

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 2013**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Hall. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Heather McKeever  
Trustee Carol Sheibley  
Trustee John Certis  
Trustee Dale DeCarlo

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk

Media Present: Phil Palen, Cable Channel 22  
Samantha McDonnell, Observer

Public Present: Janet Vogtli, Crystal Abers, Director of Cattaraugus County Economic Development, Planning and Tourism

Trustee Zimmermann was excused. Trustee Sheibley asked for a moment of silence for the death of Jim Penharlow, a long time member of the Gowanda Fire Department and past Fire Chief.

Motion 227-12. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Crystal Abers spoke about the Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism. She advised this is three departments in one. The Economic Development department works with small businesses as well as the Cattaraugus County Business and Veteran's Outreach. They formed a Cattaraugus County Economic Development Team which requests information on available parcels in each community that is available for development. Also under Economic Development is the Procurement Technical Assistance Center which works with businesses to help them get government financing. Under the Planning Department, they do zoning and comprehensive plans, mapping, census and agriculture. The Tourism department does the County activities guide, theme brochures, countywide marketing and the tourism website. The department also helps with website development.

Crystal Abers also spoke about the necessity of the Village participating in the Cattaraugus County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to receive any type of disaster assistance. Ms. Abers advised that this plan needs to be submitted every five years. All of the towns and villages in the County have participated in the past as has the Village of Gowanda.

Janet Vogtli asked if anything has been done with the Hubzone issue. Crystal Abers said no. Phil Palen asked if erosion control in Cattaraugus Creek could be an eligible project. She advised it is possible. Janet Vogtli advised there is also Great Lakes Restoration Funds available.

### **POLICE**

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the Village received the funds from the 2011 STOP-DWI program in the amount of \$1,547.00.

### **JOINT ACTIVITY**

Trustee Sheibley advised that both the roller skating and basketball programs have picked up. Janet Vogtli asked about changing the roller skating program to Friday. Trustee Sheibley advised she will ask about it.

Trustee Sheibley advised that another electronic recycling event will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 until 10:00 a.m. at the sewer plant.

Trustee Sheibley advised that the paint is peeling from the wall going up to the second floor in the Municipal hall. Mayor McKeever asked if Dan would be willing to do the painting. Village Clerk Mohawk will ask Dan.

Trustee Sheibley reported that she received telephone calls about residents who put garbage out without stickers and leave it for weeks. Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the Village has had to remove residential garbage in the past and the cost was billed to the homeowner.

### **DISASTER COORDINATOR**

Mayor McKeever advised that Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi has been involved in several training classes. She thanked everyone who attended the Erie County Village Officials workshop.

Mayor McKeever advised that a letter of support is necessary for the Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study per the Thatcher Brook Task Force.

Motion 228-12. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve a letter of support for the Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study per the Thatcher Brook Task Force. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor McKeever requested approval for a support letter for participation in the Cattaraugus County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion 229-12. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Certis to send a support letter for participation in the Cattaraugus County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor McKeever spoke about the necessity for elected officials to have NIMS training as well as the Supervisors and the new police officers.

### **TREASURER**

Mayor McKeever indicated that Treasurer Schilling has offered to help anyone new to the budget process. Mayor McKeever suggested having a workshop open to the public for the purpose of understanding the budget process.

Village Clerk Mohawk reminded the Village Board members that the next meeting will be the Grievance Day meeting from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Emerling Insurance will be here that day. Village Clerk Mohawk advised the Village Board members that the insurance company indicated that the Village will probably be looking at a \$20,000 increase due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Janet Vogtli advised that TVGA will be making a presentation on the Zoar Valley Gateway Park.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the lampposts for Veterans Park have been delivered to the contractor and they will be installed when the weather allows.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the prior discussion about Russo Development emergency dumping at the sewer plant did not take place.

There was discussion about the Mary Joyce Permits hauling a large load through the Village. Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the police department was also advised of this large load. Mayor McKeever was concerned about property damage as well as tree limbs and power lines. Trustee DeCarlo expressed concern about water and sewer lines. Highway Superintendent Denea was not aware when the load was actually coming through. Mayor McKeever requested the letter be changed to advise that any damage at all would be the responsibility of the company based upon the approval of the State permit.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the electrical work began yesterday on the highway building.

Motion 230-12. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve Water Superintendent Dubaj to attend the Water Certification classes through the New York Rural Water Organization. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor McKeever advised that the Skid Street has been broken down and is in for repairs. The Highway Department fixed up a loaner which is why the sidewalks have not been cleared very well. She advised that the Village Code indicates that it is the resident's responsibility to keep the sidewalk cleared of snow and the Village cleans them only as a courtesy. She read from the Code:

"Every person or occupant of any building or owner of any vacant lot within the Village of Gowanda shall keep the sidewalk in front of such building or vacant lot free from snow, ice, grass, weeds, rubbish or other obstructions and shall at all times keep said sidewalk in a good state of repair."

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Village Clerk Mohawk presented information from the Erie County Board of Elections regarding the Help American Vote Act regarding improving accessibility to the Municipal Building for use for voting purposes.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Village was approved for \$100,000 from the CDBG funds for the Hollywood Theater project.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Village received \$13.55 from SUEZ Energy for utility tax.

### **UDAG**

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the problem loan has paid up their taxes and is current with the Village loan.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Mayor McKeever advised that Jordan Sanderson is doing the flower boxes for his Eagle Scout project. He has requested permission to place the flower boxes in front of Village Hall.

Motion 231-12. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to allow the flower boxes to be placed in front of Village Hall. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 232-12. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is Grievance Day, February 19, 2013, at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk  
Village Clerk