

LAGRANGE TOWN BOARD

MEETING REPORT

Compiled by Dave Siegel; Secretary Lagrange Democratic Committee

Date: September 18, 2024

Time: 7:05 PM

Meeting Called to order by: Allan Bell, Town Supervisor

46 In attendance

Agenda Items

- Meeting minutes from the last Town Board meeting (9/4/2024) were approved and accepted by all.
- The Town Board accepted the monthly revenue reports for August as follows:

• Building	\$29,187.00
• Zoning	\$1,441.90
• Public Works	\$1,800.00
• Planning	\$5,118.00
• Highway Dept.	\$600.00
• Justice Sullivan-Bisceglia	\$20,805.00
• Justice O'Hare	\$17,961.00
• Recreation	\$12,829.82
• Town Clerk	\$818.00
- Public Hearing- Continuation: Moratorium on Land Use Approvals for Multi-Family and Residential Mixed-Use Buildings – David Mashiah spoke and accused the Board of enacting new laws that were not legal and how could they prove that they were following the law? Supervisor Bell refuted this argument.
 - Public Comments – Reviewed
 - Resolution of Adoption; Moratorium extended – Accepted
- Public Hearing – Amend Chapter 240 (Zoning) of the Town Code revising the list of permitted uses and modifying the regulations regarding “Stories”
 - FEAF (Full Environment Assessment Form) Part 2
 - FEAF Part 3

Jennifer Hunt representing the organization “Save Lagrange” thanked the Board for acting on this in regard to the proposed Asphalt Plant and that the organizations request was that Asphalt

Plants were specifically spelled out in the new law regarding "Stories". The Board assured her it would be and that the Board had already decided not to approve the plant several meetings ago. They want to build some "teeth" into the new law to dissuade companies like Mid-Hudson Asphalt from continuing to try and push their plant through.

- The Resolution of Adoption was accepted by all except Councilman Ryan who voted "No".
- Amend Chapter 240 (Zoning) of the Town Code to adopt a new section 240-44 entitled "Chickens, Keeping Of"
 - Resolution of Introduction; Set Public Hearing for November 6, 2024
 - i. This is for keeping chickens on residential properties only
 - ii. Board needs more time to come to agreement on various points
- Airbnb Discussion – Currently there is nothing in the Town Code relating to "Short Term Rentals". By definition, this means they are not permitted in the Town of Lagrange. However, there are 18 existing in the town. One is owned by Councilman Ryan. Unfortunately, because there are no laws, the Town doesn't have a lot of recourse to regulate, particularly when people complain about them (noise, partying, etc.). Supervisor Bell will review laws from surrounding towns and the Town Board will review and discuss further.
- Town Board to authorize the Supervisor to sign a Master Services agreement between the Town and Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. – This is another new Engineering firm the town wants to use to get a fresh look at multiple ongoing and proposed projects. – Accepted.
- Town Board to authorize the Supervisor to sign a Master Services agreement between the Town and M.J. Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Surveying, P.C. – This is yet another new Engineering firm the town wants to use to get a fresh look at multiple ongoing and proposed projects. – Accepted.
- Town to reconsider NYCLASS – "New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System" Agreement. – The Towns Banks are offering similar investment opportunities with the added benefit of them being FDIC insured. They do not have the history that NYCLASS has but based on our long-term relationships with these banks this is the direction with Town will go. - Accepted
- Town Board to accept Tancredi Landscape, LLC. Proposal for snow and Ice removal for Sleigh 5 Sidewalk district for the upcoming winter. No increase from last year. – Accepted
- Parks and Recreation Director request for the Town Board to consider the Waiver of Fees for the Arlington Lagrange Lacrosse Club's use of Stringham Park to hold the Lax-O-Ween fundraising tournament – This is a yearly request. – Accepted
- Parks and Recreation Director request for the Town Board approval for consideration of Waiver of Fees for Unionvale Middle School for the use of Freedom Park. – Accepted.
- Parks and Recreation Director requests for the Town Board to approve Arlington Lagrange Lacrosse Club to have Art work painted on their storage container at Stringham Park. - Accepted
- Animal Control Officer requests Town Board approval to attend the 2024 DCO/ACO Conference in Guilderland, NY. on 11/5/2024. Use of Town Vehicle also requested. The cost of travel and attendance is not to exceed \$429.25. – Accepted

- Town Board to consider authorizing residents of Heritage Lane to hold a neighborhood block party on September 28, 2024; Road closure request to be forwarded to the Highway Dept. for consideration. – This is in Dutchess Farms. – Accepted

Town Board Comments

- Town Clerk has appointed a new Deputy Town Clerk – Town Board Accepted the appointment
- Bids for the annual road repair materials was Accepted
- Request for acoustical tile/wall work in the rooms used by the Judges and the Town Board uses for Executive Session was Accepted.

Town Attorney – No comments

Public Comments

2 Citizens from Romca Road spoke specifically about 2 Airbnb's on their road that the owner does not live at and the renters are often out of control, loud, partying, driving up and down the road at all hours, etc. The Board told them they understood and that this is exactly why they want to put laws/regs into the Town Code for short term rentals.

Citizen Rick McGovern thanked the Board for their work on the Asphalt plant and asked whether Black Top Maintenance (BTM) can continue to recycle asphalt in the Town once the new laws are enacted? He was told they could as the practice will have pre-existed the law.

The Fire Commissioner asked that the Block Party information for Dutchess Farms be sent to the Fire Department.

A citizen (Richard Ryan's Father-in-Law) made reference to the fact that we now have 4 engineering firms working with the town, and why is that necessary? Supervisor Bell said we needed fresh eyes to look at things and each firm will more than likely handle different things based on their expertise. He also tried to bring up repairs to the Salt Shed but was shut down because that was not an agenda item.

David Mashiah spoke about how Public Comments are "supposed" to be conducted and the Town Board is not doing this legally. After 3 minutes he had to be removed. When Security touched his camera equipment he yelled "you are denying freedom of the press." He also reiterated the stance that the Board enacts illegal laws.

Town Attorney Valk answered Mashiah's claim by saying the Town follows all proper rules, procedures and laws when creating and enacting new laws.

Councilman Rabasco complained that Councilman Ryan was conducting illegal practices by putting certain things out on social media. He did not elaborate.



Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.