

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 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

Village Employees: Treasurer Cindy Schilling, Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Building Inspector Gary Brecker, Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi, Officer-in-Charge Steve Raiport

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

Public Present: Debbie and Scott Degenfelder, Dorothy Selan, Andy Burr, Tim Greenan, Ed and Shirley Kota, Michelle Kielar, Mary Thrasher, John Pierce, Steve Meyers, Mark Nephew

Motion 174-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2014 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 175-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve Abstract #5 dated October 14, 2014 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$76,680.17
Water Fund	15,111.44
Sewer Fund	30,727.77
UDAG Fund	26,000.00
Superfund Project	332.61
Total	\$148,851.99

Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley stated that the Village should watch the spending.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Thrasher spoke about the Orchard Place pillars. She advised they were built in 1914, making them 100 years old. She presented a petition signed by the residents on

Orchard Place, as well as a list of brick contractors that could be contacted about repair. She also presented pictures of the pillars in their current condition.

Tim Greenan was present on behalf of Savarino Companies. He reminded the Village Board that 22 months ago they requested site plan approval for the 42 Jamestown Street project. He indicated that the process has been delayed further and that a damage action will be commenced against the Village. Mayor McKeever indicated she thought that an alternative site was being considered. Mr. Greenan stated that a positive declaration under SEQR is an inappropriate way to handle the denial.

Andy Burr welcomed Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck to the Village. He commented on the many projects that the Village needs to work on, such as bagged fire hydrants on Center Street. He would like the Village to wait 6 months before hiring another employee to attempt to keep the costs down and not raise water rates. He asked the Village to look at changing the water billing cycle to twice a year. He asked if any of the water bonds can be refinanced. Treasurer Schilling indicated they cannot.

John Pierce also spoke about the Orchard Place pillars. He indicated there are 7 local brick masons that could be contacted about estimates for repair. He indicated he also spoke with the New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation about putting the arches on the State's historic register.

Shirley Kota stated that she never sees the Village employees doing any work around the Village. Ed Kota asked what happened to the water and sewer reserves.

Mark Nephew stated he rides the bus past the Hamburg Skate Park and asked the Board to reconsider a skate park in the Village. He suggested the old hospital site on Memorial Drive would be a good location. Mayor McKeever suggested the Gowanda Boosters might be a good group to contact about this. Shirley Kota stated that Gateway Park would also be a good location for a skate park.

BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS

Building Inspector Brecker reported on the can and bottle redemption center. He advised that he sees more of an issue with accident problems at the gas station across the street. There was a suggestion that perhaps cutting some of the hedges back would improve the sight on Buffalo Street. Phil Palen suggested putting a curb on Caroline Road as part of the Safe Routes to School project. Debbie Degenfelder indicated she spoke with all of her customers and they are aware of the traffic situation.

Motion 176-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the business permit for the can and bottle redemption center (Common Cents) at 13 Caroline Road. Motion carried 5-0.

Building Inspector Brecker advised he has had no response from Cattaraugus County relative to 24 South Water Street.

Building Inspector Brecker reported on a house fire on Buffalo Street. The structure sustained \$100,000 worth of damage but is being repaired.

Ed Kota asked about the reservoir at the old glue factory property. He stated it is an eyesore. Disaster Coordinator Crassi advised that most of the material dumped there took place as a result of the 2009 flood. He indicated a lot of fill would be needed to completely fill that hole.

POLICE

Officer-in-Charge Raiport asked to transfer the unused crossing guard funds to police personnel services. This would allow him to schedule additional manhours in the department. Officer-in-Charge Raiport advised he has requested assistance from the sheriffs and troopers as extra backup when the Village police are tied up on a call.

Motion 177-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to transfer funds from crossing guard to police personnel services for use of personnel hours, investigation and training. Motion carried 5-0.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport also requested authorization to purchase 18 bullet proof vests from United Uniform at \$737.85 each. This amount totals \$13,281.30 but is 50% reimbursable. The final cost to the Village is \$6,640.65.

