

VILLAGE OF LEROY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of Regular Meeting held on

November 6, 2023

Village Hall, 3 West Main St., Le Roy, NY

PRESENT:

Mayor Gregory Rogers	Clerk-Treasurer Eileen Carmel
Trustee Richard Tetrault	Municipal Historian Lynne Belluscio
Trustee Raymond Yacuzzo	WWTF Operator Andre Carmel
Trustee William Kettle	Bob Taylor (ZBA member)

Absent: Trustee James Bonacquisti, Chief of Police Gregory Kellogg, DPW Supervisor Robert Lathan, WWTF Superintendent Steven Carroll

Others Present: Jim Seiler and Jennifer Keys (Oatka Creek Watershed Committee), Ron Pangrazio, Jill Fitzgerald, Mari Runfola

Mayor Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge to the Flag, and explained they would be going out of order on the agenda.

WORKSHOP: UPDATE VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mayor Rogers said he wanted to start the ball rolling on this by asking the community members present a few questions. He started with, “What do you think is ‘right’ about LeRoy?” and the discussion branched out.

Ron Pangrazio: felt the Village is “pretty darn nice.”

Bob Taylor: believes the people themselves are the backbone of the community. Unfortunately, there are a lot of people who don’t want to participate. We should reach out to people who’ve moved away and came back to get their opinions too.

Lynne Belluscio: through her job as moderator on the LeRoy Then and Now Facebook page, she can tell you what irritates people, and for every person who’s for a particular thing, you’ll find another who’s against it. She felt it’s important to look at what other communities are doing and we need young people involved. You need to go to the schools and work with teachers (because they won’t come to the meetings at Village Hall). Mayor Rogers mentioned the Honor Society has a community service requirement that might fit this. She mentioned the “Hey, honey, pull over” concept that communities like Skaneateles and East Aurora have.

Mari Runfola: likes the FRESH committee’s work downtown with harvest displays, etc. It makes the buildings more attractive. She also mentioned the exit from the parking lot off Bank St. closest to the creek. Several near-miss accidents have occurred there because cars don’t stop and look for pedestrians before pulling onto Bank St. The one-way sign at the entrance is too high for drivers to see. (The Mayor asked the Clerk to address this with the Police Chief.) Reversing the entrance/exit was discussed, as was the possibility of adding a “Stop – Pedestrian Crossing” sign to the exit. Improved signage could be added as part of the overall plan.

Jill Fitzgerald: said she grew up in LeRoy, left, and came back. She believes LeRoy has a good school system, likes that groups participate in the Village, there's a sense of community, care about how Main St. and the creek bank look, sidewalks, etc. She suggested that the Village website needs to include more information and be more inviting to people looking to move to the Village. The confusion between the Village's website and the Town website that includes information about the Village was discussed. One person wasn't aware the Village had its own website. It was brought up that the Village could hire someone to manage the website and budget for it. The website is currently managed by the Clerk-Treasurer in her spare time.

Jim Seiler: believes the Comprehensive Plan, when finished, should be posted on the website. It would be a waste of time and money to physically print it out. He suggested it could be broken out into sections such as environment, maps, flood plain, soils, recreation facilities, Oatka Creek, etc.

Jennifer Keys: likes the accessibility of the creek, beautiful architecture, and her neighbors. She believes more could be done to keep people here and bring in new. If kids are involved, we have to use social media.

Andre Carmel: likes the services the Village provides to residents. Yes, we have a beautiful creek, the Historical Society, we promote our history but where do we go from here? We need to bring people in off the thruway for a visit.

Mayor Rogers: we have a small town that's still quaint. The FRESH committee is doing a great job. We need to promote downtown.

Trustee Kettle: he referenced the 2001 Comprehensive Plan Introduction on page 5, with a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats). He noted that we still have similar issues as those in the old plan – need to utilize the creek, improve the downtown business district, many single-family houses converted to multi-family, always the same people doing things, etc. It's hard to keep the rent down - it's a marathon, not a sprint - it's hard to keep buildings occupied while battling taxes, insurance, etc. We need to bring in the youth. Address future parking needs.

