

DECEMBER 12, 2011

The eighteenth regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood, NY, was held Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6:30 PM, with Mayor David T. Wordelmann presiding. Trustees present were Gale A. Denn, Susan F. Drago, Joseph M. Troche, and P.J. Wendel. Also present were Village Clerk Joseph M. Johnson, Village Treasurer Andrea J. Windoft, Police Chief John R. Bentley, Department of Public Works Supervisor Thomas R. Pilling, Fire Chief Kurt W. Hallberg, and Building Inspector Charles L. Smith. Absent was Village Attorney Edward P. Wright.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David T. Wordelmann began the Village Board meeting by thanking the Women's Club of Lakewood, in particular Jennifer Wohler and Karen Dennerlein, chairpersons for the Christmas in the Village event held Saturday, December 3rd. Mayor Wordelmann said it is a wonderful event that was very well attended and encouraged everyone to come out and support it again next year.

Mayor Wordelmann then thanked Busti Town Councilman Jesse Robbins and those who organized the community dinner at the Busti Fire Hall and Christmas tree lighting ceremony held at the five corners the evening of Saturday, December 3rd.

Mayor Wordelmann then wished to thank Trustee/Deputy Mayor P.J. Wendel for his time spent as a member of the Village of Lakewood Board of Trustees, and regretfully accepted his resignation. Trustee Wendel was elected in November to serve as a Chautauqua County Legislator representing the residents of District 18, effective January 1, 2012.

Mayor Wordelmann then read the following letter to Trustee Wendel.

Dear P.J.:

As your tenure as an elected Village Official draws to a close, on behalf of your fellow members of the Village Board of Trustees and the residents of the Village of Lakewood, I would like to thank you for serving the community as Village Trustee/Deputy Mayor since April 2007.

We all wish you the best as you prepare to represent the residents of District 18 as their Chautauqua County Legislator beginning January 1, 2012.

Thanks again and good luck in your new role as a Chautauqua County Legislator.

Sincerely,

David T. Wordelmann
Mayor

Trustee Wendel indicated although it was a somewhat short tenure as Trustee/Deputy Mayor, he was very happy to work with those on the Board of Trustees. As noted in his resignation letter, Trustee Wendel said he enjoyed working with the police department and streets department, adding he will continue to be active member of the Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department. Everyone has been great and so very helpful over the years. Trustee Wendel did say his sanity has been questioned with the thought of taking on the role as a county legislator. He said he has met some great people and established some wonderful relationships through his role as an elected official for the Village of Lakewood.

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Trustee Gale A. Denn indicated to Trustee Wendel that it has been a pleasure working with him albeit a short time. Trustee Denn then noted that the Village of Lakewood is going to have a representative on the county legislature that will be very familiar with our issues and that Legislator Wendel should expect to hear from us from time to time.

Trustee Troche thanked Trustee Wendel for the time he served the community as Village Trustee and said the residents appreciated the wonderful job he did. Trustee Troche said personally he is going to miss having his friend P.J. on the Board of Trustees with him.

Trustee Susan F. Drago said she was sorry she wasn't able to spend more time working with Trustee Wendel and congratulated him on being elected this past November as the county legislator for District 18.

Mayor Wordelmann said he would like to add that P.J. is the epitome of a public servant and volunteer. He said P.J. has been a member of the Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department for a number of years, has served the community as a Trustee and now is moving into a new role as a county legislator. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude for everything he has done for the local community. Mayor Wordelmann told Trustee Wendel it has been a pleasure working with him and wished him well in his new role.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Troche, seconded by Trustee Denn, to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, held November 28, 2011.

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Denn, Drago, Troche, Wendel)

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion by Trustee Drago, seconded by Trustee Denn, that the claims as audited by the Auditing Committee of the abstract dated December 12, 2011, be approved and that the Clerk shall execute said abstract and direct payment by the Treasurer. General Fund: \$ 54,968.61

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Denn, Drago, Troche, Wendel)

REPORTS

Although Department of Public Works Supervisor Thomas R. Pilling did not have a report, Mayor Wordelmann suggested that he take a look at the large pine tree located in the corner of Recognition Park and to consider cutting it down in the spring due to the fact that the top half of the tree is dead.

Mayor Wordelmann said after the pine tree is cut down, could another pine tree be planted in its place.

Trustee Denn wished to thank Mr. Pilling and the entire D.P.W. crew for the great job they do in collecting and disposing brush and other materials throughout the spring, summer and fall months. It is a tremendous service provided to the residents.

Police Chief John R. Bentley reported that the Lakewood-Busti Police Department responded to nine thousand six hundred seven reportable incidents year-to-date.

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Chief Bentley also reported that National Grid discovered an alleged theft of services situation out in the Town of Busti and upon further investigation another marijuana growing operation was discovered. He said two arrests were made in connection with the theft of services charges and for the marijuana growing operation. Chief Bentley indicated although the perpetrators bypass the electric meter they use enough electricity so it doesn't look suspicious. Chief Bentley said the department is currently investigating a number of larcenies involving parked cars at Wal-Mart, Applebees and Wendys. He indicated thieves are breaking out car windows and stealing anything they can get their hands on inside the vehicle. Chief Bentley implored the general public not to leave anything in plain sight inside their vehicles. He said there is some video evidence relating to one of the break-ins at Applebees.

