

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees Special meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 7:10 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

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk

Public Present: Andy Burr, Alan Nephew

The purpose of this special meeting was to take action before the next Board meeting on some items that were timely.

Trustee Markham spoke first and asked to direct Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck to hire a contractor and put a new sidewalk on that section of Palmer Street that was removed.

Motion 261-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to authorize Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck to hire a contractor and replace the section of sidewalk that was removed on Palmer Street. Motion carried 4-0.

Andy Burr spoke on behalf of the budget/finance committee. He advised that Trustee Sheibley pointed out that the Village received a BAN for work at Pt. Peter Reservoir and for the waterline replacement project on Center Street. The Village has \$3.1 million at Community Bank and it only earned interest of \$55.00 in the month of December. Treasurer Hopkins called a dozen different banks looking for a better interest rate, higher than .02%. Community Bank indicated they could not give any better rate. Citizens Bank offered the Village a 6 month CD at .75% and a Liquid Investment Account at .65%. Trustee Sheibley advised she did the math and this equates to about \$750 on one and \$1300 on the other. Andy Burr indicated the Village could put more into the CD if desired but Trustee Sheibley indicated the letter from Treasurer Hopkins asks to move \$2 million into the Liquid Investment Account and \$1 million into the 6 month CD. Trustee Sheibley feels the letter as written should be approved.

Motion 262-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve moving the BAN funds to Citizens Bank per the letter presented by Treasurer Hopkins. Motion carried 4-0.

Trustee Sheibley advised that the annual motions at the Organizational meeting state that "the Gowanda Office of Community Bank, NA and MBIC/Class be designated as

depositories of Village funds for the ensuing year.” She suggested that Citizens Bank be added as a depository on Annual Motion B.

Motion 263-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham to change Annual Motion B to read: “the Gowanda Office of Community Bank, NA and Citizens Bank be designated as depositories of Village funds for the ensuing year.” Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 264-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Markham to authorize Trustee Sheibley and Village Clerk Mohawk to do whatever is necessary in financial matters in the absence of Treasurer Hopkins. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor McKeever presented a charge to the financial committee to review sewer fund revenues and expenditures. Andy Burr indicated that the sewer account is struggling. He wanted the public to know that New York State has agreed to pay \$2.33 million for capital improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. He commended Mayor McKeever, Trustee Sheibley and Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck for their accomplishments in this regard.

Mayor McKeever advised that the budget presentation is scheduled for March 28, 2017. Andy Burr indicated he would like to reassemble the committee that worked on the water rates to also work on the sewer rates. That committee consisted of Trustee Sheibley, Trustee Koch, Margaret Moritz, Janet Vogtli and Andy. Treasurer Hopkins and Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck would be support for the committee.

Motion 265-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to charge the budget committee to oversee the ad hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing sewer revenues and expenditures. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 266-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to accept the complete resignation of Josh Bartholomew from the Gowanda Police Department, effective February 20, 2017. Motion carried 4-0.

Trustee Markham reported that he and Trustee Koch met with Acting Officer-in-Charge Larry Green prior to the meeting and had some suggestions for police matters for the coming year. Some suggestions included: 1) the officers have to work a minimum of 3 8-hour shifts per month; 2) a copy of all necessary certifications and requirements must be on file in the office; 3) any extenuating circumstances that an officer cannot report for duty must be approved by the Officer-in-Charge; 4) any shift changes/swaps must be approved by the Officer-in-Charge; 5) all equipment must be returned upon resignation or the final paycheck will be withheld. These items will all be reviewed by Village Attorney Chadsey before being finalized into a policy.

Motion 267-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to pay the GARC insurance bill in the amount of \$1,845.00. Motion carried 4-0.

There was some discussion about a meeting with HCA and the school and the Village regarding the parking lots. Mayor McKeever indicated she would like to have one trustee as well as Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck attend. Trustee Markham indicated he would be available. The meeting will be scheduled for February 23rd at 5:00 at HCA.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented a resolution for the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program:

“WHEREAS, the Village of Gowanda, herein called the “Applicant:”, after thorough consideration, has hereby determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, herein called the ”Project”, is desirable; and

WHEREAS, §970-r of the General Municipal Law authorizes State assistance to eligible parties for Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program grants by means of a State Assistance Contract (SAC) and the Applicant deems it to be in the public interest and benefit under this law to enter into a contract therewith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Village of Gowanda

1. That Heather McKeever, Mayor of the Village of Gowanda, is the representative authorized to act in behalf of all applicants in all matters related to State assistance under §970-r of the General Municipal Law for the Project. The representative is also authorized to sign and submit the application, execute the SAC, request SAC advances and reimbursements, redistribute SAC reimbursements as appropriate, submit Project documentation, and otherwise act for all applicants in all matters related to the Project and to State assistance;
2. That the Applicant agrees that it will complete the Project;
3. That the Applicant agrees that it will fund its portion of the Applicant’s 10% share of the Project; and
4. That this Authorization take effect immediately.”

Motion 268-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to adopt the foregoing resolution as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 269-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Kosh to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss police personnel. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 270-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 271-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve hiring a Drug Task Force individual. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 272-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the Special Village board meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is March 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk