

Town of LeRay

Town Board Minutes

February 10, 2022

Call to Order

Proceedings of a Town Board Meeting held at the LeRay Town Municipal Office on February 10, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Taylor at 4:00 p.m. who lead the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Regular Meeting

Ronald C. Taylor – Supervisor, Melissa L. Verne – Town Clerk, Nathan Toutant – Clerk to Supervisor, Board Members in attendance: Samuel Biondolillo, John Eisenhauer, Michael Gracey, Lee Carpenter Lee Shimel – Zoning Enforcement Officer, Joseph Russell – Town Attorney, Jessica Jenack – Community Development Coordinator, William Vargulick – Town Assessor, Dan Young – Highway Superintendent, and Mike Altieri – Town Engineer. Also present: Michael Docteur, Simon Glick, Bob Ingerson, & Deana LaSage

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on January 13, 2022, were reviewed by the Board Members. A motion to approve the minutes as drafted was made by Councilman Eisenhauer and seconded by Councilman Carpenter.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Comments from the Floor

Supervisor Taylor asked if there were any comments from the floor, to which Michael Docteur from Docteur Environmental asked to speak. Mr. Docteur spoke on the fuel management system and was available for any Board members to ask questions. Mr. Docteur gave the Board a breakdown of what his company did and what he would do for the Town of LeRay with the Highway Garage project. Mr. Docteur said he would provide a quote on labor and materials for the Board to review.

Bob Ingerson, with BCA, also spoke on the Highway Project when Councilman Eisenhauer had a question on the original contract.

Report from Dan Young, Highway Superintendent

Mr. Young gave a breakdown of all work the Highway Department had completed this month. The Highway Department's new plow truck was in Watertown and would be at the Town barn by February 18th. Mr. Young presented new plow truck quotes to The Board. Mr. Young spoke about the new truck bids for 2024

and was asked for a letter of intent to be submitted to purchase a new plow truck in 2024. The letter of intent was not legally binding but got the Town of LeRay on the list for the next plow truck.

A motion was made by Councilman Gracey and seconded by Councilman Eisenhauer to approve writing a letter of intent to purchase a new plow truck in 2024.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Mr. Young informed The Board that he has an employee leaving in October of 2022 and he would like to create a 10th position. He has a part time/ seasonal employee he would like to hire on full time. Mr. Young has given a recommendation to hire Jordan Meeks on as full time. Mr. Young would also like to hire on some summertime help.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Carpenter that Jordan Meeks go from part-time/seasonal to full time employee effective as of February 14th, 2022.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Mr. Carpenter discussed the fire alarm quote for the existing Highway garage, for the amount of \$32,500. A discussion ensued between The Board members.

A motion was made by Councilman Carpenter and seconded by Councilman Eisenhauer to install the new fire alarm system into the existing Highway Garage.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 2 Nays: 3

The motion did not pass.

Report from Community Development Coordinator

Mrs. Jenack reported that the Planning Board reviewed two (2) minor subdivision applications, one for Cory Flack and one for Titus Glick. A Special Planning Board meeting was scheduled for February 17th to discuss the Town Law in reference to Signage Standards in Residential Districts. The Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting would take place February 14th. Staff met with Mr. Lundy on January 17th and discussed his proposed 10-lot subdivision to be located along US Route 11 and Herrick Drive.

Virtual meeting with Nexamp Representatives

Jared Sonett and Joe Fiori, two (2) representatives from NexAmp attended virtually again this month. Nexamp revised a contract from twenty (20) years down to five (5) years. They were seeking approval on this new contract that would renew every five (5) years with the option to opt out. Councilman Eisenhauer asked a few questions on the contract.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhower and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo to enter negotiations with Nexamp.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Report from Mike Altieri, Town Engineer

Mr. Altieri introduced The Board to Deana LaSage, she would be attending meetings and helping BCA with paperwork. Mr. Ingerson gave an update on the Highway Garage project; he informed The Board that ninety-five percent (95%) of the inside would be done by the end of March 2022. The exterior would be worked on, with the blacktop that should be done by the end of April 2022. BCA has had great cooperation with all the contractors.

Mr. Altieri gave reports on the possible well sites. Mr. Altieri would like to get approval to get the LeRay II, pipeline water project out to bid to contractors. Mr. Altieri will get the information to Mrs. Verne to get the bid announcement posted into the paper.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhower and seconded by Councilman Carpenter to put the LeRay II pipeline water project, out to bid.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Report from Lee Shimel, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Mr. Shimel gave his monthly report. Northern Optics was denied their Use Variance. Mr. Shimel asked what the procedure would be if the ZBA Chairperson, Jan Oatman, was not available for the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Shimel was told that she would appoint a temporary Chairperson for herself before the meeting. Additionally, the Nexamp Route 3 project was completed.

Report from Steve Marshall, DANC

Mr. Toutant gave a report on behalf of Mr. Marshall, in his absence. Mr. Marshall had purchased four (4) additional sleeves for watermain breaks. There were two (2) leaks after the Griff's fire on Route 3. The Highway Department and Danc worked well together as it was a late-night issue. Mr. Marshall had six (6) calls for frozen water, which was homeowners' issue and not the Towns.

