

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
JULY 23, 2013**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees special meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Hall. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Heather McKeever
Trustee Carol Sheibley
Trustee Dale DeCarlo
Trustee Paul Zimmermann

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Officer-in-Charge Joe Alessi

Public Present: Janet Vogtli, Tonya Crouse, Cindy Dishman, Dan Lynch, John Girome, Pauline Murphy, John Walgus, Tom Povhe, Ted and Sandy Andolsek, Joe Gorenflo, Jr., Doug Wright, Jeff Kysor, Casey Briggs

POLICE

The meeting began with Officer-in-Charge Alessi commending the Hidi community for their cohesiveness with respect to the recent rash of burglaries and graffiti. Two arrests have been made. One suspect is going to jail tonight. Much of the stolen property has been recovered. There will be more arrests made in connection with this crime spree. Officer-in-Charge Alessi encouraged the residents to lock their cars.

Janet Vogtli suggested that perhaps the fines should be raised. She also indicated that the Village Building Inspector needs to work with landlords to make sure if apartments are not up to code, they should be closed down.

Officer-in-Charge Alessi stated that the burglaries run from 10:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. Trustee Sheibley asked if the County Sheriffs could help and Officer-in-Charge Alessi indicated the Sheriffs are in the Village quite a bit. He stated the police have infrared and heat sensors to help hunt in wooded areas and weeds. Trustee Sheibley suggested that Officer-in-Charge Alessi should utilize other officers when necessary.

Tom Povhe stated he feels the officers should pay attention to the residents as well, get to know them.

Officer-in-Charge Alessi indicated the police will attempt to get some radios for better communication. He stressed the fact to the residents that if they see something out of the ordinary, call the police right away. Several of the residents asked if the D-line can be increased. John Walgus thought a Chiefs Corner in the paper would be good to let people know what is going on and what is being done about it. Officer-in-Charge Alessi also indicated that rotating the D-lines seems to help.

Mayor McKeever asked for a Neighborhood Watch meeting in August at the Hidi Fire Hall.

Trustee DeCarlo reminded residents that the Village Board wanted to keep the budget under the 2% cap and they knew it would hurt the residents.

The residents indicated to Officer-in-Charge Alessi that communication of recovered items needs to improve. Also, the new officers should get to know the residents. Officer-in-Charge Alessi will do what needs to be done with respect to the ongoing crime situation and will report back at the September meeting regarding the costs.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley asked for approval of Jill Swanson as Assistant Playground Director at \$10.00 per hour for 2 ½ weeks. Recreation Director Benton will also be present for the time period August 1st through August 16th.

Motion 94-13. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the appointment of Jill Swanson as Assistant Playground Director at \$10.00 per hour for 2 ½ weeks under the direction of Recreation Director Benton. Motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATION

Mayor McKeever presented a resolution for the ratification, confirmation and reapproval for the Village of Gowanda Master Plan.

“WHEREAS, the Village of Gowanda, a New York municipal corporation with a principal place of business at 27 East Main Street, Gowanda, New York 14070 (the “Village”) and the Town of Collins, a New York municipal corporation with a principal place of business at 14093 Mill Street, Collins, New York 14034 adopted a joint master plan (the “Master Plan”) in accordance with Article 5-j of the New York State General Municipal Law, Article 7 of the New York State Village Law and Article 16 of the New York State Town Law.

WHEREAS, the Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees has reviewed the Master Plan and has determined that it is in the best interests of the Village to ratify, re-approve and re-authorize the adoption of the Master Plan and its performance in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees in regular session duly convened, does hereby ratify, re-approve and re-authorize the adoption of the Master plan and its performance in entirety.

Motion 95-13. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to ratify, confirm and reapprove the joint Village of Gowanda/Town of Collins Master Plan. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

There was discussion about repairing the old blue sewer truck. The big question is how necessary it is.

Mayor McKeever advised the first water committee meeting was this last week. Attendants were Water Superintendent George Dubaj, Village Engineer Mark Burr, Mark Hebner from the Gowanda Fire Department, Trustee Dale DeCarlo, Mayor Heather McKeever and Town of Perrysburg Treasurer Cindy Lauer. One of the items discussed at that meeting was hiring another individual to share services at the water and sewer plants for both the Village and the Town of Perrysburg. The Village would not be doing any work, just overseeing this individual. Mayor McKeever presented the draft resolution:

“WHEREAS, grant funding is available with the New York State Department of State, Division of Local Government Services, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1015, Albany, NY 12231 of the 2013-1014 Local Government Efficiency Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Gowanda desires to apply for funding under this program in partnership with the Town of Perrysburg for shared water services and improvements, and

WHEREAS, there is available funding of \$400,000 with a 10% local match, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor be, and hereby is authorized and directed to execute grant documents, on behalf of the Village of Gowanda, with New York State Department of State, in order to apply for the above-mentioned funding, according to the above terms.”

Motion 96-13. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the resolution pending approval of the Village Attorney. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 97-13. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to go into Executive Session regarding the union contract negotiations. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 98-13. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to come out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 99-13. Motion by DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to adjourn the special Village Board meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is August 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk