

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**AUGUST 9, 2016**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 6:00 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  
Trustee Wanda Koch

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Account Clerk Kathleen Ellis, Officer-in-Charge Steve Raiport, Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi, Fire Chief Mark Heber

Public Present: John Walgus, Mary Stelley, Tom Webb, Mark Coyle and Dean Eggert of Fredonia Pennysaver, Jack Broyles, Chester Banaziak, Bonnie Spire, Gary Lauer, Phil Palen, John Lippes

Motion 114-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2016 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 115-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2016 Special Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 116-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve the Abstract dated August 9, 2016 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$109,866.97
Water Fund	31,182.51
Sewer Fund	41,077.01
Superfund	123.41
Joint Activity	582.39
Total	182,832.29

Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tom Webb, Mark Coyle and Dean Eggert spoke to the Village Board about taking up the reins of the Gowanda Pennysaver. They own and publish the Dunkirk/Fredonia/Westfield pennysaver and are now adding the Gowanda/Silver Creek pennysaver. They are reaching out to local businesses and the Village for news and any items that the local residents may find of interest. They will begin by having drop off

locations until they are able to get up and running with the distribution routes. They indicated they also have an on-line version, Mr. Eggert indicated they bulk drop locations right now and hope to have the 9,000 circulation as soon as possible. The plan is to hit the same zip codes as the old pennysaver.

John Walgus spoke about a prior meeting when representatives from DFT Communications spoke to the Village about fiber optic broadband internet service. He indicated that the Town of Persia has asked about DFT providing free wireless connections in the heart of the Village. The total cost is \$20,000 but Mr. Walgus indicated there are grants available that would pay 90% of the cost. He figured the cost to the Town of Persia would be about \$4,000. He asked if the Village might be interested in sharing that cost. Mayor McKeever stated that the Village Board is supportive of looking into this further. Mr. Walgus stated the fiber optic line is already here in the Village at Aldrich and West Main Streets.

John Walgus advised that Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, is the dedication of the Hidi Fire Company plaque at 6:00. The fund raising effort for the plaque allowed the Hidi Fire Company to donate \$501 to Community Connections. Phoenix Lodge has also donated \$100 to Community Connections.

Jack Broyles suggested that the old Texas Keystone building would be an ideal place for the ambulance service to move to.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

Mayor McKeever reported that South Water Street have been paved for the section of the Smart Growth Initiative. There was some discussion about the PILOT Agreement with the Cattaraugus County IDA. Trustee Sheibley asked if the Village would have to negotiate with the Town of Persia for our piece of the PILOT. Mayor McKeever indicated she would find out about that.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport thanked John Walgus for raising funds for the Community Connections program. He reported that Cattaraugus County had their first joint task force meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup> dealing with the same issue.

Mayor McKeever advised that the Christmas in Gowanda meeting will be changed to sometime in September. Officer-in-Charge Raiport advised the Community Spirit parade will be Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, lining up behind Soles Unlimited at 4:30 and leaving at 5:30.

### **BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS**

A business permit application was presented to the Village Board for a barber shop at 13 South Water Street.

Motion 117-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the business permit application of Robert Dalimonte for a barber shop at 13 South Water Street. Motion carried 5-0.

An application was submitted by Linda Dewey to operate a Farmer's market at Chang-Hu Park on August 30<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 p.m. Healthy Community Alliance submitted an insurance certificate listing the Village as an additional insured. Officer-in-Charge read the description of a pop up market:

"Healthy Community Alliance and the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Grant wish to organize a Pop Up Market for the Village of Gowanda. The Pop Up Market will focus on the availability and accessibility of fresh, local foods. Linda Dewey, from Silver Falls Farm, will be providing produce for customers to purchase. I hope to reach out to Hewitts to also offer produce. Eat Smart NY will be providing a nutrition lesson and passing out healthy snacks. In addition, Susan Avery from Southern Tier West and the Fresh Local Initiative will be handing out information about the initiative. Healthy Community Alliance will be offering kids activities and information about the grant. Since space is limited, we have arranged parking to be at the Free Methodist Church for customers. The pop Up Market will serve as a community event and showcase the local farmers in the area."

Motion 118-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the business permit for the farmer's market for August 30, 2016 from 3-6 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

## POLICE

Officer-in-Charge Raiport read the July monthly report:

"Total calls for service – 237; domestics – 3; motor vehicle accidents – 0; arrests – 9; traffic summons issued – 7; total patrol mileage – 3,465.

I submitted the voucher to NYS Governor's Safety Committee for reimbursement for extra patrol hours for traffic enforcement. A total of \$1,041.75 for the hourly wages for the hours worked for traffic enforcement off the grant. Received an email from GTSC and the voucher was approved for payment and a check will be forthcoming.

The range schedule is up and the officers will be qualifying this month. The training will consist of firearms, use of force and blood borne pathogens. The range and training will be held at the Gowanda Correctional Facility firearms range. Would like to thank the Collins Correctional Facility who oversees the range at Gowanda for the use of it again this year.

Not much going on this past month, the officers continue to take proactive approaches in patrolling the Village and conducting property checks of the Village Business district. I received a call from a business owner this week thanking Officer John Bronnenberg when he was on patrol finding one of their doors unlocked and open during one of his checks and contacting the owners to come secure it."

