

July 22, 2013

Mayor Peterson opened the committee meeting and public hearing for Local Law #3 regarding amendment to the Sewer Law at 6:37 pm. Mayor Peterson began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and cautioned residents that the first portion of the meeting was a public hearing and then the Board would be going into executive session. He said public comments would be heard after all business was taken care of.

Members present were Mayor Peterson, Trustees Busch, Ianni and Lauer. Trustee Bielec was absent. Village residents and others in attendance were requested to sign in for the public hearing.

Clerk read Local Law #3 which amends the section of Local Law #2 of 1997 pertaining to Sewer rates. (See below) Resident Linda Tucker pointed out that it does not specify the new rate and that she is against the openness of the Local Law which does not allow public participation.

LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2013

“A LAW TO AMEND THAT SECTION OF LOCAL LAW #2 OF 1997 PERTAINING TO SEWER RATES”

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Corfu has determined after a Public Hearing, that the section of Local Law #2 of 1997 pertaining to Sewer Rates shall be amended to permit the Board of Trustees to change the rates as necessary from time to time by Resolution of the Board of Trustees, in which the prior law required a local law be adopted to modify the sewer rates. NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED that the section of the Village of Corfu Local Law #2 1997 be and hereby is amended to permit the Board of Trustee to change the sewer rates as necessary from time to time by Resolution of the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Peterson mentioned that the sewer rate has to pay for the sewer expenditures.

It was explained the purpose of changing it to just requiring a resolution by the Board rather than enacting a Local Law each time a rate change is proposed, is to save the cost of having to pass a Local Law with the Sewer Project being likely to change the rates on a more frequent basis.

After more discussion, it was suggested a line be added at the end “following a public hearing.” The residents in attendance and Board agreed that should take care of the issue.

Motion was made by Trustee Ianni and seconded by Trustee Lauer to move the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW No. 3 of 2013

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law #3 of 2013 of the Village of Corfu entitled “A Local Law to amend that section of Local Law #2 of 1997 pertaining to Sewer rates”, which proposed Local Law was presented to the Village Board at the meeting held on July 8, 2013, and a copy thereof was kept with the Village Clerk and copies both laid upon the desks of the members of said Village Board and mailed to each member of the Village Board not in attendance at said meeting; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the advisability of enacting said proposed Local Law was held on July 22, 2013 before this Village Board, pursuant to Public Notice duly published in The Daily News according to Law, at which all interested persons were heard; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Corfu, New York is of the opinion that the adoption of said Local Law #3 of 2013 is in the best interest of the Village of Corfu, New York,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of the Village of Corfu, New York that said proposed Local Law #3 of 2013 be and the same hereby is adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of said Local Law #3 of 2013 be filed with the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Law.

Dated: July 22, 2013

LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2013

“A LAW TO AMEND THAT SECTION OF LOCAL LAW #2 OF 1997 PERTAINING TO SEWER RATES”

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Corfu has determined after a Public Hearing, that section of Local Law #2 of 1997 pertaining to Sewer Rates shall be amended to permit the Board of Trustees to change the rates as necessary from time to time by Resolution of the Board of Trustees, in which the prior law required a local law be adopted to modify the sewer rates. NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED that the section of the Village of Corfu Local Law #2 1997 be and hereby is amended to permit the Board of Trustee to change the sewer rates as necessary from time to time by Resolution of the Board of Trustees following a Public Hearing.

The motion was passed on the following vote:

VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Ralph Peterson	X			
Trustee Keith Busch	X			
Trustee Dave Bielec				X
Trustee Art Ianni	X			
Trustee Ken Lauer	X			
VOTE TOTAL	4			1
RESULTS	PASSED			

Motion was made by Mayor Peterson and seconded by Trustee Busch to go into executive session to discuss personnel and the Village Attorney.

Mayor was questioned further regarding the purpose of the executive session.

