

**VILLAGE OF GOWANDA
BOARD MEETING
March 28, 2017
MINUTES**

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 Wanda Koch
Trustee Paul Zimmermann

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Nancy Black, Public Works Superintendent, Jason Opferbeck, Treasurer, Traci Hopkins, Nick Crassi, Larry Green, Gary Denea, Dennis Feldman, Phil Palen, Deb Chadsey, Andrew K

Media Present: Phil Palen, Cable Channel 22
Andrew Kuczkowski, Observer
Rich Place, Gowanda Press

Public Present: Janet Vogtli, Rich Place, Charity Sweda, Shawn Malek, Andrew Kuczkowiaki, Lisa Gernatt, Bryan Bylbie, Julie Schuster, Jennifer Perrin, Gary Denea, Kathleen Ellis, Karen and Rollin Besse, Theresa Girome, Ryan McKeever, BobDingman, John Walgus.

MINUTES

Motion 299-16 Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

HIRE/SWEAR IN OFFICERS

Motion 300-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to hire police officers Andrew Sulski and Michael Kauzala. Motion carried. 5-0.

Mayor McKeever swore in and welcomed police officers Andrew Sulski and Michael Kauzala.

**VILLAGE OF GOWANDA
BOARD MEETING
March 28, 2017
MINUTES**

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 Wanda Koch
Trustee Paul Zimmermann

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Nancy Black, Public Works Superintendent, Jason Opferbeck, Treasurer, Traci Hopkins, Nick Crassi, Larry Green, Gary Denea, Dennis Feldman, Phil Palen, Deb Chadsey, Andrew K

Media Present: Phil Palen, Cable Channel 22
Andrew Kuczkowski, Observer
Rich Place, Gowanda Press

Public Present: Janet Vogtli, Rich Place, Charity Sweda, Shawn Malek, Andrew Kuczkowiaki, Lisa Gernatt, Bryan Bylbie, Julie Schuster, Jennifer Perrin, Gary Denea, Kathleen Ellis, Karen and Rollin Besse, Theresa Girome, Ryan McKeever, Bob Dingman, John Walgus.

MINUTES

Motion 299-16 Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

HIRE/SWEAR IN OFFICERS

Motion 300-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to hire police officers Andrew Sulski and Michael Kauzala. Motion carried. 5-0.

Mayor McKeever swore in and welcomed police officers Andrew Sulski and Michael Kauzala.

SPECIAL PRESENTIONS

Mayor Heather McKeever awarded proclamations to recognize service to the Village of Gowanda to:

KATHLEEN MOHAWK - April 26, 2017 Kathleen Mohawk Day

GARY DENEVA - May 21, 2017 Gary Denea Day

LARRY GREEN - August 1, 2017 Larry Green Day

ROBERT & LINDA DINGMAN - May 13, 2017 Robert and Linda Dingman Day

BUDGET MESSAGE

McKeever Budget Message 2017/18

I started as a trustee in 2009 and 5 months into my term the village experienced a 100 year flood. This disaster devastated our village financially and created many structural challenges to our infrastructure and water reservoir. I felt it was important to continue to serve and help solve these issues. I became mayor in 2012 and we were still in financial crisis due to the 2009 flood and both our water account and general fund were in the red. Over the past 5 years the village board has brought the village's water and general fund back into the black, with a -2.5% decrease to the tax levy in 2016. In addition to being on a team of hardworking village staff and trustees; Carol Sheibley, Paul Zimmermann, Wanda Koch and Aaron Markham, it has been a pleasure to work with so many engaged community members and organizations to help overcome the challenges of years past. I feel confident in my accomplishments as mayor and as I end my tenure I know our new Mayor David Smith, our current board and village staff will continue to make progress and carry on to provide the leadership our village needs and deserves to keep us on the right track.

One of the highlights of my tenure includes the GO-wanda on the Move Initiative. This Initiative was built on to other projects, some of which are concurrent with the BOA Step 1 Study and listed below. In our pre-nomination study we included a Citizen Participation Plan to ensure that the local community is given a voice in the redevelopment planning for each Study Area. This was accomplished in 2016 primarily through public and stakeholder meetings, small-scale events, and media advertising. In addition, a Steering Committee comprised of members of local business owners, citizens, and community groups has been formed to assist in communicating events and milestones to the community. I am hopeful the village will continue these efforts as we have started the process of applying for BOA phase 2. This Initiative is so important because it will give us vision and tangible goals as our community grows.