Trustee Yacuzzo: the 1963 Comprehensive Plan specified the planned (at that time) Bacon St. municipal parking lot should have an access point on Rte. 19, which was never completed. Now, the lot is badly lit and access is either from Bacon St., which looks run-down, or Pleasant St., which looks worse and has a huge hill to slide down to Mill St. in the winter. Many people don't know it's there. In the 1980s, there was a Board Resolution specifying that as properties came up for sale on Bacon St., the Village would have a chance to purchase them. Fire trucks can't make the turn on Pleasant St. from Bacon St. The Village should buy the corner house and demolish it. What he feels is right with the Village: schools, Oatka Creek, architecture, our roots/history and the fact we teach newcomers about these, and community groups. First impressions are important and we need to seal the parking lots, stripe Main St. parking spaces so they look crisp and sharp. We provide more services than some communities do. The tax rate hasn't risen in 12 years, crime is low. Some houses were built when people had 10 kids. Why can't we keep the elderly by converting old houses instead of building new facilities? Offer young people something they can contribute to.

Trustee Tetrault: LeRoy is a great place to raise kids (he and his wife raised five). In fact, his son and grandson (who's in 1st grade) come up from Virginia just to go trick-or-treating, because his son wants his boy to have the same great small-town experience he did. He likes LeRoy football. We're upgrading

the wastewater plant. We have parades and First Night. We have everything here, we just need to promote it.

Mayor Rogers asked what was the worst thing about the Village or what should the focus be on?

Trustee Tetrault: We're not increasing the tax base.

Lynne Belluscio: The inability of the Town and Village to work together.

Mari Runfola: People to replace retiring firefighters.

Jill Fitzgerald: Better communication, inclusiveness.

Jim Seiler: Need to get people to support local business.

Jennifer Keys: Need opportunities for diversity (shopping diversity, cultural diversity).

Andre Carmel: Need to promote the Village.

This was all broken down into the following focus areas:

- Communications
- New development to increase the tax base
- Traffic flow/parking
- Appearance – decayed housing, historical
- Education
- Environment
- Youth and adult recreation

Mayor Rogers asked community members to help expand the group by bringing others. Each of the next months' Workshop Meetings would be on one focus area. On **Monday, December 4th at 6:30pm**, they would focus on "Communications." Please look at other websites, etc., do homework on where we go from here. Need good ideas on how to change the Comprehensive Plan. In January, they'd focus on "Housing."

Mayor Rogers thanked everyone for their time and assistance and closed the workshop portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Trustee Yacuzzo to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting on 10/18/23. It was seconded by Trustee Tetrault and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE POLICE DEPT. EQUIPMENT SURPLUS FOR PURPOSE OF DISPOSAL AND TO TRANSFER FUNDS

MOTION BY Trustee Kettle

WHEREAS, The LeRoy Police Department has declared the equipment listed below surplus; and

WHEREAS, the Village of LeRoy requires a surplus declaration of property to be made prior to disposal or sale of equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department desires to use the proceeds from selling the equipment listed below in order to offset the purchase of future equipment needs by placing the proceeds into A895 Police Equipment Reserve;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the LeRoy Village Board hereby authorizes the following declared as surplus for the purpose of disposal:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------|------------------------|
| • 2017 Ford | Explorer | VIN# 1FM5K8BHXHGA95408 |
| • 2016 Chevrolet | Tahoe | VIN# 1GNLCDEC8GR396304 |
| • 2016 Chevrolet | Tahoe | VIN# 1GNSKEKC0GR342097 |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LeRoy Village Board of Trustees does hereby authorize the transfer of the proceeds from the sale of said equipment to A895 Police Equipment Reserve.

SECONDED BY Trustee Yacuzzo

Duly put to a vote as follows:

AYES: Trustee Tetrault, Trustee Yacuzzo, Trustee Kettle, Mayor Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Bonacquisti

November 6, 2023

ADDED:

Mayor Rogers said that Ardent Group approached the Village and the Town about building a baseball facility, a complex of 3 or 4 fields in LeRoy. After a short discussion, the Board was interested. **A motion was made by Trustee Yacuzzo to approve all requirements to apply for the \$5000 grant writing grant from Genesee County.** It was seconded by Trustee Kettle and passed with voting as follows: Trustee Tetrault – Aye, Trustee Yacuzzo – Aye, Trustee Kettle – Aye, and Mayor Rogers – Aye.

Mayor Rogers also mentioned that the Village/Town Pool Agreement for recreation is up and it looks like they will have to renegotiate with the Town.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, **Trustee Kettle made a motion to adjourn**, seconded by Trustee Tetrault and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Carmel, Clerk-Treasurer