The motion was **NOT** passed on the following vote:

VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Ralph Peterson	X			
Trustee Keith Busch	X			
Trustee Dave Bielec				X
Trustee Art Ianni		X		
Trustee Ken Lauer		X		
VOTE TOTAL	2	2		1
RESULTS	NOT PASSED			

There were some questions from village residents as to why Mayor Peterson felt a need to change the Village Attorney. Mayor Peterson said the previous attorney he proposed did not want to accept the position. Trustee Ianni pointed out that the Board voted against any change in attorney. Mayor Peterson asked if he has the authority to appoint, directing the question to the guest attorney he had invited to the meeting. Trustee Ianni said that we have many projects going on that a new attorney would have to catch up on, which would be very costly. Mayor Peterson was also asked if the other members of the Board knew about the other attorney being asked to attend. Mayor Peterson said there is a definite impasse between the executive branch and the legislative branch and felt he needed his own attorney.

Trustee Ianni said the way the government is supposed to work is that no one person is supposed to run everything. He agreed there are municipalities that have one attorney for the Board and a separate attorney for the mayor. He also mentioned that Mayor Peterson had not wanted the previous Mayor to have his own attorney but now he wants the Mayor to have his own attorney. Trustee Ianni questioned where in the budget is the Village supposed to pay for two attorneys.

Communications:

- 1) Rec'd newsletter entries from Mayor Peterson, Trustee Lauer and Trustee Ianni.
- 2) Rec'd ck#1007 in amt of \$23,900 from Judge O'Connor for June 2013 fines.
- 3) Rec'd 2 property transfers from Town of Pembroke Zoning Clerk,
- 4) Rec'd 2 copies of new 1 year lease agreement from Town of Pembroke for signature.
- 5) Rec'd WW facility operations report & DMR for May 2013 from Camden Group.
- 6) Rec'd audit engagement letter from Freed Maxick for signature.
- 7) Rec'd report from Dave Stehlar re: police committee to be read into public record. (See attached)
- 8) Rec'd letter of resignation from officer John Armitage effective August 8, 2013.
- 9) Rec'd letter of extension from NYS Comptroller for Annual Update Document.
- 10) Rec'd email from resident Al Graham in response to newsletter to be read into public record. (see attached)
- 11) Rec'd letter from resident Jenny McMartin in response to newsletter to be read into public record. (see attached)
- 12) Rec'd formal complaint to Board regarding Mayor Peterson from Clerk Treasurer Sandra Thomas to be read into public record. (see attached)
- 13) Rec'd formal complaint to Board regarding Mayor Peterson from Deputy Clerk Treasurer Denise Beal to be read into public record. (see attached)

Trustee Lauer mentioned there were two other communications that should be addressed. One was an email from Attorney Mark Boylan indicating that the Village cannot pay for the uniforms purchased for officers that were not hired by the Board. Trustee Lauer also mentioned communication from District Attorney Donald O'Geen regarding charges filed against Brandi Watts and Judge Alexander.

Trustee Ianni repeated the final sentences from the two Clerks letters regarding not wishing to bring legal action, but would if the situation continues. He said he would support the clerks. He also re-read the portion of the letter from District Attorney Donald O'Geen stating that Mayor Peterson could not harass or retaliate against any witness in the Brandi Watts case.

Trustee Ianni said Mayor Peterson has not bothered the Court Clerk, and questioned why he continues to harass the other clerks. Mayor Peterson said he stayed out of the Court because he has no business in the Court.

Clerk presented the newly written one-year lease received from the Town of Pembroke.

Motion was made by Trustee Lauer and seconded by Trustee Ianni to approve the one-year Lease from the Town of Pembroke for the period of June 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014.

The motion was passed on the following vote:

VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Ralph Peterson	X			
Trustee Keith Busch	X			
Trustee Dave Bielec				X
Trustee Art Ianni	X			
Trustee Ken Lauer	X			
VOTE TOTAL	4			1
RESULTS	PASSED			

Question was raised regarding the total expenditures for uniforms for officers hired without Board approval. The expense was calculated at approximately \$460.65. It was also questioned who would be responsible for payment. Mayor Peterson said he had no answer at this time but would pursue it and check with NYCOM and the Insurance Company.

