

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 26, 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
Trustee Paul Zimmermann

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Treasurer Cindy Schilling

Media Present: Mary Pankow, Gowanda Pennysaver
Samantha McDonnell, Observer

Public Present: Erin Ross, Fran Ross, Pam and Terry Howard, John Gibbs, John Walgus, John Girome, Jim Anderson

Motion 257-12. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2013 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Terry Howard was present to discuss the sidewalk plowing. He and Pam Howard and Erin Ross were all in favor of keeping the sidewalk plow. Erin Ross presented a letter from the Postmaster in favor. Terry Howard asked if would be possible to use a smaller plow. In the past the Village used some type of snowblower or a small tractor. Mayor McKeever read the letter from the Officer in Charge at the Gowanda Post Office, Duncan Lattanzio:

“Dear Gowanda Village Board

It is my understanding the Gowanda Village Board is deliberating on possible suspension of sidewalk snow removal.

As the Officer in Charge for the Gowanda Post Office, I endorse any coordinated efforts to keep our sidewalks safe for residents, visitors and especially, postal carriers.

Therefore, I request these services continue.

On the job injuries is a great concern for all service providers. Reducing hazards through snow removal on walkways and sidewalks is an important component of preventing slips, trips and falls for employees, like postal carriers, delivering to Gowanda homes and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration and for keeping Gowanda postal employees in mind when you discuss this topic.”

Fran Ross was present on behalf of the veterans. He asked about the involvement of any veterans in securing funding for the project. Trustee Certis advised that the original discussion involved locating a veterans monument on the site but that has changed. Mr. Ross was interested in having the retaining wall below the parking area cleaned up and a veterans mural located there. Mayor McKeever advised that the Village intends to use Corrections crews to do some cleaning of the creek banks. Mayor McKeever stated she would talk with Village Engineer Burr about the feasibility of a project like this.

John Walgus also spoke about the sidewalks. He indicated that the garbage collection service tosses the recycle buckets on the sidewalk and the sidewalk plow went into people's yards and went around the buckets. Mr. Walgus indicated he shovels his own sidewalk and is in favor of the plowing but stated that the plow needs to be smaller.

John Walgus requested speed enforcement in his neighborhood. Trustee DeCarlo also stated that visitors/employees at the Gowanda Nursing Home do not stop at the intersection of Broadway and Miller Street. Mr. Walgus stated that he made his concerns known a few months ago and there has been no resolution. Mr. Girome indicated that even a warning would be helpful. John Gibbs advised that the police car is at the school all day everyday so that may be the biggest reason the police are not available to write speeding tickets.

Motion 258-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to open the public hearing for the override of Real Property Tax Levy Limit at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever advised that the State has given mandates to stay within a 2% tax cap. Most communities enact the override to protect themselves and their constituents from steep penalties. The Village must attempt to stay within a 2% levy of the taxes to be raised. Trustee Zimmermann advised that enacting this local law does not mean that the Village will go over that amount but it protects them from being penalized. The current proposed budget is at 2% now. Treasurer Schilling indicated the fund balance for the Village is around \$300,000 but that could be depleted with any large unexpected expense. Passing this override ensures that the Village doesn't get penalized for something that wasn't anticipated. John Girome asked if the Village passes the override and the Village goes over the 2%, is it necessary to have another public hearing. Treasurer Schilling said no. Trustee Sheibley asked why the sales tax amounts were reduced. Treasurer Schilling advised that it was overstated last year in an attempt to keep the tax rates down.

Motion 259-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to close the public hearing at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

John Girome and John Walgus complained about the junk yard on Palmer Street. The resident has a boat out front for sale. Trustee DeCarlo stated that Building Inspector Brecker indicated at the last meeting that he was attempting to issue appearance tickets to the Town of Persia Court. Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Building Inspector Brecker was not present due to a disaster training seminar he was attending in Amherst.