Key Accomplishments since 2012 include:

- Continued Flood Mitigation, Thatcher Brook Task force effort and the Army Corps of Engineers flood study.
- Development of the WNY Regional Rail Corridor Project.
- Strengthened relationships with surrounding communities to include Seneca Nation, Town of Collins and Town of Persia.
- Street Paving was a priority along with developing a Complete Streets program. Safe Routes to School projects including sidewalks, safe and improved cross walks
- Downtown revitalization: China King demolition, South Water Street parking lot, former print shop demo and replaced with Zoar Valley Clinic set to open this spring.
- Worked with small businesses and Chamber of Commerce to create Christmas in Gowanda.
- Development of new website
- Built strong collaborative relationships with local law enforcement agencies including a partnership with the Southern Tier Regional Drug Task Force and helped to implement Community Connections Organization
- Gateway Park continued development; clearing and re-use of the old glue factory reservoir on Palmer Street.
- Tree City USA designation.
- Commitment to support the renovation of Gowanda's Historic Hollywood Theater.

Public Works Highlights: In addition to our supportive board members, I want to note that these accomplishments I am about to list would not have been possible without the forward thinking and initiative of Jason Opferbeck who took charge of our Public Works Department in 2015 and Andrew Burr who has served as our citizen budget committee member for the past 4 years.

- Point Peter reservoir upgrades, completion of several FEMA projects
- We are currently partnering with NYS Department of Corrections on a Capital Improvement Project which will allow us the use of environmentally friendly UV lights at

our waste water treatment facility. NYS announced they will be providing 2.3 million towards the effort.

- Shared water service agreement Town of Collins, Over the next 10 years this shared agreement is projected to save tax payers over \$1 Million. Along with being able to pass a savings onto our tax payers this collaborative effort has given us an opportunity to develop a capital improvement project plan which will allow us to keep our aging water infrastructure safe and updated such as the Water Meter Replacement Project and the 2017 Water Line Improvement Project
- Consolidation of Public Works location to Aldrich street in an effort to save tax dollars and allow for more economic development opportunities within the Village.
- Consolidated Public Works workforce and reorganizing all departments to be more cost effective and efficient.

I am happy to present to you today the 2017/18 budget presentation that includes a property tax decrease of -2.04%. These continued tax decreases are a result of the past five years we have spent as a board to re-organize every Department. All Village Departments have worked collaboratively to consolidate resources and effectively work together to pass on efficient practices and cost savings to our residents. I excited for the enthusiasm that is now in place in all of our departments who are currently lead by: Treasurer - Traci Hopkins, Officer in Charge - Dennis Feldmann, Jason Opferbeck - Public Works Superintendent, Mark Benton - Recreation Director and Nick Crassi - Fire Chief. As our dedicated village board members continue to support these collaborative efforts I am confident the Village of Gowanda will continue on a path of prosperous growth and low tax rates for years to come.

Moving forward, I will be dedicating more time to my family and church. Some of the village projects I will continue to play a role in; I have agreed to co-chair Community Connections, I will remain active in GO-wanda on the Move Initiative, including working with leaders within the WNY region as we further develop the WNY Regional Railway Corridor Project. I want to thank everyone who has played a part helping me in this role over the past 5 years. It has been such an honor to work with different board members during my tenure. I especially want to thank my Deputy Mayor Paul Zimmermann who has helped and supported me since day one. Finally, I need to recognize my family who has kept me grounded over these past 8 years of public service. Most importantly my husband Ryan and son Lucas, who both always reminded me not to sweat the small stuff. I am looking forward to working with Mayor Smith as I know he will continue to cultivate the progress we have made as a community. I am so grateful to have been provided the opportunity to serve the Gowanda community. Thank you.

Heather M. McKeever
Mayor, Village of Gowanda

March 28, 2017

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mayor McKeever reviewed the 2017 – 2018 Budget using a power point presentation.

Police department reorganization will save the Village \$13,788.00.

Police budget has no increase.

Organizational Chart was reviewed.

The Budget will continue to be stand alone and reorganization will continue.

Highlights discussed; Capital Improvement, Thatcher Brook Project, AND Go-wanda on the Move.

BUDGET HEARING DATE

Motion 301-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, second by Trustee Koch to hold a Budget Hearing on April 4,2017. Motion carried. 5-0

POLICE

Motion 302-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve purchase of security cameras for municipal building. Motion carried 5-0.

Members reviewed new policies for the Police Department. The new policies will require all Officers to meet mandated training, and bring scheduling up to standard.

Motion 303-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve the new police policies as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 304-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, second by Trustee Koch to move Kris Booth to permanent part time competitive. Motion carried. 5-0

FIRE

Fire Chief Nick Crassi updated members on the need for Volunteers. He invited those present to participate in the upcoming recruitment weekend April 30, 2017 and a Swift Water Reserve Training in May/June.

BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS

Palmer Street update – Erie County building permits must go to the Town of Collins.

Village View Apartments update- Tenants of the village View apartments are currently being evacuated.