An invoice for a hearing protector for a total of \$195.78 for Officer Okal was questioned since in the Budget the Police uniform allowance was dropped from \$300.00 per officer to \$150.00 per officer. Officer Okal said as far as he knew none of the officers were aware of the reduction in their uniform budget. Discussion took place regarding what the officers should be allowed to purchase and not allowed to purchase

with their uniform budget. The prior approval of two pairs of boots totaling \$291.80 for Officer Biegaszewicz was also discussed and it was decided a letter should be sent to him requesting he pay the Village the \$141.80 overage on the boots.

Motion was made by Trustee Ianni and seconded by Trustee Busch to approve reimbursement of \$150.00 to Officer Okal for his hearing protector.

The motion was passed on the following vote:

VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Ralph Peterson	X			
Trustee Keith Busch	X			
Trustee Dave Bielec				X
Trustee Art Ianni	X			
Trustee Ken Lauer	X			
VOTE TOTAL	4			1
RESULTS	PASSED			

Brief discussion took place regarding re-hiring Caleb Lang for summer help. The maintenance staff is ready to begin in-kind services for the sewer grant starting with sheds for the generator, moving fences etc. Per Trustee Bielec's written Project update he indicated he will be in contact with utility companies to set up communications with them. His report also said that he and Camden Group will be meeting with the maintenance staff to get a detailed list of the in-kind work to be done by maintenance and that which will be done by Camden Group so there won't be any overlapping services.

It was mentioned that today the maintenance staff started working on the valves and they are beginning to dig trenches.

Motion was made by Trustee Lauer and seconded by Mayor Peterson to approve re-hiring Caleb Lang as summer maintenance help.

The motion was passed on the following vote:

VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Ralph Peterson	X			
Trustee Keith Busch	X			
Trustee Dave Bielec				X
Trustee Art Ianni		X		
Trustee Ken Lauer	X			
VOTE TOTAL	3	1		1
RESULTS	PASS			

Trustee Ianni brought up the fact that often Court clerk Pam Yasses sets up the community center for court nights herself. He suggested using Caleb Lang to set up for her on Court nights.

Mayor Peterson opened public comment period.

Linda Tucker had posed several questions to the mayor on his letter in the July newsletter. Several residents expressed their opinion that his letter was very unprofessional and that the Board has an obligation to employees to provide a safe, unthreatening atmosphere for all employees. The Board mentioned they have attempted to stop the mayor's actions but he has not complied.

Motion was made by Trustee Lauer and seconded by Trustee Ianni to send the letters of complaint from the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to Village Attorney Mark Boylan to determine what action can be taken.

The motion was passed on the following vote:

VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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Mayor Ralph Peterson		X		
Trustee Keith Busch	X			
Trustee Dave Bielec				X
Trustee Art Ianni	X			
Trustee Ken Lauer	X			
VOTE TOTAL	3	1		1
RESULTS	PASS			

A question arose from one resident regarding Village Officer having been seen sitting at Darien Lake in the Corfu Police vehicle smoking cigars. It was questioned what the Board intended to do about it. The Board agreed it would be looked into.

Linda Tucker questioned what is going on with the Police lawsuit. Mayor Peterson responded that there is no formal claim yet.

The condition of the property at Petals & Plants was brought up. The Board said they would contact John Good to pursue the matter.

Resident Jenny McMartin questioned if they ever heard back from Darien Lake regarding any monetary aid for coverage during concerts and events. The Board responded not at this time. She also questioned if we couldn't get someone else to run the light. Brief discussion took place regarding that issue.

Resident Tyler Lang questioned if the Mayor had set up any office hours as yet and received no response.

Motion was made by Mayor Peterson and seconded by Trustee Ianni to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.