Mayor McKeever invited both Mr. Girome and Mr. Walgus to come to the upcoming planning board meeting on April 1st. They both want some sort of action taken. Village Clerk Mohawk will follow up with Building Inspector Brecker to determine whether court tickets have been issued. Mr. Walgus indicated that not only is there junk on the property, but the DEC has also been called because of open burning. Mayor McKeever advised that she will contact John Girome with an update on the appearance tickets.

Mr. Girome also expressed concern about rundown properties and the lack of new businesses in the Village.

Jim Anderson asked about deer being in the Village and reminded residents that it is not legal to feed deer.

John Walgus advised that some Broadway Road residents are having problems with sewer backups. A contractor doing work indicated that the road is fractured and some of the sanitary sewers are connected to the storm drains. It appears that these storm drains are full of sand. **[NOTE: A follow up with Sewer Superintendent Carriero indicates that this is not the case. The drains were all flushed and cleaned.]**

PLANNING BOARD

Village Clerk Mohawk provided the Board members with copies of the minutes from the last meeting. Trustee Sheibley asked which communities are involved in the regional plan. Mayor McKeever indicated it was Perrysburg, Dayton, Collins and Persia.

POLICE

The Board members discussed the request from Officer-in-Charge Alessi to send Officer Braugher to AR15 Rifle Armorer School in May at a cost of \$375. There is money in the education line. Village Clerk Mohawk advised there is a cost to send the guns out for repair. The police department has 2 AR15's.

Motion 260-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to authorize Patrolman Braugher to attend the AR15 Rifle Armorer School May 23 and 24, 2013 in Little Valley at a cost of \$375. Motion carried 5-0.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley advised that the Village received \$50.00 from RCR&R for the electronic recycling. She reported that the next recycling event will be held on Saturday, April 6th, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the wastewater treatment plant.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that a notice was sent to the Pennysaver listing the upcoming trash days.

FIRE

Trustee Zimmermann thanked everyone who helped with the two pancake breakfasts.

TREASURER

Treasurer Schilling advised that tomorrow she is sending out the final paperwork to closeout Veterans Park. The project cost about \$115,000, \$100,000 of which was CDBG funds.

Treasurer Schilling requested approval to purchase 3 computers at a cost of \$502 each from Dell.

Motion 261-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to authorize the purchase of 3 computers from Dell at a cost of \$502 each. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Schilling requested approval to have Computer House Calls network the computers and upgrade them. The quote is for \$1580.

Motion 262-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to authorize Computer House Calls to network the computers and upgrade them for \$1580. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 263-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to adopt Local Law No. 1 of the year 2013 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley indicated that she hopes the Village Board will keep the budget under the 2%.

Mayor McKeever repeated the upcoming meeting schedule: April 2nd is the Organizational and business meeting at 7:00 with a budget workshop at 6:00 p.m.; April 4th at 6:00 is a budget workshop and a public hearing at 7:30; April 16th at 6:00 is a budget workshop with the Board of Trustees and on April 23rd is a business meeting and adoption of the budget at 7:00 with a budget workshop at 6:00 pm.

PUBLIC WORKS

Village Clerk Mohawk advised the Village received a request for a certificate of insurance for the highway work permits. She asked Heather Horth from Cattaraugus County DOT for more information. Ms. Horth advised the Village could file an undertaking which would cover more than one year. Village Clerk Mohawk will solicit more information about it.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised the hydraulic lift for the highway garage has been delivered.

There was discussion about the responsibility of the public works employees to plow the firehall. The sewer department has done it in the past since they are right next door to the hall. Highway Superintendent Denea indicated that the highway department cannot always respond as soon as the fire department would like. Mayor McKeever will discuss this with the supervisors.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the signs are up on East Main Street. Trustee DeCarlo indicated that the signs do not go all the way to Perry Street. More signs are needed from St. Joe's to Perry Street.

Mayor McKeever advised that she has been contacted by SEIU and union negotiations will begin.

UDAG

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Don Lazar has tendered his resignation from the UDAG committee. His family is out of state and he spends a lot of time traveling.

Motion 264-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to accept the resignation of Don Lazar from the UDAG committee, with regret. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk will send a letter.

Motion 265-12. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:30p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is April 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk