

A Special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at Lawrence Village Hall, 196 Central Avenue, Lawrence, New York 11559.

Those members present were: Mayor Alex H. Edelman  
Deputy Mayor Michael A. Fragin  
Trustee Uri Kaufman  
Trustee Daniel J. Goldstein  
Trustee Syma F. Diamond

Also present were: Ronald Goldman, Village Administrator  
Samuel Francis, President PPL BOT  
Audrian Gray, Vice President PPL BOT  
Jeffrey Leb, Secretary PPL BOT  
Sarah Yastrab, Trustee PPL BOT

Absent were: Gerry Castro, Deputy Village Clerk  
Lina Fusco, Deputy Village Treasurer  
Village Attorney, Peter Bee, Esq.  
Alison Cohen, Secretary to the BOT

**SPECIAL MEETING** - Mayor Edelman called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

This meeting was for the express purpose of representatives of the Peninsula Public Library (PPL) to make a direct presentation to the Mayor and Board of Trustees regarding its progress and to get the Board's feedback, comments and inquiries, and from whatever members of the public who were present noting that there will be subsequent meetings scheduled as well as this is in its preliminary phase.

Deputy Mayor Fragin asked that it be included in the record that in general and based on feedback he received over the past week, "this process has suffered from a lack of transparency, and has unfortunately engendered quite a bit of ill will from some of the members of the community". He went on to say that he received a petition today in addition to e-mails and comments, that many people are away and don't know when the other meetings are going to be; they want to have their voices heard and feel that they're not being given that opportunity. "In politics the optics are important; the perception is important. The perception here is that we're not being open and transparent"; Deputy Mayor Fragin added that he feels that "this is not the way to go." He stated that "it is important and he is at the meeting", however, "for the record he received many comments that people were out of town/away and he and they were not happy about tonight's meeting". Deputy Mayor Fragin stated that "the Board has never held a meeting on a Sunday night prior to this one and this was not an emergency;

there were no extraordinary circumstances; and this project is going to take quite some time to come to fruition” and that the meeting “was not a good idea”.

Mayor Edelman responded that it was the Library who called tonight’s meeting in order to provide an initial overview of their progress. It was not initially intended to be a public meeting; it was intended to be a presentation for the Board and became a public meeting due to “Open Meetings Law”. Mayor Edelman “fielded” various questions from the public; however, he stated that this was not the time for open discussion of opinions, as this meeting was called to first hear the Library’s presentation and progress.

Samuel Francis, President of the Board of Trustees of the Peninsula Public Library thanked everyone in attendance for the discussion of the Library project; and introduced PPL Director Carolynn Matulewicz, PPL Attorney Bill Cullen, PPL Architect Kevin Walsh and PPL Construction Manager Gary Gonzales. He stated that he hoped to have a constructive conversation with the Village of Lawrence Board of Trustees as well as local residents. Mr. Francis then began the presentation regarding the current plans of and on behalf of the Peninsula Public Library and spoke to how it might affect the Village, its residents and possible alternatives.

Architect Kevin Walsh, from BBS Architects, gave an overview of the property and current plans. Discussion ensued regarding parking issues, the need for a traffic study, title inquiries, alternative options (including the sewer plant), the size of the building and its various uses.

PPL President Samuel Francis stated that they would take the feedback from tonight’s meeting and do the following:

- a) They are in the process of doing a traffic study
- b) They are going to think about the size of the building
- c) They are willing to consider making changes that will alleviate concerns that have been raised, such as the presence of a catering facility, etc.

Mr. Francis went on to say that it is in their best interest to eventually have people vote and want this project. “We have the shared interest of getting people to want this.” In light of this fact, Mr. Francis stated that they were going to modify their plans and have it be prepared for the meeting in a couple of months to present a modified plan to the public. Further discussion ensued.

**Board Action:** Trustee Kaufman moved that the Village not amend the contract or sign or engage in any further/new contracts related to the Peninsula Public Library and the Zion Park site, without receiving the approval of the Board. Deputy Mayor Fragin seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Mayor Edelman – Opposed  
Deputy Mayor Fragin – Aye  
Trustee Goldstein - Aye  
Trustee Kaufman - Aye  
Trustee Diamond - Aye

On motion by Trustee Kaufman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fragin and unanimously approved, the Board adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

This is to certify that I, Ronald Goldman, read the preceding minutes, and they are in all respects a full and correct record of such proceedings.

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Ronald Goldman, Administrator,  
Clerk/Treasurer

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