The motion was passed on the following vote:

VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Ralph Peterson	X			
Trustee Keith Busch	X			
Trustee Dave Bielec				X
Trustee Art Ianni	X			
Trustee Ken Lauer	X			
VOTE TOTAL	4			1
RESULTS	PASS			

Sandra Thomas
Clerk Treasurer

Sandra S. Thomas
66 W. Main Street #38
Corfu, NY 14036

July 21, 2013

To the Village of Corfu Board;

This letter serves to file a formal complaint to the Village Board regarding Mayor Ralph Peterson. For over ten years I have served the Village of Corfu in a job I enjoyed and looked forward to every day. Since Ralph Peterson began his campaign to discredit me, it has affected my emotional and physical well-being. For several years prior to his becoming Mayor I endured many instances of derision, disrespect and mistrust by him. He has consistently attempted to undermine my self-confidence and questioned my competence to do my job. In the past with the support of the previous Mayor, Board members, fellow employees, family, friends and my physician, I have been able to endure each attempt by Ralph Peterson to destroy my credibility and self-confidence.

Since the election of Ralph Peterson as Mayor, although the support system is still there, Mr. Peterson has stated his position as Mayor negates any position of support the Board may offer. Since his firing of the Deputy Clerk and myself for refusing to give him our passwords, which he claimed as a "misunderstanding", and the Board's reinstatement of our positions, Mr. Peterson has stated several times that he is now aware he can fire us without Board approval.

After setting up his own password, Mayor Peterson demanded keys to all files and requested that former Police Administrator Jim Meier make copies of our hard drives. Sergeant Meier refused to do this. Wyoming County Prosecutor Donald O'Geen sent Mayor Peterson a letter that he could not harass or retaliate against any potential witness or tamper with any potential evidence in the Brandi Watts case. As a witness in that case, I feel his actions and demands towards me constitutes harassment and retaliation.

Against a majority Board vote, Mayor Peterson installed a desk for himself within the Deputy Clerk's office. He has maintained a hostile, dictatorial tone and demanded immediate changes in office operation to his perception of how he feels it should be run. His intimidating tone and demeanor has exacerbated an already tense, negative and unhealthy working atmosphere created by him. In my over ten years working in the Village office, I have followed New York State guidelines. I have heard praise for our office's efficiency from auditors, SEMO representatives during the October storm and grant administrators, as well as the residents we serve.

I could go into many detailed examples of Ralph Peterson's barrage of threats, innuendos, accusations, falsehoods and harassment. Some are a matter of public record, and many have been made behind closed doors and in emails. He has now made public his contempt and made insinuations of incompetence of the office staff in the Village Newsletter to Village residents. This is unacceptable.

Although Mayor Peterson is smugly confident that he is untouchable and can do and say absolutely anything he wants, I am filing this complaint imploring the Board to put a stop to this deplorable situation and prevent any further harassment and retaliation. It is not my intention to bring legal action, but if the situation continues that will be my only alternative.

Respectfully,

Sandra S. Thomas

Sandra S. Thomas

**DENISE BEAL
10738 WARNER ROAD
DARIEN, NY 14040**

July 21, 2013

ATTN: VILLAGE BOARD
Village of Corfu
116 East Main Street
Corfu, NY 14036

Dear Village Board:

This letter is being written to serve as a formal complaint against Mayor Ralph Peterson. The mayor's persistent actions including his attempted firing of me, his attempt to control me by setting up a desk in my office, his constant reminder of his authority over me as an employee and his subjective comments about my abilities to do my job that he had published in the village newsletter are harassment based on gender and have created a hostile work environment.

On April 10, 2013, the mayor called me into the conference room for a meeting. He demanded that I close the door and when I did not obey him, he attempted to close the door himself. As a female, I felt trapped and frightened when he stood up and physically tried to shut the door. During this meeting he fired me. This termination was highly embarrassing, scared me and made me sick.

