

## **VILLAGE OF WILSON**

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Arthur Lawson, Mayor  
Carey L. O'Connor, Clerk-Treasurer  
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### **Village of Wilson Board of Trustees Minutes – September 19, 2024**

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor Arthur Lawson, Trustee Greg Martin, Trustee Gary Darnell, Trustee Ellen Hibbard, Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor, Superintendent Shawn Galyen, Engineer Mike Marino and Legislator David Godfrey

#### **ABSENT**

Attorney P. Andrew Vona, and Deputy Clerk Treasurer Nicole Martin

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lawson called the Village Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Local Law #4: New Chapter 18 Transferring Powers from the Planning Board to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Dissolving the Planning Board:** Mayor Lawson requested a motion. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to approve local law #4, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt.

Mayor Lawson opened the floor for public comments. Planning Board Chair Jill Rohring stated that the Village Board is taking a board of five planning board members to a board of three with the Zoning Board. She stated that the planning board should be involved with the possible grants the Village may receive. They need to be involved with plans for the Village not just handling variances and such.

Resident Wade Wagner stated that he has not been to the last few meetings and doesn't understand what the Board wants to accomplish with this.

Mayor Lawson asked if we have any additional public comments. No comments. Mayor Lawson then asked the Board if they have any comments.

Trustee Greg Martin stated that it is true that we have difficulty maintaining a board of five with the Planning Board. It has come to a time to where the village needs to grow and it is not a radical idea, NYCOM recommends it and many other Villages have done it.

Trustee Gary Darnell stated that he agrees with Trustee Martin and that when speaking with NYCOM that we can look into increasing the board.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard and Trustee Joanne Seefeldt that we should look at increasing the board as well.

Mayor Lawson stated that he is not in agreement with the new law. He believes that we have had multiple people wanting to be on the board. He believes the Planning Board has a huge contribution and urges the board to have more discussion and to table it before deciding.

Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any additional comments. No comments.

Mayor Lawson asked the Village Board if he could table this. Trustee Hibbard stated that we need to vote on the first and second motion. Discussion ensued. Mayor Lawson asked for all in favor, Trustee Hibbard, Trustee Seefeldt, Trustee Martin and Trustee Darnell all stated aye, Mayor Lawson asked for all opposing. he stated aye. Clerk Carey O'Connor took roll call. Mayor Arthur Lawson, no; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes. Majority voted yes. Local Law #4 has passed.

**Local Law #5: New Chapter 178 Battery Moratorium:** Mayor Lawson asked for a motion, Trustee Greg Martin made the motion to approve Local Law #5, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Trustee Greg Martin stated that this is a moratorium to allow our codes to catch up to the technology that's being moving quickly. We took a training class and the engineer that all municipalities should put one of these in place. There's a lot of large companies out there buying vacant properties and they are putting storage batteries in them and they will collect energy and then sell it back to the grid at a higher cost.

Mayor Lawson opened it up for public comment. Carol Sattelberg asked if the Village has made an assessment within the Village to know if anyone is currently doing this. Resident Wade Wagner spoke about his concerns with the size of these batteries and the types of batteries that should be considered in this new law. Resident Bob Morgan states that we need to promote new business within the village that will bring in sales tax revenue. We need to find another way to bring revenue streams in other than taxes.

Trustee Martin stated that this is a bigger issue with safety issues. Trustee Darnell also stated that this is a moratorium not a permanent law.

Legislator Godfrey also stated that he hasn't read the law to know what it states, but that the wording should be focused on what we are targeting, and shy away from windmills and small storage.

Trustee Greg Martin stated that we can table this for a month to look at it again to put the resident's concerns at ease. Trustee Ellen Hibbard is concerned about the safety issue and we should still go ahead with it.

Trustee Gary Darnell stated that the specific batteries should be listed and he would agree to take this back for a month to refine it and produce it next month.

Mayor Lawson asked if all are in favor of local law #5. All board members are not in favor of passing local law #5 and would like to address this further and bring it to a public hearing for next month. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to table it until next month, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Local Law #5, Chapter 178 Battery Moratorium has been tabled until next month.

**Local Law #6: Amending Chapter 66 Drainage Control:** Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion to approve local law #6, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Trustee Greg Martin stated that this law and the next laws are verbiage to change due to the new local law #4 dissolving the Planning Board. Mayor Lawson opened it up for public comments. Discussion ensued with resident Wade Wagner to clarify that this law is already in place and it is just to update the verbiage from Planning Board to Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Lawson asked if all are in favor, all stated aye. Clerk O'Connor took roll call. Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes. All in favor, motion has passed.