TREASURER

Traci Hopkins reported a check was received for the damaged truck. A check was also received for the Timber contract. This check was deposited in water and sewer and some may be put into reserve.

LEGAL

Motion 305-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, second by Trustee Koch to enter the Employee Agreement with Larry Green. Motion carried. 5-0.

Motion 306-16 Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, second by Trustee Markham to enter the Employee Agreement with Traci Hopkins. Motion carried. 5-0

Motion 307-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, second by Trustee Zimmermann to enter the employee agreement with Dennis Feldmann. Motion carried. 5-0

Motion 308-16 Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, second by Trustee Markham to enter the employee agreement with Gary Denea. Motion carried. 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

It was reported that the waterline projects are moving along well.

The Colonel Parker plaque will be set in the grassy spot across from the Wicked Glen. Chains, tables and benches are being prepared to put in place. Final stages of the Smart Growth Plan have begun.

Jason will donate a flag pole.

Phil Palen reported on windstorm damage to trees at Pine Hill Cemetery. Phil asked if Public Works employees could bring up a loader to get rid of debris he is putting along the road. Gary submitted application to receive help from the Prison crews.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Motion 311-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, second by Trustee Koch to go into public hearing at 7:30 PM. Motion carried. 5-0

Jack Broyles of Walnut Street asked when the new rate would start. The new rate will start July 1, 2017. Jack feels it is the Board responsibility to see that the maintenance was being done. Jason said it is his responsibility to oversee the plant. Heather said the Village found there were problems and they are being remedied. Trustee Sheibley said it will be \$2.67 per month increase for the minimum user.

Mayor McKeever commended the Sewer Committee for their hard work.

Charity Sweda asked if the Village is depending on Corrections money for the future. A discussion followed on the need to make repairs and improvements.

Motion 312-16 Motion by Trustee Markham, second Trustee Sheibley to come out of public hearing at 7:40 PM. Motion carried. 5-0.

Motion 313-16 Motion by Trustee Sheibley, second by Trustee Markham to raise sewer rates from \$12.00 to \$20.00 minimum and overages from \$1.80 to \$3.50 Effective June 1, 2017. New pricing will be reflected in the October bill. Motion carried. 5-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is the Organizational meeting on April 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 314-16 Motion by Trustee Koch, second by Trustee Zimmermann to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:40 PM. Motion carried. 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Black

WATER HEARING - APRIL 17,2017 2 PM

Present: Michele Smith, Resident's Daughter, Jason Opferbeck, Supt. Of Public Works, Carol Sheibley, Village Trustee.

The Water Hearing meeting began at 2 pm. The meeting was requested by the daughter of the property owner (Mary Lou Vantino) at 10331 Route 62, Gowanda, New York. The meeting was to review and discuss the water bill for the past quarter billing (1/1/17 to 3/31/17). The reading for the billing quarter was 46640 gallons used for the billing total of \$616.72 for water and sewer usage. The billing amount was being questioned as excessive, since Mrs. Smith's 89 year old mother lived alone at this residence. Michele Smith, the daughter indicated the meter had not been read for many quarterly readings and it appeared that the new meter installed last Fall seemed defective and not operating properly. The dial moved left and right and not in a circular motion. All prior readings had been minimal readings.

Mrs. Smith felt that someone should have notified them, since her mother did live there alone and would not have used 46640 gallons of water. Superintendent Opferbeck suggested the possibility of a water leak somewhere possibly the toilet leaking. Mrs. Smith indicated that all new plumbing had been installed the year before and that the handyman had checked everything out for possible leakage several times. Mrs. Smith again mentioned the possibility of the meter being defective and the dial being broken and no recent reading of the water meter.

Superintendent Opferbeck went to the village office to review additional paperwork and meter history for this residence. Trustee Sheibley asked Mrs. Smith what she felt would be a fair and equitable resolution to the problem. Mrs. Smith felt a 50/50 split would be fair. Trustee Sheibley suggested she pay the minimum billing amount of \$92.00 to avoid a late fee on the current bill. Mrs. Smith indicated she would do that before the April 30 deadline. Mrs. Smith indicated her husband starting reading the meter daily and the average daily usage was 24 gallons. Superintendent Opferbeck asked Trustee Sheibley to do the math on a 50/50 split which amounts to \$262.36 each. Supt. Opferbeck indicated he would have his Department monitor the usage daily and Mrs. Smith said her husband would text the water usage amount daily for the next couple weeks.

It was agreed that Mrs. Smith pay the \$92 minimum and that she would pay the \$262.36 after monitoring the readings daily for two weeks. The meeting minutes are to be reviewed by the Village Board for approval before final action. Meeting concluded at 2:43 pm.

Minutes taken by Trustee Carol Sheibley.