On June 17, 2013, the mayor had the maintenance staff come into the village office and move things around so he could set up a desk for himself. On June 19, 2013, he purchased a chair for his desk. His desk being in such close proximity to me has made me feel like he is watching my every move and in turn, is making it difficult for me to do my work. I feel like he is a thief breaking into my work life.

His constant reminder of his authority by his demanding the password to my computer, demanding I turn over my keys to him, comments made during board meetings, verbal conversations and publication of the newsletter has changed the terms and conditions of my employment. His demand to turn over the keys has only been met by the female staff in the Village office. He has not demanded that the maintenance department, which employs an all male staff, turn over their keys. His constant reminder of his authority makes me feel like I should have to obey him because he is a male with given authority. I feel my duties as outlined in my job description have been stripped and I have to play by his rules. This man makes me feel like I am there to serve him at any cost.

His subjective comments he wrote in the village newsletter are embarrassing. I have been employed by the Village of Corfu for over 5 years. Never have I felt so degraded and harassed by a male. I have always taken great pride in my work and have performed my duties with great confidence, the highest levels of professionalism, efficiency and accountability. I have always enjoyed my job, but the hostile work environment that has been created by Mr. Peterson is making it difficult to be at work.

I do not want to be supervised by the mayor, as he is the cause of the hostile work environment. I am beyond stressed with these working conditions. I would like to work outside his presence.

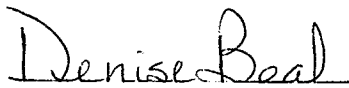
On June 7, 2013, I verbally informed Mayor Peterson that he was creating a hostile work environment. To this day, the hostile work environment still exists. I am being harassed because of my gender, which is against Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As well as gender harassment by Mayor Peterson, I feel that he is using his authority as mayor to intimidate me because I am a witness in a criminal case.

As you are well aware, I am a witness in a criminal case against Brandi Watts and the former Village Justice, Robert Alexander. Mayor Peterson has continuously supported the former Judge, especially by voting against going after the money that was found to be missing from the village court during an audit of court records by the Office of the NYS State Comptroller. A letter dated April 10, 2013, was sent to Mayor Peterson by Wyoming County District Attorney Donald O'Geen informing Mr. Peterson not to take any action that could be construed as trying to tamper with a witness.

I am asking the Village Board, as direct supervisors, to prevent the hostile work environment, prevent the harassment and prevent the retaliation from continuing. I would prefer not to take legal actions in order to protect my rights as an individual, an employee and a witness, but that is quickly becoming my only alternative.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Beal". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Denise Beal

36 Alleghany Rd
Corfu, NY 14036

July 22, 2013

Dear Board of Trustees:

Upon receiving the recent newsletter, I feel it necessary to share my concern with the Board. Lately, I find that I am totally disgusted with some of the ridiculous antics going on in my community.

But first, I wish to commend the Board of Trustees for following through on the sewer project. This would have been very detrimental to the entire community for years to come if it was not approved.

On the negative side, the Mayor assuming the task of Police Administrator is nothing but ignorance. This man is totally unqualified for the job and leaves us open to more lawsuits such as the current one. His incompetence is simply demonstrated by his failure to notify the Board or the Village Attorney of the lawsuit. Having to be reminded of the deadline for talking to the litigant's attorney and personally excusing himself by saying he didn't know he had received the email.

In addition, the Mayor's seemingly arbitrary decision to add additional police officers without regard for mandatory Board reviews and required background checks are a blatant disregard for procedures. I will give him credit that he seems to be efficiently alienating the people he wants cooperation from: The Board, Police Department and his staff.

The Village Office Staff have been wonderful to work with over the years. The Mayor seems to choose to bully and belittle them. I believe an apology is in order to them as well as one to Trustee Lauer, who the Mayor had difficulty calling by his proper name.

I would be nice if the Mayor could explain what appears to be his support for the people who are being indicted for the misappropriation of taxpayer money while in the village employ. It also appears that he is against restitution being made. That is our money!!