Report from Town Assessor

Mr. Vargulick gave his monthly report. Tug Hill Tomorrow organization has asked to have all land on Taylor Road, which was 100+ acres to be tax exempt. Linda Garrett with the organization plans to come in and meet with Jessica Jenack. A discussion was had on the purpose of the land and whether it would justify an exemption.

Report from Town Clerk

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Carpenter that Abstract #2 vouchers 154-324 in the amount of \$1,728,120.07 be paid from the following accounts:

	Cash Balances as of January 31, 2022	Current Month Abstract 2
General Fund	\$ 3,646,626.16	\$ 349,277.69
Highway Fund-Town wide	\$ 905,231.27	\$ 78,547.25
Highway Fund-Town Outside	\$ 671,959.26	\$ 563.14
Expendable Trust	\$ 787.38	\$ 0.00
Consolidated Water District	\$ 1,896,290.87	\$ 26,678.48
Water District # 3	\$ 12,778.59	\$ 160.58
Sewer District # 1	\$ 291,526.95	\$ 121,273.65
Sewer District # 2	\$ 20,705.62	\$ 1,232.18
Sewer District # 3	\$ 215,803.08	\$ 146,669.82
Sewer District # 4	\$ 312,340.07	\$ 18,707.51
Capital Project # 1 (Taylor Rd)	\$ 113,013.56	\$ 0.00
Capital Project # 2 (Water Dist. 4)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Project # 3 (Sewer Dist. 1)	\$ 119,139.13	\$ 0.00
Capital Project # 3A (Sewer Dist. 4)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Project # 4W (Water 2 Imp)	\$ -3,682.08	\$ 130,693.27
Capital Project # 5 (Highway Fac.)	\$ 612,250.24	\$ 251,383.94
Trust & Agency	\$ 21,897.00	\$ 602,932.56

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhauer and seconded by Councilman Carpenter that the board set a Public Hearing for, March 10th 2022 at 4:10 pm for Local Law #2-2022 to hear comments on Amending Chapter 60 (section 60-3 D) of the Town of LeRay Municipal code to increase the dog licensing fees as follows; spayed or neutered dog would be \$12.00 and unspayed or unneutered dog would be \$22.00.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Councilman Eisenhauer gave a compliment to the Town Clerk for her well written, comprehensive minutes from the prior month.

Report from the Clerk to the Supervisor

Mr. Toutant presented the Board with the official award letter for NYS CDBG. NYS Office of Community Renewal has provided a grant agreement for The Boards review, which Mr. Russell has already reviewed.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhauer and Councilman Carpenter to sign the CDBG agreement.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Mr. Toutant provided The Board with an updated snow and ice intermunicipal agreement between the Town of LeRay and the surrounding municipalities including the Towns of Pamela, Theresa, Philadelphia, and the Village of Black River. The Term of the agreement shall commence upon its execution and shall terminate March 31, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhauer and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo to have the Town Supervisor sign the Shared Services Agreement for Snow and Ice Removal.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Judge Covell and Judge Clark provided The Board with their annual summary report.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhauer and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo to accept the annual Town Court report as presented.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

The Town Court had received a report that their Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) grant had been awarded for 2022. The Court had submitted for a new Canon color copier/printer combo at a price of \$6,500 and they were awarded \$2000.00. The Court would like to ask The Board to pay for the difference in price for the copier. Mr. Toutant will present a financial resolution next month to The Board.

At the Town Boards January Meeting, the Board discussed making changes to section 405, page 400-4 and section 904, page 900-5 of the Town Handbook. Mr. Toutant presented the recommended changes for The Board's review.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhauer and seconded by Councilman Carpenter to amend section 405, page 400-4 and section 904, page 900-5 of the Town Handbook.

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Mr. Russell spoke on The Briant property, and he was working on getting the property closed on.

Mr. Toutant had forwarded an email, to all Town Board members, from a resident on Vantassel Road regarding the newly installed 96-watt LED streetlight. It has been determined the new streetlight was not installed on the pole the Town Board had intended. That particular pole was not owned by National Grid and therefore, the streetlight was installed 150'+ away from the intersection. The current location of the

streetlight was no longer serving the purpose in which the Board intended of illuminating the intersection and was shining directly onto the property owners' home. National Grid would remove the streetlight at no cost but would need to simultaneously install the light on a new pole to avoid paying a \$2,000+ removal fee. The Board had a discussion on other possible options to put this new streetlight.

The Town's procurement policy was adopted in May of 2011, Mr. Russell will review to see if the dollar amounts need to be increased, then would be presented to the board for review.

Report from the Town Attorney

Mr. Russell had talked with the civil service department on the request for a non-exempt position for The Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He was told that if the civil service put a request into the state for this, they would send it back, and that The Planning Board and The Zoning Board of Appeals did not qualify for a non-exempt position. A discussion was had on this position between Councilman Eisenhower and Mr. Russell. Mr. Russell said he did not believe that pushing the issue with the County Civil Service would get the Town anywhere.

The employee in the current position will be asked to take the next available civil service and compete for the position.

Councilman Eisenhower inquired if the Town had heard anything back on the Ethics investigation from May of 2021. He was told in November of 2021 that the investigation had been completed and would be reported on. Mr. Toutant would follow-up and see if there was any update.

Motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Gracey to adjourn the town board meeting at 6:50 pm. Carried Ayes 5 Nays 0

The vote went as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

The motion passed.

Respectfully given:

Melissa L. Verne

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LeRay Town Clerk