**Local Law #7: Amending Chapter 70 Environmental Quality Review:** Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to accept amending local law #7, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Trustee Gary Darnell stated this is a standing law it's just updating the current wording for local law #4. Mayor Lawson opened it up for public comments. No comments. Mayor Lawson asked if all are in favor, all stated aye. Clerk O'Connor took roll call. Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes. All in favor, motion has passed.

**Local Law #8: Amending Chapter 106 Mobile Homes:** Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to accept amending local law #8, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Trustee Greg Martin stated that this is the same thing as the previous laws. Mayor Lawson opened it up for public comments. No comments. Mayor Lawson asked if all are in favor, all stated aye. Clerk O'Connor took roll call. Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes. All in favor, motion has passed.

**Local Law #9: Amending Chapter 170 Zoning:** Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt made a motion to accept amending local law #9, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson opened it up for public comments. No comments. Mayor Lawson asked if all are in favor, all stated aye. Clerk O'Connor took roll call. Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes. All in favor, motion has passed.

## **MINUTES**

Mayor Lawson reminded everyone that you can find a copy of our previous minutes on our Village website and in the Village office. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from August 15, 2024. Motion was made by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

## **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers, on all abstracts, located with the agenda at the back of the room (attached). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers. Motion was made by Trustee Gary Darnell, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

## **BUSINESS**

**Wilson Area Business Association invitation to join:** Mayor Lawson stated that being a municipality, we can support WABA but we would like to extend an invitation to their next meeting on September 20th at 6:30pm at the Yacht Club.

**Event Request for the First Baptist Church Chili Fall Festival on October 13, 2024 from 3-5:30pm:** Mayor Lawson stated that all is in order with insurance, can he get a motion. Trustee Greg Martin made a motion to approve event request, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

**Event Request for the First Baptist Church Country Christmas on December 15, 2024 from 3-6pm:** Mayor Lawson stated that all is in order with insurance, can he get a motion. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to approve event request, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

**Official Proclamation, Proclaiming the Last Friday of April as Arbor Day in the Village of Wilson:** Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve the proclamation, motion made by Trustee Ellen Hibbard, seconded by Trustee Greg Martin. Mayor Lawson then read the attached proclamation. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Trustee Greg Martin stated that he is excited to celebrate Arbor Day. All in favor of proclamation, proclamation passed.

**Water School for Rob Siegmann and Shawn Galyen:** Rob and Shawn will be attending water school to earn hours for their licensure. Engineer Mike Marino has been able to transfer the scholarship that was set aside for Albert Whitehead, to Shawn Galyen. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve the school. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, motion has passed.

**Thank you to Resident Art Cryer for donating money to have the corner clock fixed.** Mayor Lawson called him a couple weeks ago to thank him personally. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone else had any comments. Trustee Martin stated that it's nice to have it fixed after years of it being broken. He would also like to thank Shawn and the DPW for getting it fixed.

**Thank you to the following people who donated to help offset the cost of security cameras at Federal Pier to discourage vandalism:** Mayor Lawson stated that Carly Butler took it upon herself to take up a collection after there was some vandalism at the restrooms at the Federal Pier. The following people donated \$985.00 to the Village: JR Brownie, Joey Butler, Carly Butler, Alyssa Rohring, Tracey Kent, Greg Martin, Nicole Martin, Jeremy Clement, Thomas Maxwell, Kelly Stephens, Jewels Hansen, Thomas Boyd, Brooke Boltz Dezick, Tina Seager, Connie Craig, Nick Nowicki, Naomi Parsons Ciaramella, Barbara McAvoy Oliphant, Ron Zito, Patricia Munnikhuisen, Lisa Schmidt, Tim Ciera, Lorayne Woodard, Conne M. Francioli, Fran Francioli, Cheryl Wilkins, Alisa Anderson, Ann Kacko Stimm, Maureen Lenhart Tato, Tracy Grier Ziemendorf, Stan Culverwell, Mary Palacios, and Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson stated that it takes a Village and thanked everyone again. Trustee

Greg Martin stated that Legislator David Godfrey asked us to send a letter requesting funds to help. Legislator Godfrey stated he has a little bit of money left in his discretionary fund and he will help us out.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard brought up that she would like to move our employee meeting back to the Thursday meeting. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt also agreed to have it all on the same day. Mayor Lawson disagreed and that he can only attend on Monday's or Tuesday's. Discussion ensued.

## **REPORTS**

Mayor Lawson opened reports.

Legislator David Godfrey reported that the Association of Counties have met as there's a lot going on with Albany. We have our EMS issues and one of our bills have gone through that our paramedics can give transfusions. They can now charge Medicare for transport only. They're chipping away at getting our EMS out there with the tools to save lives. Very good news for our EMS.