Officer-in-Charge Raiport advised he received an e-mail from Smart Security regarding a safety device that attaches to a door bell. They will be sending one to the police department to see how it works.

Officer Larry Green is training this week in Little Valley learning about how to deal with the mental health individuals, those with PTSD, etc.

Office-in-Charge Raiport advised that Healthy Community Alliance has grant funding available in the Safe Streets that they are willing to donate for pedestrian crosswalk safety issues.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport advised that the Christmas in Gowanda tribute this year is to first responders and law enforcement. The date for the event is December 3, 2016.

### **JOINT ACTIVITY**

Trustee Sheibley presented information regarding e-waste recycling. She indicated there are 50% grants available through the DEC and the EPA for municipalities to help with the costs of e-waste recycling. Mayor McKeever thanked Trustee Sheibley for continuing to look into this issue.

Trustee Sheibley advised this is the last week of recreation. Tomorrow is the trip to Fantasy Island and Friday is the annual talent show.

Trustee Sheibley presented information from Melinda Spire regarding the Feral Cat Focus. She indicated that Feral Cat Focus and Operation Cat would be willing to help the Village control the cat population. Trustee Sheibley indicated that volunteers would be needed to help with the cat transport. They would also like to hold an outreach education program in the near future.

### **FIRE**

Trustee Zimmermann advised that the Horsin' Around Bingo is coming in September as well as the chicken barbeque. Assistant Fire Chief Nick Crassi asked about the work order that was submitted about maintenance on all the Main Street hydrants. He wants them at least opened and checked to make sure they are all working. The work order was submitted on July 19<sup>th</sup> to Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck.

### **DISASTER COORDINATOR**

Disaster Coordinator Crassi asked about the Cold Spring contract. He feels maybe one person could be shared between both water projects. Mr. Crassi also indicated that FEMA sent new plans for the diversion channels at the reservoir.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

The bid date was set for the North Water/School/Center/High Street waterline replacement project.

Motion 119-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to set the return date for bids for the North Water/School/Center/High Street waterline replacement project for August 30, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that a USDA Rural Development Compliance Review has been scheduled for August 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor McKeever asked Mary Stelley and John Walgus about the UDAG loan request for the Buffalo Street LLC. Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the new committee reviewed the request and was again proposing the loan. Mr. Walgus indicated that the applicant is on a sponsored debt reduction program which indicates that he is making good faith efforts to pay his indebtedness. The proposal is to loan \$20,000 for the boilers at 2% interest for 5 years. A proposal was presented by Mayor McKeever to accept the recommendation from the UDAG committee to make the loan for \$20,000 at 2% for years but that the Village Board will review the collateral being offered to make sure that it is secured. Mary Stelley feels at some point the Village might want to have some faith in people. Mayor McKeever indicated she would like an appraisal of the collateral. It was agreed that Village Attorney Chadsey will write up the appropriate paperwork and the Village Board will have one last approval. Mary Stelley advised that the lending guidelines are antiquated and asked the Village Board for some guidance going forward, perhaps with some input from Village Attorney Chadsey. Trustee Koch agreed to help the committee come up with some guidelines for future loans.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented information from Cattaraugus County Real Property Tax Services relative to an amendment to the senior citizen exemptions.

Mayor McKeever proposed a "Think DIFFERENTLY" resolution:  
"WHEREAS, the "Think Differently" initiative is about promoting awareness and acceptance of all people, and advocating for the inclusion of all individuals living on the Autism Spectrum and with special needs; and  
WHEREAS, our state and communities are stronger because of our diversity and differences; and  
WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) over 55 million people, or approximately 19% of Americans, have a type of disability or special need; and  
WHEREAS, for some people with special needs, the very things that make them unique can also keep them on the sidelines, separate from those who might not understand their differences or uniqueness; and  
WHEREAS, it is important to promote and provide guidance to those with special needs on how to access publically supported services available to them in the community; and

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage and educate the community and businesses on ways they can make facilities and services more accessible and on how to train staff to welcome and support special needs customers and co-workers; and  
WHEREAS, the goal of this initiative is to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals of all abilities by supporting community events that expand family friendly opportunities for people with special needs and their families; and  
WHEREAS, adopting the "Think Differently" initiative is an important statement that our Village officials, business owners and residents can make to show their support for the differently-abled children and adults with special needs, and their families.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Gowanda, residents and business owners to adopt the "Think Differently" initiative so that all are better prepared to communicate with, provide for, and support those living on the Autism Spectrum and with special needs."

Motion 120-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adopt the foregoing resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Chester Banaziak advised that Nita Reid does not want trees on her property on North Water Street when the Village replaces the waterline.

Phil Palen spoke about the severe drought. He has been watering trees. He spent 17 ½ hours over July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Mr. Palen stated he gave Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck a list of the newer trees to have the summer kids do the watering of them. He indicated he would like to use the flusher truck or the fire company tanker since they hold more water. Phil Palen also indicated that the trees that were planted at Zoar Valley Gateway Park are severely dry.

Motion 121-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is September 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk  
Village Clerk