

**REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA**  
July 2, 2020

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Livonia, County of Livingston and the State of New York was held at Hemlock Lake Park on July 2, 2020.

**PRESENT:** Eric Gott, Supervisor  
Joseph Breu, Councilmember  
Peter Dougherty, Councilmember  
Andy English, Councilmember (entered the meeting at 7:07 PM)  
Matt Gascon, Councilmember  
Colleen West Hay, Clerk

**ABSENT:** 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.  
Councilmember Gascon led the pledge.

**TOWN CLERK’S REPORT – JUNE 2020**

Paid to Supervisor for the General Fund	\$4,240.30
Paid to County Treasurer for Dog Licenses	\$451.50
NYS Comptroller’s Office (Bingo and Games of Chance Licenses)	\$0
Paid to NYS Ag & Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program	\$169.00
Paid to NYS Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses	\$560.70
State Health Department (marriage licenses)	\$22.50
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$5,444.00</b>

**New System for Issuing Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

- Clerk Hay reported that New York State has rolled out a new software program for issuing hunting and fishing licenses and there have been many problems. Many clerks have not been set up yet. Of the clerks who are set up, we are experiencing trouble finding customers in the system, the reports print too small to read, and we can no longer print a receipt for a customer. When we try to call the Help Desk, we are told to leave a message with an email address, and they will get back to us after 24 hours.

**New York State Town Clerks Association (NYSTCA) Conference**

- Clerk Hay shared that she received word today that the NYSTCA conference that was rescheduled for August has been canceled. NYSTCA is offering us the option of refunding our registration fees or applying them to next year. The Town Board indicated that they would prefer that the registration fees be applied to next year.

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RESOLUTION 103-2020

**APPROVE TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to approve the June 2020 Town Clerk Report.

RESOLUTION 104-2020

**APPROVE 6/4/20 MEETING MINUTES**

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

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to approve the meeting minutes from 6/4/20.

RESOLUTION 105-2020

**APPROVE 6/18/20 MEETING MINUTES**

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

ADOPTED Ayes - 4 (Gott, Breu, Dougherty, Gascon)  
Nays – 0

Resolved to approve the meeting minutes from 6/18/20.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Discussion Regarding Support for Hemlock Fire District**

Supervisor Gott reminded the Board that in 1988 the City of Rochester entered into an agreement with the Town of Livonia for Hemlock Lake water. Part of the agreement involved paying the Town of Livonia a yearly stipend with annual increases. The agreement did not state that Hemlock Fire District should receive any of the funding, however the Town Board did give \$4,000 a year to the Hemlock Fire District until 2001. In 2002, the payment was increased, and it continued to increase by 1% each year thereafter. In 2014, the Town Board sent a letter to the Hemlock Fire District stating that they felt it was in the best interest of the taxpayers to discontinue annual payments to the Hemlock Fire District.

Someone from the Hemlock Fire District has approached the Town Board several times over the years to request that the funding be restored. Supervisor Gott introduced Hemlock Fire Commissioner Linda Gascon who attended the meeting tonight to ask for assistance. Supervisor Gott indicated that he is proposing that the Town put \$10,000 in the 2021 budget for Hemlock

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Fire District. Ms. Gascon shared that Hemlock Fire District has a very small budget, and their loss has added up to almost \$70,000 since support was discontinued in 2014. She requested that funding start where they left off. She also asked if they can expect the funding to continue each year.

Councilmember English entered the meeting at 7:07 PM.

Supervisor Gott shared that he planned to lobby for Hemlock to receive funding next year, and the \$10,000 he mentioned is an arbitrary amount. He cautioned that mortgage tax and sales tax are major revenue sources for the Town of Livonia, and those have taken a huge hit with COVID-19. At this point, he is not sure if \$10,000 is doable, but the Board will look at it at the budget workshop.

Ms. Gascon remarked that the Fire District would like to have a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan, but it is hard to plan ahead if they are uncertain about funding. Supervisor Gott stated that it is his intention to put something in the budget for Hemlock each year, but there is no guarantee that this board or any future board would continue it.

Councilmember Gascon added that Hemlock Fire Department will lose a lot of revenue because the Hemlock Fair has been cancelled. Ms. Gascon shared that they are trying to help make up for the lost revenue by having monthly fish fries.

Supervisor Gott explained the Budget process. Funding for Hemlock is in the proposed budget. Then the Town Board will conduct a Budget Workshop where they will examine the Budget and adjust items up or down. Adoption of the Budget takes place in October. On the first Thursday, the Budget will be presented. On the second Thursday is the Budget Workshop, and on the third Thursday, there is a Public Hearing and adoption of the Budget. The approved Budget starts January 1.

Supervisor Gott and Ms. Gascon reported that the Hemlock Fire Department took delivery of a Kubota. The equipment is useful for assisting with rescues. Ms. Gascon reported that they used it during the recent search for two missing persons at Harriet Hollister Spencer Memorial Park.

### **Little Lakes Community Center**

Mary Ann Thompson introduce herself to Councilmember Breu and shared that she attended the meeting to let him know about the Little Lakes Community Center in Hemlock. She introduced Jerry Elman who is from Canadice and is new to the Little Lakes board.

Mr. Elman worked at Kodak for years and has been on a number of non-profit boards over the years. He moved full-time to Honeoye Lake nine years ago. He said he is looking forward to working with the board on board governance and the facility. He is excited about the vision for the center and wants to see the historic building become a hub for the community. He shared that his wife is retired from Victor Schools and has become involved in the center as well.

