

## TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA

July 18, 2024

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Livonia, County of Livingston and the State of New York was held at the Livonia Town Hall, 35 Commercial Street Livonia NY 14487

**PRESENT:** Eric Gott, Supervisor  
Joseph Breu, Councilmember  
Peter Dougherty, Councilmember  
Andy English, Councilmember  
Matt Gascon, Councilmember  
Hayley Woodruff, Clerk  
Jim Campbell, Attorney, Town of Livonia

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Several Residents.

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gott at 7:00 PM. Supervisor Gott led the pledge.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

A resident came and expressed serious concern about the fire commissioners, and nothing has been done about their action. He stated in his opinion they are blowing smoke and wasting taxpayer dollars. It is his feeling they are spending unnecessary money, and they are going to do it again. He expressed his opinion strongly, that they should have consequences for their actions and wasteful spending.

Councilmember English asked if the commissioners could be elected rather than appointed by the Town Board and the Village Board. Is it his opinion that he would like to see the people make their statements on who is in those positions. Councilmember Breu stated that when the Commissioners are appointed, they at least must go in front of both boards and tell them what they want to hear. He stated he is afraid if the position becomes elected, then there will be even less checks and balances. Councilmember Breu also stated he would like to see taxes lowered. A resident spoke and stated a previous Chief confirmed that the current commissioners are also blowing smoke. Councilmember Breu stated he would like to see a plan in place for the future to not hold the taxpayer's hostage and to better utilize the funds raised by the taxpayers. The resident named other fire departments that have done things more fiscally responsible. Councilmember Breu stated, that again, he would like to see the departments merge. Councilmember Gason stated Livonia taxpayers are making up the cost for everyone anyway. Supervisor Gott suggested the Town Board send a letter to the fire commissioners requesting a 40% decrease in tax rate for the upcoming budget.

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Attorney Campbell stated there is something the board can investigate to see about having the commissioners elected and he could bring more information to the board. He also stated he will look into the possibility of changing the current commissioners' terms. The Fire Commissioners Budget meeting will be held at 7pm on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Gott is going to draft a letter for all board members to sign asking for a 40% decrease in the tax rate and will have all the board members sign and send it prior to the meeting.

Another resident came asking about the update on the South Livonia water district- Attorney Campbell reported the map plan and report is not completed and he has received no update. Attorney Campbell stated that the map plan and report is the lynch pin for the entire project. The resident asked if he needed help and why Clark Patterson Lee is having a hard time getting things rolling. Attorney Campbell stated that other communities are having issues with these types of projects getting advanced as well. He advised that there is a lot of components with creating a project like this. Another resident asked where the money was coming from when the project kicks off. Attorney Campbell stated that the people who are in the district would need to pay for it. He advised the Map plan and report will be paid for by the residents of the proposed district, however if it fails, it becomes a general townwide expense-so all taxpayers would consume that expense.

Another resident asked what was wrong with the petitions and why it wasn't a clear indication of the need/want of the project. Supervisor Gott stated a lot of residents were away in Florida for the winter and weren't here. Another obstacle that was met was others wanting to be included in, after the project was started. The project is now subject to a potential vote from the Town Board and then would be subject to permissive referendum and a special election will be held. Only residents in the proposed district can vote in that, because they are the only ones who will be held financially responsible. There will be public hearings, and the Town Board will decide whether to move forward on the project after the map plan and report is completed. A maximum cost must be established in the development on the map plan and report, because they cannot go over that amount, it is very important every detail is presented clearly. This is the biggest chunk of the process, getting the district formed is a lot more difficult than putting pipe in the ground, stated Attorney Campbell. After the map plan and report is done, they will go out and try to get as much as possible in grant dollars.

Councilmember English spoke on the success of the Third of July at Vitale Park. The Town bought dinner for all the workers and LCSO and are very thankful for everyone's contributions, especially Mr. Pietrowski's donation for the DJ again this year. Concerts

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are going well as well, most people like the 4–6-time change.

RESOLUTION 84-2024

## **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM 6/20/2024**

On motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember Dougherty the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, English, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to approve the Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2024.

RESOLUTION 85-2024

## **TOWN CLERK REPORT**

Paid to Supervisor for the General Fund	\$5,218.17
Paid to County Treasurer for Dog Licenses	\$231.00
NYS Comptroller’s Office (Bingo and Games of Chance Licenses)	\$0.00
Paid to NYS Ag & Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program	\$72.00
Paid to NYS Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses	\$2,547.02
State Health Department (marriage licenses)	\$112.50
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$8,180.69</b>

The new website is being developed and should be ready to roll out by the end of July. I will update the board when it is launched.

On motion of Councilmember Gascon seconded by Councilmember Dougherty the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Dougherty, English, Breu, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to approve Clerk Woodruff’s monthly report.

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GRANT DISCUSSION**

Julie Holtje presented that on July 3<sup>rd</sup> they were notified that we were awarded the grant, and the towns match would be 10,000. The Contract needs to be signed and returned by August 2<sup>nd</sup>. They gave the town Three years to complete. A contractor will need to be selected, and payment will need to be made quarterly. Reimbursement will be within 30 days and proof of payment is shown, reporting and paperwork will be handled smoothly. Attorney Campbell stated this is the standard format for these grants. Other communities in the county are doing the same, and are a little farther ahead, but there is nothing unique or different from the Town of Livonia aspect and this may be daunting to look at but is

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very standard. Whenever consulting provider is selected, they will be made aware of the invoicing process, so they are not billing on a different schedule. Supervisor Gott thanked Julie for all her work on this and really appreciates Julie getting that money through the grant and the board will budget for it in the fall during their budget workshop.

RESOLUTION 86-2024

**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR GOTT TO SIGN CONTRACT TO ACCEPT THE AWARDED GRANT TO UPDATE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

On motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember English the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, English, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to authorize Supervisor Gott to sign the contract to accept the awarded grant, to update the comprehensive plan. The plan is a Type II under SEQR and no further review is necessary.

Supervisor Gott updated that the Town of Livonia also got \$3.4 million in grant money for the Lakeville corridor project. The Board will budget for the match in the upcoming budget workshop.

Bob Nilsson could not be here tonight but had asked to be on the agenda to read a statement.

RESOLUTION 87-2024

**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR GOTT TO SIGN THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LARRY MEYERS FOR THE FOREST CONSERVATION GRANT**

On motion of Councilmember English seconded by Councilmember Gascon the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, English, Gascon)  
Nays –

Resolved to authorize Supervisor Gott to sign the letter of support from the Town Board for Larry Meyers Forest Conservation Grant application as there is no conflict of interest or business interest with the applicant.

RESOLUTION 88-2024

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**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

On motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember Gascon the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, English, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to pay claims 512-541 in the amount of \$40,153.87 from the Abstract dated July 2, 2024.

RESOLUTION 89-2024

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

On motion of Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember English the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, English, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to pay claims 542-595 in the amount of \$66,045.30 from the Abstract dated July 16, 2024.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember Gascon the meeting was adjourned at 7:41PM . Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Hayley Woodruff  
Town Clerk