

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2014**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees special meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 5:00 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 absent due to a previous commitment.

Village Employees: Treasurer Cindy Schilling, Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi, Village Engineer Mark Burr, Water Superintendent George Dubaj, Sam Lauer

Media Present: Samantha McDonnell, Observer

Public Present: Ed and Shirley Kota

The meeting began with follow up discussion regarding Simmons Recovery Services. Nothing more was received from them after their attendance last Thursday. Disaster Coordinator Crassi stated that the Village will maybe have 4 work orders for this last event. The main ones are the reservoir and reimbursement for the costs associated with the flood cleanup. He feels the Village does not need to incur the expense to hire Simmons. He would work with Village Engineer Burr, Water Superintendent Dubaj and Treasurer Schilling to get the work done.

Village Engineer Burr stated that the Village really only has 2 choices. Either do the work in-house or contract it out. A scope of work needs to be developed for the reservoir repair. The sludge in the reservoir forebay needs to go somewhere. It could maybe be taken to Gernatt's old gravel pit on Broadway Road or to the Gateway Park. Mr. Burr feels the Village needs to maximize the money coming in and minimize the impact to the residents. Some of the administrative and in-house labor is reimbursable.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi advised that FEMA called him for a walkthrough the day after the last meeting.

Water Superintendent Dubaj indicated there are a lot of trees around the reservoir that need to be removed. He indicated that Simmons could maybe help fight for the 2009 Village expenses that were never received.

Mayor McKeever feels it is a lot of effort to be expended by the Village. Disaster Coordinator Crassi gets minimal pay. There is no public works superintendent to oversee the work so now 3 other people would have to do it.

Village Engineer Burr advised that Simmons would search out the largest scope of work. They make sure the Village has a clean project when it is submitted so the reimbursement is better. Treasurer Schilling indicated she could see the value of going with a service but is concerned about how much it is going to cost. Mayor McKeever indicated that Simmons would cost us \$.25 for every dollar the Village spends. Trustee Sheibley indicated that since the Village was declared a disaster, this will help with FEMA reimbursements. Trustee Sisti felt that the Simmons people were very vague about their costs and the scope of services. Treasurer Schilling advised that she would like to ask other municipalities if hiring Simmons was worth the cost.

Village Engineer Burr will call Simmons Recovery to ask about a list of references and an idea of the cost for the scope of work.

Discussion about past FEMA reimbursements indicated that former Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson had a problem with how the volunteer labor hours were computed.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi suggested asking Simmons about their billing. Treasurer Schilling reminded the Village Board that the administrative costs and interest for any borrowing are not allowable costs for FEMA reimbursement.

Village Engineer Burr will contact Wendel to get a draft proposal of what it would cost to fix the reservoir. Mayor McKeever indicated the Village would still have to do the work. Simmons just makes sure the Village doesn't make a mistake. Any inspection will need to be done by Village forces. Disaster Coordinator Crassi will call FEMA to get the latest date the Village can submit costs.

PUBLIC WORKS

Discussion was held on the violations at the sewer plant. Sam Lauer advised that the ferric chloride is used for phosphate which is solely because of the State discharge. He indicated that \$37,500 per day is the fine for not correcting these violations. He indicated that the gas tank violation is minor. The lines for unloading the ferric should be correctly marked. The major violation is with the truck unloading the ferric to the bulk tank. Two proposals were received for the design – one from Wendel and one from Benchmark. Village Engineer Burr stated that selecting an engineer and moving forward would abate the fines and both firms are competent. Sam Lauer indicated that every 5 years the tank needs to be inspected.

Motion 118-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to accept the proposal from Benchmark Environmental Engineering for professional services related to

petroleum and chemical bulk storage Notice of Violation at the Village of Gowanda Wastewater Treatment Plant for an estimated cost of \$6,900. Motion carried 4-0.

Water Superintendent Dubaj was present to discuss the water department staffing needs. He indicated that he received a telephone call from a potential new employee for his department. Mayor McKeever advised that two people from the water department will be retiring this year and the Village needs a licensed operator. She indicated that Treasurer Schilling will find out if the Village can work off the list from the test that was given two years ago. By the next meeting the Village will need to determine if a test is necessary and/or whether the Village can hire a part-time employee. The person hired needs to have a IIA license. The Village is looking at options. Water Superintendent Dubaj indicated he might be willing to stay for another 6 months.

Mayor McKeever reported that an-email from NYSEG advised that the Village has been overbilled for one of the streetlights. A refund of \$5,120.72 will be credited to the account on the next billing.

Motion 119-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to request the refund in the amount of \$5,120.72 in the form of a check to the Village. Motion carried 4-0.

It was also discussed that the street light that was damaged during an accident at Broadway Road and High Street will be replaced with a 100 watt sodium light. Village Engineer Burr advised that as the street lights blow out, the replacement and maintenance becomes the responsibility of the Village.

Motion 120-14. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sisti to authorize NYSEG to replace the 70 watt sodium light with a 100 watt sodium light. Motion carried 4-0.

Trustee Sisti reported that Highway Superintendent Denea advised that CHIPS money cannot be used for patching. As was discussed at the last meeting, Erie Avenue and the lower portion of Johnson Street will be repaired with the CHIPS money.

Treasurer Schilling reported that the Time Warner Cable franchise agreement needs to be addressed at the next meeting.

Trustee Sisti asked about standardizing the color of the Village vehicles. Trustee Sheibley asked if there are DOT requirements relative to color.

Trustee Sisti reported that paving will begin on August 25th. Village Clerk Mohawk will advertise this in the Pennysaver to alert the affected homeowners. It was also mentioned that perhaps it could go on the Code Red system for the specific areas.

Motion 122-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adjourn the special Village Board meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is August 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk