

Joint Town and Village Board Meeting

November 17th, 2020

Present: John Wadach, Mayor; John Skiptunas, Deputy Mayor; Trustees John Katatto, Joshua Petraitis, David Cabrera; Michael Falk, Supervisor; Councilman Leta Button, John Belec, Bill Carey, Bruce Mayer.

Others Present: Matthew Lenahan, Village Attorney; Elissa Sackett, Village Clerk; Jim Campbell, Town Attorney; John Sokolofsky, Highway Superintendent; Tory Andruczky, David Andruczky, Andy Luft, David Kirkwood.

The Quarterly Joint Meeting between the Town and Village of Lima was called to order by Mayor Wadach at 7pm and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wadach stated that there were many new faces and asked for introductions by all.

Water Districts

Supervisor Falk stated that the Town considering adding a new Water District (see map). This would encompass residents on Gale, Egan, Dalton and Heath Markham. Several residences have poor quality water/wells due to the gravel pit being close. If the district were to form, it would be an increase of 121 new customers (includes farms). Supervisor Falk said the Town would be looking to secure a grant to help with costs; 45% grant, 55% loan at an exceptionally low interest rate.

The Village purchases water from the City of Rochester. The Village is on a sliding scale with the Village based on usage. Currently, rates are at \$2.37 per 1000 gallons, but if they usage increases to 8 million gallons, rates increase to \$3 per 1000, and if over 10 million rates would go to \$4 per 1000. Cost studies will need to be completed to see how the increase of residents would affect the overall usage. Supervisor Falk stated that this could be under construction within 6 months if it could get the District up and going.

Mayor Wadach asked if the Town Residents would be willing to pay an increased rate if it were to increase to the \$4 per 1000 (10 million gallons) as in the summer months it could be possible. It was also noted that water pressure on 15A is only 35 PSI which is below the Health Department standards. As the elevation increases, the water pressure decreases. The use of the Avon water tower is only in the event of an emergency. If the District were to be created, it would need an additional pumping station to increase pressure in the area.

Mayor Wadach asked to hear from the residents as to concerns or opinions on the formation of the new water district.

Resident – Stated they were for the water district. Many residents are currently without pressure and there are also no fire hydrants in the area. Fire hydrants would increase the usage.

Mayor Wadach mentioned that the Village would want to make sure the new water district did not cause any “harm” to Village residents. One resident asked what would be considered “harm” or a “boost” to residents. Mayor Wadach explained that up until 3 years there had been no/low increases to water rates, resulting in nothing going into reserves for upgrades. Over the past 2 years residents have seen a 33% rate increase. Although shared services could be beneficial, in past there have been a lot of pushback from residents.

Another resident asked about the Economic study, and if residents would have to pay to connect to the service? Supervisor Falk explained that yes, residents would be responsible for the cost of the pipe going from the line to their residence. This would roughly be \$76 per month for 8 years.

Joint Town and Village Board Meeting

November 17th, 2020

Supervisor Falk stated that this is the easiest project to put together and makes the most sense. The Town will be completing cost estimates, and it will be at least 30 days for the environmental studies. He also stated that he would be in touch with the engineers and go from there.

Fire Department and Ambulance

Mayor Wadach stated that Fire Chief Tim Vandevelt has mentioned at several meetings that the same volunteers always show up to calls out of the 40 active volunteers. Supervisor Falk asked if it had been discussed merging the fire department with E Avon fire district, however in order to do so the Lima FD would need to dissolve and then E Avon would need to assume it. Supervisor Falk discussed the current Fire Districts and stated it is all about how fast a fire company can get there. Clerk Sackett mentioned that Fire Chief Vandevelt stated the Fire Department still had not received FEMA reimbursement that was sent with the Town; Supervisor Falk stated that they are still waiting on reimbursement.

Supervisor Falk discussed the Ambulance contract being separate this year. In past years the Fire and Ambulance had been together and been split 50/50, however this year they were split and are now at a 70/30 cost, bringing the cost billed to the town \$41000, which is an increase of \$39000. Attorney Lenahan stated that it was now based on valuation of the building instead of just splitting costs 50/50. Attorney Campbell asked when this was agreed upon as this was the first time, he had heard of it to which Mayor Wadach and Attorney Lenahan stated it had been discussed at the previous joint meeting. Supervisor Falk stated that the referendum was only completed on Village residents, not Town and that the Town does not use the building therefore taxpayers should not have to pay for the building. Attorney Lenahan again stated that this was something previously discussed and it appeared to be based of the model the Town of Mendon currently uses. Attorney Lenahan stated that the two contracts were separated due to the fact that at the time the Village was unsure if the Ambulance would be sustainable. Attorney Lenahan and Attorney Campbell stated this needed further exploration. Supervisor Falk did state that the Ambulance Contract is not part of the Town 2021 budget. He discussed Livingston County EMS and how it is paid for by the County taxpayers. Supervisor Falk also stated he had discussed with Honeoye Falls what would happen if the Lima Ambulance were to be dissolved, to which they stated they would add another full-time person.

Empire Access

Mayor Wadach said that the Village is looking to bring Empire Access service in as another provider. Trustee Cabrera has been in talks with the COO and he will be coming to the Village board meeting December 8th. Supervisor Falk explained that Empire was chosen for a USDA grant designed to service the small areas and it should be funded by the 3rd week in December.

Community Solar

Mayor Wadach stated that bids for the Community Solar project have been received and a developer will be chosen soon. Residents can opt out if they choose so, if not they will automatically be enrolled. The only residents that are not eligible are those who do not have National Grid as their supplier of electricity, if they are contracted with another agency for solar, or if they have solar panels on their homes. The Village will receive around \$50 per person, which is around \$35000 that can be used for various energy efficient projects.

Mark Tubbs Park

Deputy Mayor Skiptunas and Trustee Petraitis both agreed to be liaisons for the Village regarding the park. It was discussed that the Park Commission should be re-established and the Master Plan of the park

Joint Town and Village Board Meeting

November 17th, 2020

should be looked at. Attorney Lenahan and Attorney Campbell will work together to form a resolution to be presented to each board, allowing the Park Commission to make various decisions.

Roundtable Discussions

Deputy Mayor Skiptunas discussed the Economic Development event he attended in Mt. Morris. He said that an individual came to the Village (Secret Shopper) and highlighted the positives of the Village. The purpose of this was to see where the Village could improve.

Councilman Carey asked that at the 4th the Town and Village try to get more vendors to come down. Many residents would spend a lot more time there on the 4th if there was more to do.

Supervisor Falk discussed the Wayfinding Project and stated that this finishes up in February. Supervisor Falk discussed the Economic Development event as well. He stated that the purpose was to see where businesses can advance. One area was signage for the park. He stated that when the individuals came looking for the park, they ended up parking at Seneca and Parkside Pl rather than accessing the park from the main entrance. Another item that was noted was the umbrella ordinance for downtown. Local business can get sponsored business from vendors, rather than purchase their own plus it helps bring in business. The Fuel bid has been out and the Town passed a resolution allowing the Village to piggy back on their bid. The rates stayed the same.

Supervisor Falk also discussed District 2 Bond Anticipation note. He stated that he needs a breakdown of the costs (antennas, etc.) to pursue financing. This is necessary of the note ever needs to be taken to long term. Mayor Wadach said he would be in touch with MRB Group regarding these breakdowns.

Supervisor Falk lastly discussed Sewer District 321. He discussed the Village adding sewer hookups for 4 more residents. These residents already have Village water and these homes pass through the sewer connection. It is already a district on the books but there is no money into it. It will be to pick up properties on 5&20.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.