Motion 178-14. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sisti to authorize the purchase of 18 bullet proof vests at a final cost of \$6,640.65. Motion carried 5-0.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport advised that uniforms and badges are left at the Village when the police officers resign.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport requested that the STOP-DWI monies be placed in the police equipment other budget line.

Motion 179-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to transfer the STOP-DWI monies into the police equipment other budget line. Motion carried 5-0.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport requested authorization to purchase evidence software to track and document evidence. The department already has a printer and scanner. The price includes customization of the software and 4 hours of training.

Motion 180-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize purchase of the evidence software from PMI for a total of \$2,428 which includes the customization and training. Motion carried 5-0.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport advised that he would like his officers to be trained in the use of NARCAN which is a counter-agent for heroin overdoses. He wants all the officers to be certified and carry the agent in the patrol cars.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport reported that 8 individuals were arrested in the brick throwing incident and 2 were arrested for vehicle break-ins.

Mayor McKeever read the following Proclamation:

“WHEREAS, the Village of Gowanda has an interest in promoting the social and economic well-being of its citizens, employees and employers; and WHEREAS, that well-being depends upon the existence of healthy and productive employees working in safe and abuse-free work environments; and WHEREAS, research has documented the stress-related health consequences for individuals caused by exposure to abusive work environments; and WHEREAS, abusive work environments are costly for employers, with consequences including reduced productivity, absenteeism, turnover, and injuries; and WHEREAS, protection from abusive work environments should apply to every worker, and not be limited to legally protected class status based only on race, color, gender, national origin, age, or disability; NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heather McKeever, Mayor of the Village of Gowanda, do hereby proclaim October 19-25, 2014 as FREEDOM FROM WORKPLACE BULLIES WEEK and commend the Workplace Bullying Institute which raises awareness of the impacts of, and solutions for, workplace bullying in the U.S.”

Motion 181-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adopt the foregoing resolution as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley advised the Learn-to-Ski signups are scheduled for October 27th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board room.

Trustee Sheibley acknowledged \$71.20 from SEFA for the Gowanda Recreation program.

FIRE

Trustee Zimmermann asked that the ambulance building and both fire department parking lots be plowed in the winter.

Motion 182-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to send the fire contract renewals to the towns with a 1% increase for 3 years. Motion carried 5-0.

DISASTER COORDINATOR

Disaster Coordinator Crassi gave an update on FEMA. He advised the roads and streets PW went to FEMA but now a new person has been assigned. Mr. Crassi indicated he would meet the new person tomorrow. He advised the public that he is looking for pictures of the affected streets – Center, North Water, School, North Chapel, College, St. John's, and Aldrich – showing the flood damage. Mr. Crassi advised that the PW listing all the debris removal work done by the Village is almost complete. The Pt. Peter Reservoir PW is underway. More samples were taken and he will be meeting with the engineers tomorrow. Disaster Coordinator Crassi advised they have made many trips to Thatcher Brook. 5 seriously damaged sites have been identified, measured with a laser and documented. He indicated that the scope of work and the time needed are very sensitive issues and hard to determine.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi advised that the Village has also prepared for another emergency while waiting for the reservoir work. He indicated that the companies who supply the pumps and motors have them readily in stock. The Village has a 5 day supply of water. He advised that all the spring box lines have been cleaned out.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi discussed the timing of the reservoir work. It is getting late in the season. The Village could accept the cost to clean the reservoir and re-fill it and then wait for FEMA reimbursement. Much of the work is contingent on the weather. He indicated the Village is still in a state of emergency until the water supply is completely up and running.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi reported that the chlorine equipment at the sewer plant had to be switched over to the well. This chlorine equipment, the roof at the building and the large trash pump will all be included in a FEMA PW.

Discussion about damaged sidewalks led Mayor McKeever to state that the extra money for the creek walk in the Safe Routes to School project will be channeled into more sidewalks.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi indicated he has not yet had time to review any 2009 PW's.

TREASURER

There were some questions about the budget transfers which were submitted so they were tabled until next meeting.

