

A special meeting of the Village of Liverpool Board of Trustees was held on Thursday February 1, 2018 at noon at 310 Sycamore Street, Liverpool NY

Present:	Gary White	Mayor
	Christina Fitch	Deputy Mayor
	Bradley Young	Trustee
	Matt Devendorf	Trustee
	Don Morris	Police Chief
	Bill Asmus	DPW Superintendent
	John Langey	Attorney
	Greg Sgromo	Engineer
	Sandra Callahan	Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
Absent:	Jason Recor	Trustee

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White said that he and Town of Salina Supervisor Mark Nicotra were summoned to a meeting with NYSDOT on January 30, 2018 regarding the Onondaga Lake Parkway project. Mayor White and Chief Morris attended along with Supervisor Nicotra and the Town of Salina engineer. There were several State and County Engineers and representatives in attendance.

He was given a project packet that had a February 2018 date for presentation to the public.

The project involves creating a T-intersection at Heid's corners with a distinct turn onto the parkway. He said that CSX Railroad may come to the table to discuss possibly raising the railroad bridge. The plan presented 2 and 4 lane options with an intention to close off First Street and Willow Street at the intersection at Heid's.

Included in the plan was a possible purchase and tear down of the building at 101-105 First St., owned by Mike Charles.

Mayor White was concerned that NYSDOT would consider this project without consulting with the Village at all, with the project having such an impact on the Village.

NYSDOT said that this is a safety project citing accidents on the Parkway and at Heid's corner and this is the most appropriate option.

Mayor White asked what other options they had considered and said all options presented included shutting off First and South Willow streets. Mayor White strongly urged NYSDOT to look at options that did not close off First Street, the major business street in the Village, and let them know that the Village discourages this plan.

The Parkway design may be 2 or 4 lanes and would still have the ability to loop the lake. There would be a median down the parkway with either lane option.

Chief Morris said that there have been 13 accidents in 2 years at Heid's corner. Three involved personal injury, no fatalities. Per the NYSDOT, this intersection is on the state list of high accidents, based on the number of accidents/per number of cars. Chief Morris said this was a low number of accidents given the thousands of cars that go through this intersection daily.

On the NYSDOT website, the project is listed as having a \$5.5 million cost. At the meeting, it was stated the 2 lane option would be \$15.9 million and the 4 lane would be \$19.1 million. These costs are construction costs only and do not include engineering or land acquisition costs.

Mr. Sgromo spoke with the project manager for NYS, Nick Decerce and was told the project was a safety project as the State was concerned with head-on collisions on the Parkway and deterring commercial trucks from turning on to the Parkway.

Mayor White asked what the traffic impact would be on the Village? NYSDOT said traffic would be reduced. Mayor White said this traffic pattern would cause longer delays for people but NYSDOT was insistent that people would find alternate routes.

Mayor White spoke with someone at Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) to see what their relationship is with NYSDOT and this project as they provide funding. SMTC was unaware of the magnitude of this project.

The tentative schedule is for design approval in 2021, bids received 2023 and completion of the project in 2024.

Mayor White said we need to be aware of the progress of this project and stay on top of it. Mayor White will get contact information prior to the public comment period so people may voice their concerns.

Chief Morris said if they take down the building on First St. it would become a park, part of the County Parks jurisdiction.

Attorney Langey stated that the Village has legal rights in this process and he would discuss with the Board in a client/attorney privilege meeting.

Mayor White asked for comments from the Board.

Trustee Devendorf said he thinks to loop the lake and divide the Village with this traffic pattern will be detrimental.

Trustee Young asked about the railroad crossing at Heid's and what would happen there if this project goes through. Mayor White said NYSDOT didn't have the train schedule at the meeting. Mr. Sgromo said the limit on train crossings is supposed to be 5 minutes.

Trustee Fitch agreed that leaving the Village out of this development process was poor. She would like to meet with Attorney Langey to hear what the Village options are. She is concerned with the safety issues and the impact on the Village and encourages traffic calming.

Mr. Sgromo said the Board should review the 2009 SMTC Modeling Study and state their priorities.

Mayor White said there are 2 projects under development in the Willow and First St. area and the projects would probably be stalled if First St. gets closed off. Mayor White said the Town of Salina engineer spoke in favor of the DOT proposal and that Supervisor Nicotra made no comments and didn't offer any support for the Village.

Mayor White would like Mr. Sgromo to meet with the project manager and set up a meeting to determine where they are in the process so we can move forward.

Mayor White emphasized that we are not looking to be obstructionists and if there is a way to improve the traffic flow without closing off streets, the Village would be interested in pursuing.

There being no further business, Trustee Devendorf moved and Trustee Fitch seconded the motion to adjourn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Callahan
Deputy Clerk