

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 22, 2014**

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 Pete Sisti
Trustee Barb Nephew

Trustee Paul Zimmermann was not present.

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Treasurer Cindy Schilling, Officer-in-Charge Sean Hotnich

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

Public Present: Irene Koch, Nita Reid, Janet Vogtli, Andy Burr, Lou and Jean Gabel, Lin Bots, Rob Gaylord, Mike Hutchinson, Ron Clabeaux, Mitch Martin, Senator Gallivan's representative, Tammy Yetter

Motion 21-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2014 Village Board organizational meeting as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

The agenda listed approval of the April 20, 2014 Village budget hearing but Village Clerk Mohawk advised the date was incorrect. It should be April 10, 2014.

Motion 22-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2014 Village budget hearing as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ron Clabeaux asked if the Village ever received any money from GARC for work on the landfill.

Irene Koch spoke about the Village deleting the Clerk/Treasurer position in May of 2011. She feels the Village cannot justify paying the Treasurer so much for a part-time position. She also commented that Village policies should be set by the elected officials. Ms. Koch stated that \$82,000 was paid for the clerk and treasurer services this past year. Mayor McKeever advised that the Treasurer also serves as the office Manager supervising the office staff and the clerk. Ms. Koch stated it is "unconscionable" for the Village to spend this much money on these two positions.

Mitch Martin, representative from Senator Gallivan's office, advised that Senator Gallivan will speak on how to improve the business climate in New York on Friday, May 2nd, at 8:00 a.m. at the Springville Country Club. It is free and he invited the Board members to come to speak with the Senator about any issues they may have.

Janet Vogtli asked what is changing with the Building Inspector position.

Nita Reid asked about the Board's decision relative to the frozen pipes at her business. She claims it is not her responsibility to pay for the repair. Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the claim was submitted to the insurance company and it was denied. Trustee Sisti advised that he reached out to the vendor who did some of the repair work but did not get much cooperation. Mayor McKeever advised that she would get back to Ms. Reid by May 1st with a decision. Trustee Sheibley feels the Village needs to address the Village codes regarding this issue.

Ron Clabeaux asked when the Village would start patching all the bad roads. Mayor McKeever advised that Buffalo Street has been the priority. Once that is finished, the other roads will be prioritized.

BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS

Mayor McKeever responded to Janet Vogtli regarding the building inspector question. She indicated that she personally wanted to take on a second building code officer and authorized the advertisement in the Pennysaver. Building Inspector Brecker is in the Village every day and Mayor McKeever felt he could use some assistance. She indicated that the Village may not be able to afford the second position.

POLICE

Officer-in-Charge Hotnich reported that the Village issued \$4,000 in traffic tickets for 2 months and only received \$25 from the Town of Collins for a parking ticket.

Mayor McKeever advised that a Community Block Party planning meeting has been scheduled for May 7th at 6:00 in the Village board room.

Motion 23-14. Motion by Trustee Siste, seconded by Trustee Nepew to open the public hearing to amend the Village codes entitled Zoning, Subdivision Regulations and Flood Damage Protection. Motion carried 4-0.

Rob Gaylord stated that the Village codes should be reviewed and tightened up to clear up any ambiguities present.

Andy Burr, 43 Center Street, advised that he reviewed the Village codes and regulations. He feels they are not up to date. He read the proposed changes and feels the Village should approve them.

Janet Vogtli stated that she feels all the proposed changes are targeted at the Savarino project, specifically at the mental health clinic.

Andy Burr indicated that a B-1 business pays property taxes and sells items. He feels that Savarino should come to the Village and request a medical facility in that location.

Mayor McKeever stated these changes are clarifications of issues that have been brought to the Village board at hearings over the last year. She stated a Court order may make the Village pursue clarification of the zoning code changes. Trustee Nephew indicated that zoning codes should be a workable document. The current codes were so out of date. She noted that all the codes have been put on the computer to make them easier to change and there will be a paper trail.

Irene Koch stated that the location is not the correct spot for the project. It is too open and public.

Motion 24-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to close the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley thanked the Slovenian Club for a donation to purchase skates.

Trustee Sheibley advised that she attended the Cattaraugus County Youth Board meeting last week. She asked that any leftover funds not requested by other communities be earmarked for the Village.

Trustee Sheibley sent her cable contract suggestions to Village Attorney Chadsey for her review. The plan is to monitor the contract and make sure the Village is getting all the revenue it deserves.