Treasurer Schilling reported on the action plan which has been instituted in the Village office. It is located in the shared folder. All the ongoing projects will be listed and the implementation will be updated. It can be e-mailed to the Board members at any time. Mayor McKeever requested that a date be attached to each piece of implementation.

Treasurer Schilling reported on the FOIL policy developed in the Village office. Routine requests from attorneys and real estate agents and banks will not be subject to FOIL, only those requests which come from residents or request a large amount of information.

Treasurer Schilling reported that the bond sale took place on October 9th and the purchaser is Sage Ruty & Company from Rochester. The interest rate is variable but very good. The closing will take place on October 23rd. The Village will pay down the BAN and split it 68% general/32% water. Mayor McKeever asked what the payment amount will be but that is not yet determined.

Treasurer Schilling advised she will attend the NYCOM workshop on the property tax freeze on Monday, October 27th, in Arcade.

LEGAL

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Village Attorney Chadsey is speaking with Time Warner. It was indicated that free cable service was provided to the Village Hall, Hidi Fire Company, St. Joe's School and the library, It was determined this is for television but the Village Board would request free internet service instead.

PUBLIC WORKS

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Dan Stroud has been contacted about fixing the Jamestown Street lights.

The Village Board agreed to solicit bids for the Orchard Park pillars.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck will review the resumes which were received for the water department laborer and will schedule interviews with the most qualified starting a week from Friday.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that proposals are sought for repair of the roofs at the sewer plant. Estimates are due by Tuesday, October 21st.

Mayor McKeever advised the Village Board is not ready for the water increase yet. She would like more information.

ADMINISTRATION

There was more discussion about the possible projects for CDBG funding. Mayor McKeever advised that they need to prioritize them. The projects include waterlines, Hollywood Theater, South Water Street project, Rural Transit and sidewalks. Trustee Sisti ranked the projects as waterlines, South Water Street project, and Rural Transit. Trustee Zimmermann ranked them as South Water Street/veterans park, waterlines and Rural Transit. Trustee Nephew agreed that the waterlines are critical but ranked the projects as South Water Street project (citing the elimination of blight could score

highly), the waterlines and Rural Transit. Trustee Sheibley ranked the projects as waterlines, South Water Street project and Rural Transit. She noted that there could possibly be funding for sidewalks from the Safe Routes to School grant. Mayor McKeever ranked the projects as South Water Street final phase, waterlines and Rural Transit.

Motion 183-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to rank the CDBG projects as follows: 1) final phase of South Water Street/Veterans Park project; 2) replacement of waterlines; 3) Rural Transit Service. Motion carried 4-1. Trustee Sheibley opposed as she felt the waterlines were more important.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Dan Stroud will be repairing the Jamestown Street lights that were reported not working.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the June Treasurer's report has been filed.

A proposal from Pucci's Carpet One for window coverings in the Board room was presented. Trustee Sheibley asked that at least one more quotation be solicited.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that she would be attending a presentation on archives and records storage in Williamsville tomorrow.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that she and Treasurer Schilling met with the Town Assessors regarding veteran's exemptions and a sliding scale aged exemption. They will have an update at the next meeting.

ENVIRONMENT

Phil Palen requested a transfer of \$800 from the emergency tree fund to cover the cost of an emergency tree removal at 70 West Hill Street.

Motion 184-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to transfer \$800 from the emergency tree fund to cover the cost of the emergency tree removal at 70 West Hill Street. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Palen reported that trees have been ordered from nurseries for fall planting and the price is between \$1100-1200. He indicated they would be planting 16-18 trees after Halloween. Phil Palen also advised that his father, Ed Palen, will donate 8-10 English Oak trees for the planting.

Phil Palen spoke about the Ahaz Allen memorial boulder by Bill Friedman's house on Beech Street. He would like some kind of legal protection for it, perhaps an easement on the property.

Village Clerk Mohawk asked about the Halloween celebration on the Village. It will be held on Friday, October 31st, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with the fire company parade and costume contest at 5:30 at the fire hall.

Motion 185-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is October 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk