

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.

Village Administrator Goldman commented that 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.

There was concern that scheduling this meeting on a Sunday may not afford members of the public an adequate opportunity to be heard but this meeting was intended to be for the Lawrence BOT to hear from the PPL. Mr. Goldman said that there will be additional meetings.

Deputy Mayor Fragin said that based on emails sent between board members 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 with dozens of signatures from residents in addition to e-mails and comments regarding holding this meeting on a Sunday. 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 while he is here many others don’t have the opportunity to be at this meeting” so “given that we received many comments that people were out of town/away 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 we hope that it does” and given that many people asked to postpone this meeting and we ignored their wishes therefore the meeting “was not a good idea”.

Mayor Edelman responded that it was the Library Board 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”.

Deputy Mayor Fragin asked whether this was a Village Meeting or a PPL Meeting.

Mr. Goldman responded that this is a special meeting of the Lawrence Village Board of Trustees called here at Village Hall to accommodate the public.

Trustee Goldstein offered that he has received comments from the public that the library is sited at the wrong location

Mayor Edelman said that discussion is out of order.

ZBA Chairman Lloyd Keilson asked whether there is a contract between the VOL and the PPL. Mayor Edelman responded in the affirmative.

Former Mayor Oliner wanted to discuss the aforementioned contract between the VOL and the PPL.

Mayor Edelman ruled that discussion of the contract is out of order. Mayor Edelman 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. He had a PowerPoint prepared but was unable to show it. There are 162 Parking spaces in the LIRR lot. Initially they would displace 68 spots in the lot. They would reevaluate the current configuration and convert to 90 degree parking and allow for 164 spots on the site. The goal is to ensure that all the parking would be preserved. The PPL plan is also to convert Lawrence Parkway to a two way street.

Trustee Diamond said that there is not enough parking for the PPL in the plan. That will cause there not to be enough parking for the Village lot. We have an ambitious library plan without enough parking to satisfy the size of the library. This plan does not solve the PPL's parking problem.

ZBA Chairman Keilson asked why this cannot be solved with a traffic study. There is a catering hall across Lawrence Ave and a Synagogue across Central Ave.

Mayor Edelman said that a traffic study would be forthcoming

Trustee Kaufman asked that the PPL include the "sewer plant" site in the traffic study.

Mr. Francis said that the "Sewer plant" had never been an option. But if the VOL is willing to sell that property there then they will explore it.

Trustee Kaufman asked about a title search of the parking lot and whether the land is parkland.

Counsel William Cullen said there are no issues in the entire parking lot.

Trustee Kaufman asked about the parking ratio of square feet to parking spaces.

Mr. Goldman said that there will be a mix of permit and meter parking in the lot.

Deputy Mayor Fragin said that there is an expectation of those who purchase permits that they will have a spot available.

Reva Oliner asked how many permits have been sold

Mr. Goldman responded 349 permits have been sold

Reva Oliner said that there are more people taking the train these days including more women. Mayor Edelman said that the LIRR parking lot "is usually half empty".

Reva Oliner commented that the lot at the sewer plant is the ideal spot for a beautiful library with a community center. Mayor Edelman responded that there is too much traffic and that seven homes will cause the least amount of traffic. Seven people will buy houses and pay taxes.

PPL Trustee Sarah Yastrab said that if you live in Cedarhurst or Woodmere you cannot send a child by bicycle to the sewer plant site.

Trustee Kaufman said that you cannot please everyone.

Trustee Goldstein asked what the use of the space would be. PPL President Francis explained the different levels and floors of the facility.

Trustee Diamond said that the facility should be more about books and less about a community center. There is too much space for community space and catering.

Former Mayor Oliner praised Mr. Goldman as a longtime friend and proponent of the library. He asked about the parking needed for catering/ event space. "Where are 250 people going to park?" We always wanted a library at the site but there just is not enough parking. Mr. Francis said that there would be times that the PPL could use the entire parking lot at off times. Former Mayor Oliner said that this is the core issue. Deputy Mayor Fragin said that he is not prepared to give up all the parking to non-residents at the LIRR lot.

Trustee Goldstein asked why the PPL is focused only on the LIRR lot. Francis replied that they have looked at other locations and this is the best one.

Deputy Mayor Fragin said that Lawrence does not need another catering facility.

Mayor Edelman suggested that ten people get into a room to discuss this and get feedback.

Former Mayor Oliner pointed out that the contract will actually be with the School District and the Village will not have a say in what gets built there.

PPL President Samuel Francis stated that they would take the feedback from tonight's meeting. He also said that the PPL will not do anything that the Village Board does not want 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.

Larry Gordon commented that the PPL should consider locating at the Lawrence Middle School on Broadway.

PPL President Francis said that the School Board has not helped the PPL by giving them one of their buildings. Trustee Kaufman stated that the School Board has to take the high bid and the PPL bid was too low.

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. Mayor Edelman said he to "vetoes the vote" and moves to close the meeting.

The previous motion still being on the table, the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

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.



Ronald Goldman, Administrator,  
Clerk/Treasurer