Trustee Denn asked if the Village of Lakewood could amend its zoning law requiring a certain amount of light in commercial parking lots as a safety measure for residents and shoppers alike.

Building Inspector Charles L. Smith indicated that he intends to review the current zoning law after the first of the year to determine if some amendments are needed, but said he doesn't know if a municipality can require a specific level of exterior lighting to be installed by select businesses.

Mayor Wordelmann indicated that if nothing else there should be a minimum amount of exterior lighting required.

Trustee Denn indicated we here in Lakewood are in a unique situation because of the commercial corridor along East Fairmount Ave. and it should be our responsibility to require commercial businesses to install a certain amount of exterior lighting for shoppers.

Building Inspector Smith indicated he will check the lighting at Wendys to determine if it might just be a maintenance issue.

Chief Bentley concluded his report by saying one of the patrol cars, which has since been repaired and is back in service, sustained some minor damage via a "deer strike" the morning of December 2, 2011. He also thanked Department of Public Works Supervisor Pilling and Chris Certo for the recent maintenance performed on the police car fleet which included the installation of snow tires and some oil changes.

Fire Chief Kurt W. Hallberg reported the Lakewood Volunteer Fire department has responded to seven hundred sixty alarms year-to-date. Chief Hallberg then announced that the Lakewood Fire Department's annual banquet will be held Saturday, February 11, 2012.

Mayor Wordelmann indicated that Solarliberty, Buffalo, New York has installed solar electric panels on the roof of the fire station via grants made available through the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority. He said the energy produced by the solar panels should significantly reduce electric bills for the fire station and highway garage.

Building Inspector Smith said the initial estimates indicated there would be the potential savings of approximately \$ 12,000.00/year plus an additional income of \$ 12,000.00/year.

Trustee Troche, who was instrumental on procuring the grant, said he and the late Mayor Caprino worked together on the grant, which didn't cost the Village of Lakewood a single penny.

Trustee Denn asked exactly how does the system work.

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Mr. Smith said a special bi-directional meter will be installed by National Grid which allows the DC power generated by the solar panels to be converted into AC power which in turn is fed back into the electric grid.

Mayor Wordelmann said the Village of Lakewood will be reimbursed for the electricity that is fed back into the electric grid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Troche, who is the Chairman of the Highway Committee asked D.P.W. Supervisor Pilling if he still intends to do some sidewalk replacement work on Ohio Ave. during the next construction season.

Mr. Pilling indicated that certain lengths of sidewalk have been replaced the past two years and that he will take another look at the sidewalks on Ohio Ave. to see what sections need replacement. Mr. Pilling said that he and the crew have replaced sections of sidewalks that he considered posed the greatest liability to the Village of Lakewood.

Trustee Denn asked if the Village of Lakewood charges the abutting property owner for any portion of the new sidewalk costs.

Mayor Wordelmann said the Village of Lakewood incurs 100% of the new sidewalk costs. He said when he first became a member of the Board of Trustees the Village of Lakewood had contracted out various sidewalk replacement projects. By doing the work “in house” saves a considerable amount of money.

RESOLUTION #89-2011-2012 – CONFIRM DEPUTY MAYOR APPOINTMENT

Motion by Trustee Wendel, seconded by Trustee Drago, to confirm Mayor David T. Wordelmann’s appointment of Trustee Joseph M. Troche, as Deputy Mayor of the Village of Lakewood, New York effective January 1, 2012. NOTE: Trustee/Deputy Mayor P.J. Wendel will be stepping down as an elected village official when he begins representing District 18 as a Chautauqua County Legislator January 1, 2012. Members of the Board of Trustees then congratulated Deputy Mayor Troche on his appointment. Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Denn, Drago, Wendel)

RESOLUTION #90-2011-2012 – AUTHORIZE BUILDING CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Motion by Trustee Denn, seconded by Trustee Wendel, authorizing Building Inspector Charles L. Smith to attend the Finger Lakes Building Officials Annual Conference to be held in Rochester, New York, March 12th – March 15th. Mr. Smith will be reimbursed for all legal expenses incurred. Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Denn, Drago, Troche, Wendel)

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RESOLUTION #91-2011-2012 – CANCEL NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Motion by Trustee Troche, seconded by Trustee Wendel, per the recommendation of Mayor David T. Wordelmann, to cancel the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for Monday, December 26, 2011, due to the fact that the village offices will be closed that day. Any and all bills to be paid at the end of the month shall be audited by the Auditing Committee prior to disbursement. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will therefore not be held until Monday, January 9, 2012.
Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Denn, Drago, Troche, Wendel)

RESOLUTION #92-2011-2012 – APPROVE FIRE CHIEF POSITIONS FOR 2012

Motion by Trustee Denn, seconded by Trustee Troche, that the Board of Trustees, acting as the Board of Fire Commissioners, to approve the following fire chief positions for 2012: Fire Chief Kurt W. Hallberg, First Assistant Chief: Stephen W. Smouse, Second Assistant Chief: Todd Gilbert.
Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Denn, Drago, Troche, Wendel)

Mayor Wordelmann wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and that he and the Board of Trustees are looking forward to the New Year.

Motion by Trustee Wendel, seconded by Trustee Troche, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Joseph M. Johnson
Village Clerk