

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 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: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi, Fire Chief Mark Hebner

Media Present: Mary Pankow, Pennysaver

Public Present: David Latona

Motion 208-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 209-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2014 Special Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 210-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve Abstract #6 dated November 28, 2014 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$ 74,050.79
Water Fund	22,772.99
Sewer Fund	31,693.57
Superfund Project	1,131.68
Joint Activity	49.95
Total	\$129,698.98

Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Fire Chief Hebner spoke about the Turkey Trot event application. Mayor McKeever advised that the route being presented is Aldrich Street to Allen Street to Buffalo Street. Both Mr. Hebner and Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi said it is too hard to shut down the whole town, especially on a holiday. Fire Chief Hebner advised he cannot get fire police to help with traffic control on a holiday. He indicated that next year the event should be held the weekend before or the weekend after and the Crouse 5K route would

be better. There was also some concern about the condition of the roads. The Village Board agreed it was too short of a notice to make all the arrangements necessary for the Turkey Trot to take place.

Dave Latona indicated he has attempted to contact the Mayor but doesn't have a number for her. He stated that several years ago his leaves were not picked up by the Village and they are not getting picked up again now. He asked what the highway crew is doing. He feels that someone should be in charge of them to make sure they are working.

Motion 211-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to go into the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever advised that public hearing was to discuss proposed changes to the Village of Gowanda Municipal Codes regarding Aged and Veterans Exemptions from Real Property Taxation.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented a draft Local Law No. 4 amending Chapter 81 entitled "Partial Tax Exemption for Persons over 65 years of age". She advised this information was copied from the Town of Persia sliding scale relative to aged exemptions. Village Clerk Mohawk also presented a draft Local Law No. 5 adopting the Alternative Veteran's Exemption from Real Property Taxation which was copied from the resolution adopted by the school. The Village Board indicated they were interested in giving a flat rate reduction. The Village Board asked that Village Clerk Mohawk get a copy of Section 458 of the Real Property Tax Law for them to review.

Motion 212-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to close the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

### **BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS**

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that she gave information about the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation to Building Inspector Brecker. She advised there were 3 properties in Erie County that are vacant that would be eligible. However, there is a cost to the Village to participate.

### **POLICE**

Motion 213-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the resignation, with regret, of Officer Robert Kibler from the Gowanda Police Department. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley stated that the resignation letter received from Officer Kibler was very nice.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport provided the Village Board with the October police report.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Village received \$125 from the Town of Persia for Court fines.

Village Clerk Mohawk will send the winter parking regulation information to Mary Pankow so she can publish it in the Pennysaver.

### **JOINT ACTIVITY**

Trustee Sheibley requested approval to appoint the following individuals for the winter recreation programs: Karen Speers for basketball and roller skating programs at \$8.00 an hour, Taylor Kickbush for December (as needed) and Meghan Lulas for December and January (as needed) at \$8.50 per hour and Jack Gaylord for the basketball program at \$8.50 an hour. These programs start December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion 214-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to appoint the above-noted individuals for the winter recreation programs as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley advised that the roller skating program starts December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Aldrich Street School on Mondays at 5:30 and 6:30. Trustee Sisti indicated that the CodeRed system could be used for cancellations. The basketball program is at Academy Place.

Trustee Sheibley reported the last ski signup is next Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **FIRE**

Trustee Zimmermann reported that at the October meeting it was mentioned that the caps on the hydrants should all be greased and functional. He reported they were checked and all are in good working condition. Trustee Zimmermann also advised that this Friday is the Hidi turkey raffle.

Trustee Zimmermann reminded the residents to keep any hydrants near their residences free and clear of snow. Disaster Coordinator Crassi suggested getting markers for the hydrants to make them more visible.

Mayor McKeever requested that Village Clerk Mohawk send a letter to the Boy Scouts thanking them for painting the fire hydrants this past summer.

Trustee Sheibley reminded the Village Board members of the fire department spaghetti dinner which will be held on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at the American Legion. Trustee Zimmermann advised the cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children.

**DISASTER COORDINATOR**

Disaster Coordinator Crassi began his update by reporting that the State of New York has agreed to pay the entire 25% share that the Village owes for FEMA recovery. He reported that the Village was able to capture all of the volunteer hours that were expended in flood recovery which is about 600 hours spent through May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi, Trustee Sheibley, Village Engineer Mark Burr and Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck met with the Greenman Pedersen engineers to discuss the scope of services originally presented for \$74,000. They discussed a scope of work to just include the phase to bring the reservoir back to pre-flood condition. This scope of services was offered for \$23,580 which is necessary to help complete the final PW. Mr. Crassi advised that FEMA had questions on the previous PW's that were submitted but he feels they have been answered adequately.

