

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 13, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Lansing Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY on the above date at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Supervisor, Edward LaVigne and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Roll call by Deborah K. Munson, Town Clerk, showed the following to be

PRESENT:

Andra Benson, Councilperson	Katrina Binkewicz, Councilperson
Robert Cree, Councilperson	Doug Dake, Councilperson
Edward LaVigne, Supervisor	

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Guy Krogh, Town Counsel, Dan Veaner, Lansing Star, Ted Laux, Michael Long, Town Planning Consultant, Tom Ellis, Planning Board Chairperson, Suzanne Hinderliter, Natalia and Stephen Emlen, Christine Eisenhut, Melanie Malone, Stephanie Behler, Hurf Sheldon, Bill and Judy Hinderliter, Pat Pryor, Ellen Garcia, Tom Butler, Mike Koplinka-Loehr, John Dean, Vicki Bland, Joseph Wetmore, and a few other attendees.

CANCELLING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Supervisor Edward LaVigne, stated for clarity that this meeting is for the Town Board to discuss between themselves whether to have the public hearing on December 20, 2017 or to cancel it. He noted, there is nothing on the agenda for public comments.

Planning Board Chairperson Tom Ellis, reported the following:

The Comprehensive Plan had been in progress for five (5) years before it was turned over to the Planning Board. The Planning Board was tasked by the Town Board to review, edit and condense the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan has been reduced to about one hundred (100) pages. The Planning Board has held twenty two (22) meetings and spent over two hundred (200) person hours on the Comprehensive Plan. After the Planning Board's public hearing, they received about thirty (30) pages of comments, and they reviewed and commented on all of them in public meetings. The Comprehensive Plan has been reviewed by Tompkins County (239 review) and they complemented the Town on creating a good plan. Tompkins County recommended two (2) modifications. One was a mistake by the Planning Board and the other was to change a few words.

Councilperson Katrina Binkewicz, read the Planning Boards response to the 239 review regarding the minor modifications.

Councilperson Andra Benson, asked Town Counsel Guy Krogh to explain how legally binding the Comprehensive Plan is, or how it is not legally binding.

Town Counsel Guy Krogh, stated the following:

The Comprehensive Plan is not a law; it guides the law. It is a plan to teach the community what to look for; community goals. It is a legal document. When the Town Board receives the recommendation, of the Comprehensive Plan, by the Planning Board a public hearing must take place within ninety (90) days. Once adopted, it should be reviewed for subdivisions, policies, local laws, etc. A Comprehensive Plan is supposed to evolve and change; it is a starting point.

Town Planner Mike Long, stated the Bell Station land is currently zoned lake front on one side and agriculture on the other side. He noted, once the Comprehensive Plan is adopted the zoning can be reviewed. Mr. Long, reported some language has been changed in the Comprehensive Plan regarding Bell Station.

Supervisor Edward LaVigne, stated nothing has changed with zoning yet.

Councilperson Doug Dake, stated the Comprehensive Plan has been worked on for six (6) years and plenty of input has been reviewed. He noted the public has had six (6) years to come forth with their input.

Councilperson Katrina Binkewicz, stated she would like time for “public connection” on this; possibly two (2) to three (3) months.

Town Counsel Guy Krogh, stated since October 2014 there have been over fifty (50) public meetings (including the Agriculture Plan).

Town Counsel Guy Krogh, stated by law once the Planning Board turns the Comprehensive Plan over to the Town Board, the Town Board must have a public hearing within ninety (90) days. The Town Board is not required to make a decision within ninety (90) days, but they must have a public hearing or it goes back to the Planning Board. There may be more informational meetings or public hearings as long as one (1) public hearing is held within 90 days.

Councilperson Andra Benson, asked for clarity regarding changes to the adopted Comprehensive Plan. Town Counsel Guy Krogh, stated once the Comprehensive Plan is adopted by the Town Board all that is required to make a change is for the Town Board to have one (1) public hearing. He noted this is done all the time and the plan is not set in stone.

Town Counsel Guy Krogh, stated this is a good Comprehensive Plan and recommended to have the Public Hearing as soon as possible. He reported, the Town Board can have more public hearings and informational sessions.

Supervisor Edward LaVigne, proposed to have the public hearing on December 20, 2017 to fulfill the ninety (90) day requirement. He stated the approval does not need to be completed at the meeting on December 20, 2017. Supervisor LaVigne, noted other meetings can be held, in other areas of the Town later, but having the public hearing on December 20, 2017 will take care of the requirement.

The Town Board agreed to go forward with the already scheduled public hearing on December 20, 2017.

ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at the call of the Supervisor at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes taken and executed by the Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah K. Munson
Town Clerk