Mayor McKeever thanked Trustee Sheibley for preparing the paperwork to secure the State funds for the recreation program.

Trustee Sheibley reported that Gowanda Harley Davidson is holding an electronics recycling event on April 28, 29 and 30th.

Trustee Sheibley reported that applications are being accepted for summer recreation through May 15th.

FIRE

Trustee Sheibley reported that the Gowanda Fire Department is holding a chicken barbeque on April 27th.

Trustee Sheibley reported that the first yard waste pickup will be Monday, April 28th.

DISASTER COORDINATOR

Mayor McKeever advised that the CodeRed emergency contact system has been approved and is set up and should be fully functional very soon. Village Clerk Mohawk indicated there is a website on the Cattaraugus County site for signups and she will supply the information to the papers for all residents to find out about the signup process.

TREASURER

No action was taken on Local Law No. 1 authorizing a property tax levey in excess of 2%. Action will be taken at the April 29th meeting. No action was taken on the Code of Ethics. Treasurer Schilling reminded the Village Board that this policy must be adopted before the employee training takes place next month as it needs to be incorporated into the Employee Handbook.

PUBLIC WORKS

Motion 25-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the Intermunicipal Highway Shared Services Agreement with Erie County. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor McKeever reported that Buffalo Street paving would take place on Thursday and the road would be opened by Friday. Rob Gaylord asked how much more CHIPS money was received by the Village for pothole repair.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Highway Superintendent Denea asked that the fire company hose the sidewalks/curbs so the village crews can sweep the streets.

Mayor McKeever advised that she will speak with Highway Superintendent Denea about taking his vacation time prior to May 31st.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that she received an insurance certificate from the American Legion for the Crouse 5K run which lists the Village as an additional insured. No other paperwork was received. Mayor McKeever advised that an event application must be filled out and the route must be the same as last year.

Motion 26-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the 5K run pending completion of the appropriate paperwork and listing the route to be taken. Motion carried 4-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the insurance certificate for the Zoar Fest was received and forwarded to the insurance company for review. Mike Hutchinson spoke on

behalf of the event. He said it is a one-day event from dawn to dusk. There will be rafting excursions all the way to Versailles.

Motion 27-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the event application for the Zoar Fest as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

There was further discussion about GARC moving their offices to the upstairs space. Village Attorney Chadsey will need to prepare a lease agreement.

Motion 28-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the move by GARC to the upstairs offices and the change of address to 27 East Main Street, Gowanda, New York. Motion carried 4-0.

Mike Hutchinson advised that GARC will put up a fence and take down the rest of the trees along the bank at the Zoar Valley Gateway Park. He previously submitted the bid specifications for the work which were approved by Village Attorney Chadsey. He requested authorization from the Village Board for the work. Mayor McKeever indicated the Board should be ready to authorize the GARC bid documents at the next meeting.

Trustee Sheibley asked if any of the casino money could be used to fix Palmer Street, Mr. Hutchinson indicated that there are specific uses for that money including \$100,000 worth of dirt and \$80,000 for a play structure. He indicated community input will again be solicited for the type of play structure to be built. Trustee Sheibley asked about the grant funding. Mr. Hutchinson advised they have received a \$500,000 grant from the EPA and next year will be the next casino money award.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported on the lawn mowing situation. She reported that Cattaraugus County voted last year to not collect delinquent lawn mowing services for the Village although Erie County still does. The Village adds an extra \$50 to the cost of lawn mowing services when they are relieved to the County.

Motion 29-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize Village Clerk Mohawk to advertise for lawn mowing services. Motion carried 4-0.

ENVIRONMENT

Phil Palen advised that Jack Torrance ordered trees and they have received an acknowledgement from the nursery.

Trustee Nephew advised a park cleanup is planned for May 17th and the following weekend will be the flower barrel planning. She advised that some of the flowers may be donated this year.

Village Clerk Mohawk asked if the Village was going to advertise for summer help.

Motion 30-14. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sisti to authorize Village Clerk Mohawk to advertise for part-time summer help. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor McKeever reminded the Village Board members of the SEQR workshop scheduled for Tuesday, April 29th, at 6:00. A special meeting will be scheduled at 5:30 to adopt the budget and the zoning law changes. The next budget workshop will be held on Friday, April 25th, at 5:00 p.m.

Motion 31-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to go into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. for a personnel issues. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 32-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to come out of Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 33-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is May 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk