

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 12, 2016**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees special meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Hall. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Heather McKeever
Trustee Carol Sheibley
Trustee Aaron Markham
Trustee Wanda Koch
Trustee Paul Zimmermann

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Account Clerk Kathleen Ellis, Officer-in-Charge Steve Raiport, Treasurer Mark Adamchick

Media Present: Rebecca Cuthbert, Observer
Phil Palen

Public Present: Jeff Telecky of Wendel Engineers, Janet Vogtli, Andy Burr, Lou and Dorothy Selan, Charity and Joe Sweda, Charlie Smith, Mike McKeever, Mike McKeever, Clifford and Charleen Lincoln, Jack Broyles, John Walgus, Cattaraugus County Legislators Paula Stockman and Richard Klancer

Mayor McKeever advised that the Village Board needed to take care of some small items prior to the public hearings scheduled for this evening.

Building Inspector Gary Brecker presented drawings of the Free Methodist Church remodeling project and updated the Board members on the progress.

The Safe Routes to School Wellness Walk event application was discussed. Village Clerk Mohawk advised that she requested a Certificate of Insurance from Healthy Community Alliance listing the Village as additional insured.

Motion 26-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham to approve the Safe Routes to School Wellness Walk in anticipation of receiving the appropriate Certificate of Insurance. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Engineer Mark Burr presented a proposal for engineering services for the North Water Street, School Street, Center Street, North Chapel Street and High Street waterline improvements in the amount of \$2,500 for preliminary engineering, \$28,000 for design and contract administrative engineering services and \$22,622 for construction and contract administrative services. The proposal also included amounts for additional services not covered in the proposal at the rate of \$95 per hour for engineering and \$45 per hour for secretarial/administration services.

Motion 27-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve the proposal for engineering services for waterline improvements as submitted by Village Engineer Mark Burr. Motion carried 5-0.

Jeff Telecky advised that an engineering report is required for the State Revolving Loan Fund application. They need sufficient information to allow for scoring the project. Specific regulations are necessary for the UV disinfection and secondary containment for the ferric delivery. The final report will include all the projects. Trustee Zimmermann indicated the State is obligated to pay 70% of the infrastructure work.

Motion 28-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to authorize Wendel to move forward with the study. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever stated this would be useful for other projects as well. Trustee Sheibley asked if there was any preferential order of these projects. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck said all of the safety issues should be addressed right away. He indicated the Village would use Village Engineer Burr for the waterline improvements.

Village Engineer presented information on the bidding for the South Water Street parking lot paving and site improvements. Only one bid was received from Nova Site Company for \$193,478. This was over \$75,000 more than the budgeted amount. He recommended that the Village Board reject the bid.

Motion 29-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to reject the bid from Nova Site Company in the amount of \$193,478 on the recommendation of Village Engineer Mark Burr. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck requested authorization to modify the specs and rebid the project.

Motion 30-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to modify the specs and rebid the project. Motion carried 5-0.

The event application for the Rediscover Gowanda event was resubmitted with the appropriate signatures and insurance coverages.

Motion 31-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham to approve the event application for the Rediscover Gowanda event scheduled for May 26-29, 2016. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 32-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham to open the public hearing on the Time Warner Cable Franchise renewal at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Attorney Chadsey advised that one of the negotiated items includes if a neighboring community gets a better franchise fee, the Village will get it also.

The Village doesn't really have much for choices for cable access other than Time Warner. Mayor McKeever stated that DFT was in the Village previously to discuss fiber optic lines for rural areas.

Motion 33-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham to close the public hearing at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 34-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to open the public hearing for the 2016-2017 Village budget. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever reminded everyone there is a budget work session scheduled for next Wednesday, April 20th, at 6:00.

Janet Vogtli asked about the safeguards for removing garbage pickup from the budget. Mayor McKeever stated that the newly-appointed code enforcement team will be enforcing the rules. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck also advised that Cattaraugus County can help monitor the garbage collectors. The Village will be instituting a permitting process so everyone who picks up garbage will be registered. Ms. Vogtli also asked if the tenants will be responsible rather than the owners. Mayor McKeever advised there is about a \$75,000 difference from what the garbage tags bring in and the cost of the lowest bid. Leaving garbage out of the budget reduces the tax levy by 2.5%

Mayor McKeever advised the D-line has been cut out of the police budget but the officers will all receive a \$.25 per hour raise to \$17.00 per hour. The supplies are all lumped together into one line.

Janet Vogtli asked about the number in the permanent road improvements. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that is CHIPS money. She also asked if the Village is still looking at doing the new water meters.

Charity Sweda asked if anyone is getting a raise. Mayor McKeever advised that the Public Works employees are getting 3% per their contract. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck is salaried at \$69,000 and no mileage claims are submitted for the use of his personal vehicle. Mr. Opferbeck gets \$15,000 from the Town of Collins. 15% of his salary comes from the general fund and 50% from the water fund. Ms. Sweda asked if Mr. Opferbeck still has to answer to the Village Board. Mayor McKeever indicated he does.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck explained that by consolidating the departments, equipment and personnel are shared. Having knowledge in all departments helps in backup situations. He also explained that some licensing requirements depend on an employee having enough hours working at the particular plant. Joe Sweda asked if

having all the employees cross-trained, would they be able to take their vacations so they don't get paid for so many hours each year. Mayor McKeever stated that since Mr. Opferbeck is no longer in the union, he can help negotiate the new contract.

Mr. Lincoln asked about garbage. He doesn't want his taxes raised to offer garbage pickup service. Charity and Joe Sweda both stated they don't want garbage service in the taxes.

Mr. Sweda stated he supports another full time police officer.

Mr. Lincoln asked why the Village needs a police department. Officer-in-Charge Raiport advised that if the Village contracted the services out, the cost would be astronomical since it would be necessary to go with both Counties. Officer-in-Charge Raiport stated the department averages 3,000 complaints and 150 arrests per year. Cattaraugus County Legislator Stockman advised that on any evening from 4 until midnight there is only one Sheriff's car in each quadrant in Cattaraugus County. Officer-in-Charge Raiport said the department encourages both County Sheriff's and State Police to come to the Village anytime. Mayor McKeever advised the Village will continue to consolidate the police staff.

John Walgus asked if there is any way to notify the residents about the new garbage hauling regulations.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated that anyone who hauls garbage will need to be permitted through Cattaraugus County. He also advised the village will keep the recycling center at the sewer plant. The hours for plastic and metal are Wednesday from 8-12 and 1-3 and on Saturdays from 8-10. Phil Palen asked about yard waste. Will the public works department be picking it up? Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported that at this point there is no place to put the stuff.

Phil Palen spoke in his position as Historian. He advised that is not taking any compensation for that position or as videographer. He has the money go to the Historical Society and his salary goes for benches at the park.

Trustee Sheibley asked if under the current DEC law, does it require the haulers to pick up recycling curbside? Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck replied yes and indicated that having them permitted through the County will help with policing.

Jack Broyles asked how much money is spent on ammunition. Officer-in-Charge Raiport stated the amount is about \$2,000 since the officers have to qualify at the shooting range each year.

Motion 35-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Koch to close the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 36-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham to adjourn the special Village Board meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk