and received, the Village will then receive the remaining 75% reimbursement.
- Arbor day will be held May 13<sup>th</sup> and celebration will be held from 10 – 12 at Mark Tubbs Park with a proclamation being read by Mayor Skiptunas. Trustee Wadach will pick up the tree seedlings next week and plant them into pots to pass out.

Deputy Mayor Smith:

- Passed around the new waivers for the Crossroads Festival Vendors. He asked that the board review it and if there are any recommendations, please let him know so he can discuss them with the council. He discussed looking at lifting the open container law for the Crossroads fest and extending quiet hours at the next Village meeting as the board has done in the past. He also discussed applying for a permanent easement with the NYSDOT for the Crossroads banner to go along route 20A. This permanent easement would alleviate the hassle of filing a new easement every year and could be used to hang other banners for events held in the community.

### ***Motion***

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Fleming to authorize Deputy Mayor Smith to apply for a permanent easement for the banner on route 20A on behalf of the Village. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Skiptunas:

- Informed the board Livingston County has a mobile food pantry with fresh produce. Distribution is held 1-2x per month and he hopes to hold a session at Mark Tubbs Park.
- April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there will be a solar eclipse. Lima is in the direct path of the eclipse and the county will be passing out roughly 100k specialty glasses for the event.
- Town Hall Improvements – Supervisor Falk is working on improvements to the Town Hall including upgrades to heating, air, plumbing, façade, and Wi-Fi.

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- District 5 Water Petitions have been extended until June.
- Pat and Rose Reynolds have been selected as Seniors of the Year for Lima.
- Civil Ware Reenactment will be held 7/21 – 7/23 at Mark Tubbs Park. Advertising should start soon for the event. Deputy Mayor Smith will be meeting with the group in the upcoming weeks.
- Mayor Skiptunas in conjunction with HFL School and Supervisor Falk will be recognizing Anthony Noto. Mr. Noto, a Lima resident, is an All-American wrestler who won the MAC title in his weight class and placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the National Tournament. Mayor Skiptunas praised Mr. Noto for his hard work and dedication to the sport and his community and will inform the board when and where the presentation will be held.

Motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Smith to adjourn at 8:57pm.  
Motion passed unanimously.