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Ms. Thompson shared that the center has new gardens going and a food pantry. She thanked Dawn Woodburn and the volunteer crew at the food pantry for the work they do. Ms. Thompson also:

- shared that the Hemlock post office yard looks beautiful. The trees and bushes were scraping car, and she is happy to have them trimmed.
- asked the Town Board to pass the word if they know anyone who can put together itineraries to bring people to the area. There are opportunities to connect to help everyone.

Supervisor Gott remarked that the sign looks great on the Little Lakes building. Ms. Thompson reported that donations paid for it. They have a plan, but it keeps changing due to COVID.

### **Hemlock Sidewalk Project**

Ms. Gascon asked if there was an update on the Hemlock Sidewalk Project. Supervisor Gott reported that he received a text today informing him that the Department of Transportation (DOT) finally approved the plan and the contractor is working on obtaining bonding. He said to stay tuned. The project is moving forward.

### **Hemlock Lake Park**

- **Gazebo** - Councilmember Gascon reported that he has been working with Al Roome about obtaining stone to place around the new gazebo. Mr. Roome cannot do the work because he is down to one crew. Councilmember Gascon wondered if we purchased the stone from Al Roome, and maybe Mike Benson would do the work. Councilmember Gascon will get prices. He envisions flat field stones to go around the gazebo with mulch, bushes, and trees. Supervisor Gott said he thinks we should do it.
- **Tree trimming** – Councilmember Gascon shared that Mike Benson would like to trim some of the tree branches so they can get the mowers underneath them. Councilmember Gascon stated that he does not want them to touch the trees on the island, but the rest are fine. The Board gave permission for Mr. Benson to trim the trees, except for the ones on the island.

### **Livonia Public Library**

Councilmember Gascon reported that there are a lot of stones behind the library and it looks as though it was never graded or cleaned up after the new building was completed. Mr. Benson is concerned because he has new mowers and he is worried about hitting rocks with them. He would like to put topsoil down and reseed the area. He asked Councilmember Dougherty if there would be any issue with Mr. Benson doing that. Supervisor Gott added that he does not think it would be a big expense. Councilmember Dougherty said he will let Library Manager Frank Sykes and Library Board member Mae Sharman know.

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RESOLUTION 106-2020

**APPROVE SMALL MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

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 authorize Councilmember Gascon to work with Al Roome and Mike Benson on the following maintenance items: stones and landscaping around the new gazebo at Hemlock Lake Park; trimming trees at the park so they can be mowed around; and adding topsoil/planting grass behind the Livonia Public Library.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING BULK CLEAN-UP EVENT**

Supervisor Gott reported that he called Shanks about availability for Bulk Cleanup Day, and they have August 15 from 7-10 AM available for the same deal as prior years. Councilmember English asked if it would be feasible to combine the Village and Town together. Supervisor Gott replied that the Village likes to do theirs separately. Clerk Hay asked if we were doing tickets, and if so, what will be the procedures. Supervisor Gott stated that he is concerned that if we do not have tickets, we will not know who is coming. He suggested issuing tickets by mail. Residents can request by email or phone. Clerk Hay can advertise it on the web site and in the Penny Saver and Livingston County News. The rules will be the same as prior years.

RESOLUTION 107-2020

**SCHEDULE BULK CLEANUP**

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

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

Resolved to schedule Bulk Cleanup Day with Shanks for August 15, from 7 to 10 AM.

RESOLUTION 108-2020

**TO HONOR JIM SLOCUM FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Supervisor Gott shared that he was planning on working with Clerk Hay to put together a resolution honoring Jim Slocum and his years of volunteer service with the Shriners, Hemlock Fair, Livonia Rotary and more. But before he could do that, Mr. Slocum passed away. He would like to put the resolution together to present to the family at Mr. Slocum's calling hours on July 11.

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

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

Resolved to recognize Jim Slocum with a resolution honoring him for his years of service to the Livonia Community and to present the resolution to his family at his services on July 11.

### **Vitale Park Update**

Councilmember English spoke with Park Manager Mo Watson regarding the Vitale Park closure. Mr. Watson reported that he has not had any bad feedback from people who walk the park. He is happy that the Town Board is backing him. Supervisor Gott reported that the Sheriff was there today. Councilmember Breu added that tomorrow will be the test. Long Point Park stayed open.

### **Summer Recreation Refunds**

Supervisor Gott thanked Recreation Director Craig Emmerling and Bookkeeper Mike Lawton for refunding the Summer Recreation donations.

RESOLUTION 109-2020

### **AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

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

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

Resolved to pay claims 512 through 530 in the amount of \$1,756.19 from the Abstract dated June 25, 2020.

RESOLUTION 110-2020

### **AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

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

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

Resolved to pay claims 533 through 570 in the amount of \$28,634.82 from the Abstract dated July 2, 2020.

### **Litter Pickup**

Supervisor Gott reported that Bob Nilsson approached him and was pleased with how he was treated by PJ Dwyer. Mr. Nilsson would like to put together a litter pick-up in this area. Although the Highway Department picks up trash when asked to do so, they do not have the time to regularly patrol for trash. Supervisor Gott added that he would like to participate in a cleanup

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event. He will keep everyone posted. Ms. Thompson suggested partnering with the school to have Participation in Government students involved.

Supervisor Gott also reported that Mr. Nilsson wants to spray the weeds around the circle at Hemlock Lake Park, but Supervisor Gott said he would take care of it.

Councilmember Gascon remarked that he would like to thank Mr. Nilsson for operating his drone while the bridge on Rix Hill Road was being done.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember Gascon the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Colleen West Hay, RMC, CMC  
Town Clerk