

LAGRANGE TOWN BOARD

MEETING REPORT

Compiled by Dave Siegel; Secretary LaGrange Democratic Committee

Date: May 7, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Called to order by: Allan Bell, Town Supervisor

Agenda Items

- Meeting minutes from the last Town Board meeting (4/16/2025) were approved and accepted.
- Comprehensive Plan Presentation: 3 Engineering firms gave presentations as to how they would re-visit the 2005 Comprehensive plan and make sure it is still viable today. The plan provides for 800 new apartments and 2000 single family homes as well as businesses. Where they see the plan needing changes, they will propose that. They all said the time frame for this would be about 12-16 months and they will all return a proposal with quotes. The 3 firms were:

-MJ Engineering; Nelson, Pope and Vorhis; B&L Hudson Valley Development Group (hard to hear if this was the exact name).
- Presentation: Delaware Engineering
 - Delaware Engineering is a Water and Wastewater engineering firm that works throughout New York. Primarily the town is looking at them to re-evaluate our Water systems as new regulations are coming into effect in 2029 regarding "Forever Chemicals" (PFAS) that collect in water supplies in the ground. Today the regs allow for 10 Parts Per Trillion. That will be changing to "Non-Detectable" so Delaware would come in and make those changes to remove all traces of PFAS chemicals. They will be allowed to inspect all the Town's current operations and then present solutions/proposals.
- Resident Concern: Willy Hongach who lives on Route 82 in LaGrangeville complained that Richard Ryan is running an illegal Commercial Water operation from his property and has been for years. Trucks are in and out all of the time and it's loud and he should not be allowed to do this. (Note: Commercial wells are not permitted in LaGrange, only the Town is allowed to do this. Councilman Ryan said he has been doing this for years and Supervisor Bell interjected, "yes illegally". As an aside, Ryan also operates an AirBnB which is also not a permitted use in the Town of LaGrange.

- Director of Parks and Recreation and Hank Osborne Presentation on NY/NJ Trail Conference: New Trail project at Stringham Park – The group Osborne belongs too was founded in 1920 and has done work at 250 parks, building and maintaining hiking trails. They are offering to build a new trail at Stringham on land donated by a nearby subdivision for free. - Accepted
- Director of Parks and Recreation request Town Board approval to award bids/quotes for 2025 Parks equipment. 2 pieces of equipment went out for bid and lowest bids were received – Accepted.
- Director of Parks and Recreation requests Town Board approval of LPI funds (local town investment fund) for park amenities at Freedom Park. Several improvement including a “nature play trail” \$24, 064.37 would be needed- Accepted
- Director of Parks and Recreation requests Town Board approval for naming the new trail at Stringham Park after long time Parks and Rec director Peter Huff – Accepted
- Director of Parks and Recreation requests Town Board approval for Engineering Design Services Funds – The Parks and Rec department along with current County Legislator Polasek secured some funds from a NYS municipal grant that is especially earmarked for Senior Centers statewide. They don't know how much they will get and won't know until July, but asked the board if they can get a quote on how much one would cost if they put one in Overlook Park. It would be a stand-alone building open 10am-2pm M-F. - Accepted
- Goals of Hope Committee requests Town Board to consider a waiver of fees for the use of Stringham Park on 8/3/2025 – Soccer Tournament – Accepted
- LaGrange Historical Society requests Town Boards approval for waiver of fees for the use of Freedom Park on 7/5/2025 – Accepted
- Overlook Primary School requests Town Boards approval for a waiver of fees for the use of Freedom Park Pavilion and Playground Area on 5/9/2025, 5/15/2025 and 6/4/2025 and Rain Date 6/9/2025. – Accepted
- Justice Sullivan-Bisceglia requests that the Justice Court Petty Cash be increased from \$100.00 to \$200.00. – Accepted
- Justice Sullivan-Bisceglia requests permission for Cindy Paraggio to attend the NYS Magistrates Court Clerks Annual Training in Albany, NY from 9/26-10/1/2025. The cost for the conference is not to exceed \$1,183.59. – Accepted
- Justice Sullivan-Bisceglia requests permission to attend the Annual NYS Magistrates Association Training Conference in Niagara Falls, NY from 9/13-9/15/2025. The cost for this conference not to exceed \$769.95 – Accepted
- Eastern Bridgeworks, LLC/King Arthurs Hamlet Site Plan Application Refund Request- They are not moving forward with project. Refund of \$1075.00. Accepted
- Town Board to consider Logically's LogicCare + IT Proposal – Logically proposed at an earlier meeting an IT support program for the town that was entirely remote based. Town asked for one that had an on-site component. Logically sent the proposal and it was \$131,000.00 per annum. Current providers are at approx. \$84,000.00 per annum so the proposal was rejected.

- Town Board to consider sale of Town owned Parcel of land on Carol Drive – Homeowner that resides next to this wooded parcel would like to purchase it. The parcel already has a conservation easement on it so it can't be developed. Apparently, this homeowner is already dumping things on it. In addition, the Town can't sell without an appraisal being done. The homeowner is volunteering to pay for this, but the Town wants to investigate further.

Town Board Comments – Potential AirBnB regulations will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Town Attorney – No comments

Public Comments

Justin Ryan spoke against Willy Hongach essentially saying he always complains about Ryan's operation and they are doing nothing wrong.

A resident spoke out against the potential Senior Center saying if we build it, then we have to man it and maintain it and there will be costs associated, etc. Sandi Washburn disagreed saying it's something people are asking for all of the time.

In an angry exchange, David Mashiah tried to speak but after announcing he was from the Town of Lagrange, Allan Bell interjected that he was NOT from the Town. Mashiah said he is on the ballot in November so he proved he was from the Town. Bell said all he did was prove he could get a Judge to sign off on his being from the Town and that he was not really a resident of the Town.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