Engineer Mike Marino reminded that we have a meeting tomorrow afternoon with the kickoff Engineering planning grant with the DEC and EFC.

Superintendent Shawn Galyen reported that we currently have a security system down at the plant and he has Amherst Alarm come in and they will be able to get the system up and running again. As time and money permits, we will be able to upgrade our DVR. Shawn stated that they did not recommend wireless cameras due to the bouncing back and forth from 4 to 5G.

There was damage to the Townline Pier gate from a car trying to go through it. The guys at the DPW were able to repair it.

He is still working on the lead inventory.

He has met up with Tom the Tree man and they have identified approximately 30 trees. There is a process with trees on State and County roads that we have to call and put them on their list.

They have been working on drainage within the Village and will be working on a couple other ones before winter.

WWTP - working on the digesters. They have been cleaned out and will help with the process of decanting.

Trustee Joanne Seefeldt is interested having the employee workshop changed back to the third Thursday. There will be one additional Farmer's Market in the Village.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard went to the Clerk's Association Meeting. They discussed the animal care facilities. It doesn't pertain to us as the Town is in charge of the dog control officers. They're looking into a process for all through the county.

Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor has nothing at this time.

Trustee Gary Darnell reported that he learned a little bit about the pressing at the WWTP. He would also like to publicly thank Tom Moje for organizing Pipers on the Pier and he was unable to attend one since he was camping a lot this vacation and hopes we can have it again next year.

Trustee Greg Martin reported about becoming a Tree City, we held an informational meeting on September 4th that was a success. We applied for Youth Funds grant to help offset the Summer Rec program. He reached out to David Godfrey to help us with our security system with funds from the County. He has also started looking into doing something about the increased wages. He will be reaching out to NYCOM and would like to get some momentum going from the State. We cannot compete with the private sector. He is working on a resolution to send along to the State. He has also been researching future tax needs and will be sitting down with Carey to work on this. He has been working on Sunset Island ideas and working with the Town. He has been working on the insurance for the Federal Pier since our carrier will not carry it. We've asked the County, they can't help. We've asked the Federal government and they've sent it back to the State. Trustee Darnell stated that we've even battled about the "lease" that our Village resident's have to pay for a Federal Pier.

We've had some great information from one of our resident's about creating a business directory and something to hand out about starting new businesses. Also looking into a survey for the community on what direction they want to go. He has also sent some webinars to Shawn on grants. Working with Maureen Henderson with grants and how she can help the village. Started a discussion on Inviting Pipers on the Pier back next season. He will be reaching out to Sheriff Filcetti about a bike program for the village. They take bikes they end up with and spray them a specific color to have them around for the village to use.

Mayor Lawson closed reports.

### **RECESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT**

Mayor Lawson opened recess for public input.

Carol Sattelberg asked Shawn what they consider a Village tree. Shawn stated that it all depends on the street. There is a right-of-way map and if a tree is in that right-of-way, then it would be considered a tree the Village would take care of. Carol then asked about the Employee handbook and if it is finished. Trustee Greg Martin stated it hasn't been touched. Carol also asked about the meeting on September 4th minutes. Trustee Martin stated that he has them on his phone.

Wade Wagner stated that we have a lot of stumps in the Village. Shawn stated that we are working with a limited budget and we have some trees that need some attention. He will also look into grinding them in house. Discussion ensued. Wade also wanted to discuss the local law on short term rentals. He has an issue with the perception of the law and it's telling property owners what to do with their property. He was disappointed that it was an unanimous vote. Wade would also like to commend the board and wants to continue to see them conversing with the resident's and then deciding.

Jill Rohring would like to ask about the speed radar and if it's helping. Mrs. Morgan stated that they came to the August meeting and Shawn moved the speed radar near their home on Lake Street. They can contest that it absolutely works. Jill stated that it was near her house on Harbor Street and she doesn't think it works. Mr. Morgan stated that when the batteries died, they did start speeding again but once it was working again they slowed right down. Discussion ensued.

Tree Man Tom - local tree company in the area. Spoke to Trustee Martin about TreeCityUSA.com. Trees can bring people into the Village when they're walking around. It's important to get rid of problem trees. He has been working with Trustee Martin on a Tree Care Ordinance.

### **CLOSING**

Mayor Lawson stated that our next employee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, here at the Town Hall at 2:30pm, and our Board meeting will be on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 7:00pm. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:01pm. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Carey L. O'Connor*

Carey L. O'Connor  
Village Clerk-Treasurer