The Mayor's referrals to "past practices" fail to remind anyone of the fact that for 8 years prior to his election, he was a board member initiating these practices. Is he his own critic?

Finally, The Mayor should be reminded that he works for the taxpayers of this community and although he may have the authority to do things, a "just because

I can" attitude is not sufficient justification and is disrespectful to the entire community.

The Mayor's actions reek of incompetence.

Sincerely,

Jenny L. McMartin

Sandy Thomas

From: pemcoach@rochester.rr.com
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2013 2:11 PM
To: akron sewer plant
Cc: ken@kesyoni.com; debagram@rochester.rr.com

Mayor and trustee,

This letter is in response to the Mayors news letter.

D.E.C. Grant- Don't pretend now that you were all on board with this project. You dragged your feet and told people you didn't want this project to go thru. After the bids were opened and the village was over budget you made no attempt to contact anyone to see how to make it work. It wasn't till the town got involved and saved the project.

Police- Peterson your not qualified to run the police dept and have deferred to a couple officers that are also not qualified. You say your changes have restored a teamwork attitude than why are half our officers suing the village? Why are officers showing up to work when they are not on the schedule and telling your officers in charge to bad your not my boss? Why did your officers let the breaks on a car get so bad that the squeakers were wore off and everything including the drums needed replaced? Why are your officers seen at concerts at Darien Lake smoking cigars in our car when they were not called there? Why are your officers at the corner running the light trashing you and the way your running the dept? You are not at a impasse with the board over hiring new officers!! You hired 2 officers without board approval! You didn't even know their names when asked! No back ground checks! Kudos to the board for doing the right thing for the residents! You also ok'd uniforms for the same officers without board approval! I for one and many others like me will not allow our tax payer money go to pay for them! Open your check book Mayor you owe the money!!

Police committee- They will be reporting to the board not just you.

Maintenance Dept- Your teamwork concepts sure were working when your officer in charge tried to blame the maintenance dept for the above break issue! An argument with very colorful words ensued and witnessed!

Legal rights-You may have some legal rights but that doesn't mean the residents want you to move in the direction you are going in!! You work for us! Over your term in office some meetings were packed others not so but over this time frame several hundred different people have come to show you and the board that we don't like what your doing! Not one person has stood up in you! I have had people tell me you told them that the girls denied you files,Lies!! They denied you their passwords. What makes you an expert in office management? The residents have expressed very clearly that they want Sandy and Denise left alone VERY CLEARLY!!!

Lies!- I have found it nessasary to tape every meeting because you lie at everyone of them! You say something or make a claim and the next you deny saying it! example: When officer Nati brought up a letter from the officers suing the village and a time line that was set you said you haven't seen it but 60 seconds later you said the insurance company wanted to see it before it was handed over the the villge atty. You have opened the village up to several law suits in your term as Mayor. example the girls for harassment, The other half of the police dept, The town over your not wanting the sewer project to go forward and now the girls again for the lies you put in the news letter.

Truth- Why didn't you put in the news letter that you are under criminal investigation? Why didn't you tell that the court computers have been taken by the State Police to keep you out of them? Why don't you talk about the letter you got from the prosecutor warning you not to tamper with witnesses and evidence in the court investigation? Why don't you tell about the dozens of times you voted for Bob Alexander and Brandi and against the board and the best interest of the village? Why don't you tell how you told Bob Alexander what was talked about in executive session about our new court clerk and he started a campaign of harassment against her and when she confronted you about it in open meeting

you denied it but later you admitted doing it when Howard Owens showed you a e-mail from Bob Alexander telling us you did?

Lets talk about the atty fees and how thousands of dollars can be traced back to you and the former judge!

This list can go on and on! Peterson didn't start all his trouble making when he became Mayor he was well on his way while a trustee! I would have to write a book to show the level of evil this man has done against this village and residents. Peterson will go down in Village history as the worst Mayor we have ever had. That will be his legacy.