

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 2, 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 Paul Zimmermann (via telephone)
Trustee Wanda Koch

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Account Clerk Kathleen Ellis

Public Present: Janet Vogtli, Margaret Moritz, Andy Burr, Alan Nephew

The purpose of this special meeting was to handle some public works items since Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck will not be at the regular meeting on August 9th. There was continuing discussion about the water meter project. Mayor McKeever read a Memorandum of Understanding related to water meters:

“The Village of Gowanda has agreed by resolution on July 12th to purchase new electronic read water meters. The cost of these meters is expected to be under the bid estimates for total project cost at approximately \$500,000. The project has moved forward to be funded by a ten year serial bond in water and with cash reserves in sewer, where each department will pay 50% of the total project costs.

The meters will come with conditions for future operational changes that will lower Village operating costs, increase equity for a fair and accurate read for all residents and will likely result in increased operational revenues for both departments as the average meter age is over 25 years old.

As a result of the concerns voiced by this committee, we ask that the Village board will pass this MOU to signify its intent to follow the recommendations of the water/sewer advisory committee. The MOU terms are delineated below.

First, once the new meters are installed the final date of completion will be determined and once four consecutive quarters of readings are made on the new meters the Village Board will call this group together for a full rate review of water and sewer rates. The committee believes that any revenue over \$550,000 should be returned to the rate payers in the form of a water rate reduction. The committee also believes that any increase in sewer rates over \$330,000 should be returned to rate payers in the form of a sewer rate reduction. These targets are not absolute and if new information becomes available to the Village Board and advisory committee these caps can be modestly adjusted only to reflect unforeseen expenses.

Second, the new meters are estimated to save approximately 1,200 man hours from the water department each year. These reduced hours will be offset by reduced payroll in the DPW. Currently, the DPW has 10 employees and as a result of this labor saving

initiative as well as the current equipment consolidation and replacement program it is recommended that the mechanics position be abolished within the next 6 to 24 months. It is understood that the mechanics position being eliminated is a result of a new and lean fleet of equipment which will have only minimal labor needs to render the position unnecessary. The two labor costs of mechanic and water reader being eliminated is expected to be at least one full time position. The entire cost of this employee is estimated to be approximately \$64,000 annually and the cost of the meters amortized over their useful life is expected to be less than approximately \$31,000. The labor reduction in conjunction with the new meters will lead to an absolute cost savings to Village tax and rate payers.

Third, the Village DPW superintendent will review and self-perform as much low risk meter replacement as possible in an effort to minimize costs and reduce total project costs. These efforts should be possible in a significant subset of instances further reducing Village capital cost."

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported that the Village received two bids for the meter installation. The low bid was National Metering. The cost of the meters is approximately \$268,000 and the cost of installation is \$215,000 for an estimated total cost of \$506,000. 1450 meters will be purchased; however the 36 commercial ones will not be installed at this time. Trustee Zimmermann asked if there is a timeline for when that will be done. Trustee Koch requested clarification that the Village is not going with ball valves or salvage because they can get them both cheaper. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck confirmed that the Village will accept Items #1, 2, 5 and 6 of the bids but not items #3 and #4.

Motion 109-16. Motion buy Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to accept the Memorandum of Understanding related to water meters as recommended by the water committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 110-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Markham to accept the bid from National Metering service for installation with items #1, #2, #5 and #6 on the bid sheet, and encouraging the contractors to stay locally if at all possible. Motion carried 5-0.

It was discussed that the water committee, or public works advisory committee, will meet one more time to get the public education component together.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported the Village received 5 bids for the reservoir repairs. Cold Spring Construction was the low bid. It was reported that FEMA will match the bid. The work should be completed by June 1st of next year. The engineer's recommendation was for the Village Board to accept this bid. Both Trustee Sheibley and Disaster Coordinator Crassi feel the residential repair component should be addressed. They also do not feel it is necessary to have a full-time inspector at the site. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck and Village Engineer Burr feel it is. Trustee Sheibley would like another meeting prior to beginning the work at the reservoir. Public

Works Superintendent Opferbeck stated he would like to see it in writing that FEMA will pay for a 40-hour per week inspector.

Motion 111-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to accept the bid of \$1,854,741 from Cold Spring Construction. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised the Village is awaiting health department approval to release bids for North Water, Center, School, High and North Chapel Street water line project. The Village Board agreed to approve going to bid and advertising for return of bids 3 weeks from the date of advertisement.

Motion 112-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve going to bid on the North Water, Center, School, High and North Chapel Street waterline project. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised the Smart Growth project on South Water Street is moving along well.

The Safe Routes to School pre-construction meeting was held last week. Cattco Construction is doing the work. The sidewalk work will start on August 15th. They hope to have the construction done by the start of school.

Motion 113-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Markham to adjourn the special Village Board meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is August 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk