

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 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

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

Public Present: Mark Hebner, Randy Campbell, John Gibbs, Mae Horth, Peter Sisti

Motion 213-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve Abstract #7 dated December 10, 2013 on all funds as presented:

General Fund	\$48,943.33
Water Fund	6,511.50
Sewer Fund	21,327.40
Superfund Project	178.01
Flood	2,821.37
Total	\$79,781.61

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 214-13. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2013 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Trustee DeCarlo abstained as he was not present at the November 27, 2013 meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mark Hebner, Gowanda Fire Department Fire Chief, presented the year end report: They have 5 new membes. As of December 9, 2013, the fire company had 113 calls including 26 auto fire alarms, 13 CO2/gas odors/detectors, 1 Hazmat, 20 service calls (tree/wires down/road hazards), 17 motor vehicle accidents, 13 fires, 1 ATV accident, 2 Reservation assists, 4 landing zones, 8 ambulance assists and 8 mutual aids.

Mr. Hebner reported on an Assistance to Fire Figjhters Grant program which is a 5% match. Cindy Lauer assisted with the grant application on behalf of 7 Western New York

fire companies. The grant will be requesting 10 mobile radios for all trucks and the 3 chiefs, 19 portable radios, 50 pagers for the members and 1 base station.

The 2014 Fire Chief is Mark Hebner, 1st Assistant Chief Jack Wells, and 2nd Assistant Chief is Steve Raiport.

Mr. Hebner indicated that the fire company will still be dispatched through Cattaraugus County after the frequency changeover is completed. He indicated that the Gowanda Police Department is dispatched through Erie County which then contacts Cattaraugus County. This can cause a slight delay in response time. Mayor McKeever indicated that she wants to meet with Mr. Hebner, Officer-in-Charge Alessi and Trustee Zimmermann prior to Christmas to make sure all emergency responders are on the same page.

Mr. Hebner advised that the fire company installation will be January 18, 2014.

POLICE

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the November 2013 police report”
“232 reportable calls, 3 arrests, 7 tickets issued, 4 violent domestics, 4 motor vehicle accidents, 10 assist other agencies, 3937 patrol miles.
Request to send the department’s taser to the taser corporation for service.
Request to price a second taser for the department.
Request to use the Village Hall and police training room for the RPTA police recruits.
The insurance certificate and waivers will be provided by the Rural Police Training Academy. Officers from the Gowanda Police Department and other agencies will be on hand to act the different scenarios. This will be the 7th year in a row that the Gowanda Police have hosted this event.”

Motion 215-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to allow the Gowanda Police Department to use the Municipal Hall board room for training on January 4, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 216-13. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Certis to appoint Sean Campus as a full time police officer, effective January 2014, with the specifics of the contract to be determined. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever indicated that the total cost of the new taser is \$2,174.84 which includes \$1,047.50 for the cartridges.

Motion 217-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the purchase of a new taser for the Gowanda Police Department at a cost of \$2,174.84. Motion carried 5-0.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley thanked the Sternads for a donation to Gowanda Recreation.

Mayor McKeever wants to send letters to the individuals that helped Officer Jen Alessi at Halloween time.

FIRE

Trustee Sheibley discussed two proposals for replacement of the heater at Hidi Fire Hall. They were both 35,000 BTU. One was for a space heater for \$1,120; the other for a free-standing wall unit for \$1,280.

Motion 218-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to authorize the purchase of a 35,000 BTU free-standing wall unit for Hidi Fire Hall in the amount of \$1,280. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mayor McKeever advised that she will be working with Village Engineer Burr on a \$5,000 grant for asset management inventory for small rural water systems. The deadline for the application is January 3rd.

Mayor McKeever advised that the Village received word from Erie County that the Smart Growth funding application was denied. Trustee Sheibley advised that she spoke with Paul D'Orlando who indicated that the Village application will already be considered for next year. There is no need to reapply.

Discussion on the lease for the new highway plow truck was tabled.

Village Clerk Mohawk mentioned the impending August retirement of the Village mechanic. Trustee DeCarlo asked that Highway Superintendent Denea attend the next Village meeting to discuss manpower issues. Trustee Sheibley felt a fleet manager could be beneficial.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that there was a minor miscalculation with the relieved taxes which were sent to Erie and Cattaraugus Counties relative to the lawn mowing services.

Motion 219-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to increase the tax relevy in Erie County by \$17.28 and in Cattaraugus County by \$95.04. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised she received the October Treasurer's report.

Trustee Sheibley asked that Village Clerk Mohawk follow up on a claim for a former employee with the Worker's Compensation Board.

Village Clerk Mohawk requested Board consideration of an increase in the Clerk's petty cash fund. It is presently \$100.00 but it always seems to be running low. Treasurer Schilling suggested raising it to \$200.00 but Village Clerk Mohawk feels \$150.00 would be sufficient.

Motion 220-13. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve an increase in the Village Clerk's petty cash fund to \$150.00. Motion carried 5-0.

ENVIRONMENT

The Village Board discussed a request for a wedding in Chang-Hu Park in September for a period of 6 hours. Concerns were raised about whether or not the reception would be held there as well. The request was also to grow flowers in the park. Trustee Zimmermann advised he would call the individual to discuss the request with her and express the Village concerns.

Phil Palen requested a resolution from the Village Board to transfer \$2800 from the tree reserve fund to the shade tree fund. He asked that the prior expenses for the removals at 78 Aldrich Street (\$1,025), Crestwood Drive (\$1,425) and Creekside Park (\$325) be taken out of the reserve fund per previous board motions.

Motion 221-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the above-noted transfer from the tree reserve fund to the shade tree fund. Motion carried 5-0.

Phil Palen indicated that the stumps from the removed trees will be ground in the spring. He indicated this will leave about \$1200 for spring planting.

Mayor McKeever read a letter from Trustee Certis:

“Due to changes in my personal and professional life I find I can no longer devote the proper amount of time to perform the duties of Village Trustee adequately. Therefore I am submitting my resignation.

It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with you and the fellow Board members, the Village office personnel, and all the village employees, past and present for these past eight years.

I wish you continued success in all your endeavors.”

Mayor McKeever regrettably accepted Trustee Certis' resignation at the conclusion of the meeting.

Motion 222-13. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the resignation of Trustee Certis, with regret, at the conclusion of the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever appointed Peter Sisti to fill out the remainder of Trustee Certis' term through March, 2014.

Motion 223-13. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Certis to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 224-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to come out of Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 225-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the Braughler settlement as presented by Village Attorney Chadsey. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 226-13. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is January 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk