

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 21, 2015**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees special meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 6:10 p.m. at the Municipal Hall.

Present: Mayor Heather McKeever  
Trustee Carol Sheibley  
Trustee Pete Sisti  
Trustee Paul Zimmermann  
Trustee Barbara Nephew

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Treasurer Cindy Lauer, Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck

Media Present: Samantha McDonnell, Observer

Public Present: Janet Vogtli, Wanda Koch, Jay Frantz, Jack Broylers, Joe Vogtli, Joe Gorenflo, Arnold Andolsek, John Walgus, John Girome, Nelson Felt, Eric Zielinski, Charity Sweda, Andy Burr, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taber

The purpose of the meeting was to take action on a couple of items but then spend time on the budget. Superintendent Opferbeck asked to change insurance brokers from Emerling to Sheridan Benefits. The employees would have the same insurance; it would just be a different broker. The open enrollment period is now. Mr. Opferbeck was advised of an 8% reduction in health insurance benefit costs for the coming year. The Village will continue to offer the 7100 silver plan with a higher deductible. The Village Board indicated they would make a decision next week. Village Clerk Mohawk will put this on the agenda. The deadline for the change is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised he has been talking with Casella. They would prefer to change the trash pickup days to a roll off situation. Mr. Opferbeck indicated that if the Village accepts the bid from Casella, they would be willing to negotiate further. Mr. Opferbeck suggested that if the Village goes with self-performing the garbage pickup, a part-time employee may be the most reliable. Mayor McKeever indicated the Village wants to offer the residents the chance to not have it in their taxes at all – or to opt out altogether. She advised that the Town of Collins has 10 trash days a year but they are offered to Village residents.

Trustee Sheibley feels the residents want the garbage to be continued in the taxes. She said the Village should raise the cost of the stickers to \$2.00 and \$3.00. She indicated the Village does not have a lot of time to bring in variables they don't know about. The issues should be studies for another year, but the garbage service could work in this budget.

Trustee Nephew feels it should be continued for another year but rules should be put in place. She feels the user fee makes people more conscious about what they throw out. Trustee Nephew indicated a recyclable unit at the sewer plant would be a good idea.

Mayor McKeever asked if the Board wants to continue to service in the taxes or take it out and charge the residents for it as a separate service. Andy Burr indicated it could be mandatory for a year, then give residents the option to opt out.

Trustee Sisti said there is not enough time to make changes before the end of the contract. He reiterated that the options are to leave it on the taxes with a bit higher tax rate than the Board would like or put it on the water bill. Trustee Sisti said if he is charged \$12.00 per month on his taxes, he would save money, but he is not in favor of putting it on the water bills. He also indicated that new rules should be put in place to make enforcement stronger.

Trustee Zimmermann feels the Village should continue with Casella for the next year. The Village could work with them for rollofs for trash and recyclables. He is against putting a garbage tax on the water bill. Increasing water rates, increasing sticker prices and increasing enforcement will also help with the budget.

Trustee Nephew indicated that for some residents, it is easier to purchase one sticker a week than pay the \$36.00 all at once.

Joe Vogtli said that a monitored recyclable center is necessary to keep people from throwing trash in the containers.

Mayor McKeever advised that the Village cannot accept the \$50,000 for recycling.

John Walgus stated that Cattaraugus County Solid Waste is a good resource to answer any questions the Village has.

Mayor McKeever indicated that Casella did agree to a one-year contract.

Motion 26-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to accept Option 3 from Casella for a 1 year agreement in the amount of \$163,213 with mutual bi-lateral options to renew for years 2 and 3. Motion carried 5-0. Trustee Zimmermann also indicated that Casella needs to partner with the Village on enforcement.

Casella has different options for rollofs. They agree it should be policed. No one takes glass. That is considered garbage. Casella indicated that would put 2 rollofs somewhere on Village property for the trash dropoff. If Casella picked it up when full, it would save the Village some money. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck said the Village has a big tractor to pack it in to make it as inexpensive as possible for the Village. Casella said the labor costs would be somewhat less as well.

Trustee Nephew asked about changing the pickup day.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck asked the Casella representatives for assistance in formulating the rules.

Mayor McKeever spoke about a water committee. She indicated that Trustees Sisti and Sheibley and Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck were on the committee. The Village received an Asset Management Grant and Mr. Opferbeck feels the committee should be expanded. He wants to include Village Engineer Mark Burr and George Dubaj. Mayor McKeever suggested Fire Chief Mark Hebner as well. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck also suggested John Walgus as a representative from the Town of Persia. Trustee Zimmermann asked about a community member being on the committee. Jack Broyles questioned the qualifications of Mr. Dubaj.

Motion 27-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to appoint George Dubaj, Fire Chief Mark Hebner, Village Engineer Mark Burr, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Trustee Sisti, Trustee Sheibley and Town of Persia Councilman John Walgus to the water committee. Motion carried 5-0.

There was some discussion about FEMA and the funds that are or are not due the Village. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck asked to oversee the FEMA blue folders. He wants 90 days to review them and make whatever changes are necessary. The Village may not be getting as much money back as originally thought. Mayor McKeever indicated that it was okay for Mr. Opferbeck to be the go to lead person with FEMA. Trustee Sheibley asked where Nick Crassi fits into this as Disaster Coordinator. Trustee Sisti indicated he is okay with it as long as Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck, Trustee Sheibley and Treasurer Lauer all stay involved. Mr. Opferbeck indicated there are still some open ends that need to be done to close the accounts.

Motion 28-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to appoint Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck as the go to lead person to deal with FEMA issues. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 29-15. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to remove Cindy Schilling as Treasurer and appoint Cindy Lauer to have all access to banking issues. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk left at 8:00 p.m. The Village Board began the budget workshop, going line by line over each item.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk  
Village Clerk