Motion 215-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to accept the proposal of Greenman Pedersen for engineering services to include surveying and mapping and restoration and mitigation recommendation for the reservoir for \$23,580. Motion carried 5-0.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi advised this project will take at least 4 weeks from the time of approval to complete. Mayor McKeever advised these expenses will all be covered moving forward.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi discussed the Simmons Consulting Services contract. The original estimate for the work was \$45,000. At the last Village Board meeting, the Village Board agreed to expend another \$10,000. Simmons has requested another \$10,000 to complete the reservoir PW. There is a good possibility money will be left over from this additional \$10,000. Ron Simmons has assured the Village that these costs will all be covered by FEMA. Mayor McKeever advised that 19 hours of this work is direct cost so the Village will be responsible for about \$2900.

Motion 216-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the Contract Modification with Simmons Recovery Consulting to extend the contract to \$65,000 and 120 days. Motion carried 5-0.

Disaster Coordinator Crassi reported on the FEMA trailers. He indicated he would ask Building Inspector Brecker to cite them and not wait any longer. Mayor McKeever indicated she would rather have Mr. Brecker call Scott at TLC. Trustee Sisti asked about having the trailers cited as abandoned vehicles. Mr. Crassi advised that he was told by TLC that the non-profit property is ready for the trailers. Mayor McKeever indicated that TLC is willing to work with the resident to help in any way they can.

Mayor McKeever spoke about the Thatcher Brook watershed study. She said it is a preventive plan that can always be worked on. It was prepared by the Thatcher Brook Task Force.

Motion 217-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adopt the Thatcher Brook Watershed study as the Village of Gowanda flood prevention plan. Motion carried 5-0.

### **TREASURER**

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Johnson Controls is seeking payment for their maintenance contract in the amount of \$3,759.50. She will supply a copy of the contract to Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck to determine if this needs to be continued. There has been a great deal of dissatisfaction with how the heating/air conditioning system in the Village hall has worked.

### **LEGAL**

Mayor McKeever advised that Village Attorney Chadsey sent a letter to Mr. Greenan on November 13<sup>th</sup> outlining the Village requirements for the site plan. Village Clerk Mohawk will follow up with Ms. Chadsey for an update on 42 Jamestown Street and 59 South Water Street projects.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Village Clerk Mohawk reported on the sewer plant violations that were cited by New York State. The Village agreed to hire Benchmark to correct those violations. According to Sewer Superintendent Carriero, Benchmark made those corrections and the State sent a letter indicating the corrections were accepted. However, one of the violations dealt with a secondary containment issue and Superintendent Carriero indicated that someone needs to contact the State about help in paying this expensive repair. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck will follow up on this.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that the sewer plant has requested replacement of their skidster. He presented a state bid price for a Bobcat of \$30,763.24 and indicated that Treasurer Schilling stated it was a budgeted piece of equipment. The current skidster is 13 year old.

Motion 218-14. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize the purchase of a skidster for the sewer department for \$30,763.24 on state bid. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the CDBG site tour has been rescheduled to Thursday due to the weather.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Highway Superintendent Denea requested the purchase of a snowblower. The current one is old and cannot be repaired. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated he will be working with Bryan Bylbie on an equipment replacement plan.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Highway Superintendent Denea requested approval to purchase backup cameras for the snowplows. Trustee Sisti stated the Village should get one on the new truck, but that it isn't necessary on the old one. The cost is \$709.85 and it could be installed on the new truck at Valley Fab while it is still there.

Motion 219-14. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sisti to purchase one backup camera for the new plow truck at a cost of \$709.85 installed. Motion carried 5-0.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the 2014-2015 Special Assessments.

Motion 220-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve the Erie County unpaid tax levy in the amount of \$23,058.86. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 221-14. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the Cattaraugus County unpaid tax levy in the amount of \$50,373.09. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported there are \$2,262.50 in lawn mowing charges in Cattaraugus County that have been billed but not paid to date. Last year Cattaraugus County indicated they would no longer collect lawn mowing charges for the local municipalities. There was discussion about having the summer help mow the lawns next year and citing the property owners with code violations.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the September Treasurers report has been filed.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Carrier Coach has paid their UDAG loan in full.

Village Clerk Mohawk sent GARC a bill regarding the work performed at Zoar Valley Gateway Park in the amount of \$23,337.04. Only the diesel fuel and equipment repairs were paid for in the amount of \$3,989.63. There was discussion about using the Village labor as in-kind services for grant applications. Ms. Mohawk also reported that the PRP's have not paid either. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated that the de-listing of this site is probably at least a year away.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Mayor McKeever reported that 15 trees were planted on Monday, 4 different varieties. All went well. Mayor McKeever asked that Village Clerk Mohawk send a thank you letter to Phil Palen.

Mayor McKeever reported that the Safe Routes to School grant is moving forward. There was some discussion about installing a new storm sewer in the Gowanda Free

Methodist Church parking lot. It appears that the creek walk money can be used to upgrade Village sidewalks. This amounts to about \$165-175,000.

Village Clerk Mohawk asked about closing the office on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Mayor McKeever indicated she had no problem with this.

Motion 222-14. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is December 18, 2014 at 7:-00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk  
Village Clerk