

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 8, 2016**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor Heather McKeever at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Hall. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Mayor McKeever asked for a moment of silence for Officer Dave Hock.

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

Village Employees: Village Attorney Deb Chadsey, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Treasurer Mark Adamchik, Village Engineer Mark Burr, Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi, Building Inspector Gary Brecker, Account Clerk Kathleen Ellis, Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk

Media Present: Phil Palen, Cable Channel 22
Rebecca Cuthbert, Observer

Public Present: Tom Povhe, Jana and Scott Soroky, John Walgus, Andy Burr, Cattaraugus County Legislator Paula Stockman, Dave Latona, Alan Nephew, Jack Broyles, Rollin and Karen Besse, John and Pauline Girome, Mark Gembola, Pat Spruce, Laura Paskuly, Charity and Joe Sweda, Dave Yezek, Wanda Koch, members of the Gowanda Police Department, including Jeff Hine, John Bronnenberg, David Kramer, Larry McCormack, Rich Cooper, Sean Campas, Kris Booth, and members of Sean Campas' family, Eric Fuchs, Jennifer and Nick Gernatt, Sara Booth, Jack Gernatt, Max Borsuk

Motion 231-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Public hearing as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 232-15. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 233-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2016 Special Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 234-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 Special Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 235-15. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve Abstract #029 dated March 8, 2016 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$102,000.30
Water Fund	6,901.25
Sewer Fund	18,457.32
Superfund Project	828.01
Flood Recovery	457.08
Total	\$164,821.52

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever began the meeting addressing the police officers that were present.

She read a Proclamation for Officer David Hock:

“WHEREAS, On March 10, 2016, we are celebrating the life and contribution of Officer David “Dave” Hock.

WHEREAS, Officer Dave Hock served an honorable career in law enforcement throughout Western New York. He worked as both a Police Officer and K-9 Handler, working in the Village of Gowanda for almost 15 years.

WHEREAS, Officer Dave Hock had an outstanding work ethic; he was an exceptional example to us all; he thrived on community outreach and served our and surrounding communities with dedication and pride.”

Motion 236-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to accept the foregoing resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heather McKeever, Mayor of the Village of Gowanda, New York along with our Village Board of Trustees, Gowanda Police Department and the residents of this community, do hereby proclaim March 10, 2016 DAVE HOCK DAY and urge all residents to recognize the valuable contributions made by Officer Hock and encourage others as they are inspired by his example to serve this community.”

Mayor McKeever then read a letter received from Officer Sean Campas:

“Please allow this letter to serve as my official resignation from the Village of Gowanda Police Department effective March 11th 2016. I have been offered a full time position with the City of North Tonawanda Police Department.

I would like to thank Mayor McKeever and the Village Board for the opportunity to serve the Village of Gowanda for nearly six years. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve such a wonderful community. I would also like to take the time to thank the citizens for treating me with such respect and making me feel so welcomed.

Last but not least I would like to thank Officer in Charge Stephen Raiport and the Officer’s of the Village of Gowanda Police Department for six memorable years. I can truly say my family is much bigger since becoming a member of this department.

I can truly say this decision was not easy but it allows me to move back home where I was born and raised. My family and I are grateful for the opportunity and will greatly miss everyone here but will always have a strong connection with the village.

Again thank you for the time and friendship.”

Motion 237-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to regretfully accept the resignation of Officer Sean Campus effective March 11, 2016. Motion carried 5-0.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport was not present at the meeting but prepared a written statement. Trustee Zimmermann read the statement:

“It is with regret that we must accept the resignation of Sean Campas from his position of Police Officer with the Village of Gowanda. Sean first started working for the Village on April 30, 2010. Since that time, Sean has taken a very proactive role within the community. He has made many new friends and became a member of the Village. He always had the residents at heart and showed on numerous times his compassion and dedication to the residents of the Village of Gowanda and surrounding communities. Since his tenure here, he has become a person that many people could trust and rely on him and know things will be taken care of. I have had the honor to work with Sean for the past two years as his supervisor. I cannot express enough on how much I’m going to miss him as not only as an employee, but also as a friend. He was always there for me to pick up the extra work and complete things for me at a moment’s notice. He took the bull by the horns and saw to it that investigations and cases were completed and followed through completely. Sean was truly an asset to the Village of Gowanda; he is the type of person that would give the shirt off his back to help someone out. I wish Sean the best of luck in his new position with the Town of North Tonawanda Police Department, as they are gaining a true asset and one of a kind. Thank you again for your compassion, commitment and dedication you have shown over time and time again to our community. Surely the next person will have some big shoes to fill as you set the bar high. I will truly miss talking to you everyday about our own families and sharing those memories. Even though we were never related, my own kids took a liking to Sean and started calling him “Uncle Sean”. I’m sorry to could not be here tonight to read this and express my gratitude to you, but we as a community will always be here and take you back with open arms as you have become one of us from the community.. God Bless my friend and stay safe”.

Mayor McKeever then read the Proclamation for Officer Sean Campas:

“WHEREAS, on March 8, 2016, we are recognizing the contributions of Officer Sean Campas.

WHEREAS, Officer Sean Campas has served the Village of Gowanda for 6 years and played a critical role in building the cornerstone of a new era for the Gowanda Police Department.

WHEREAS, Officer Sean Campas has an outstanding work ethic; he is an exceptional example to us all; during his tenure at Gowanda he developed new community policing initiatives. He helped to keep Gowanda safe and served our community with dedication and pride.”

She presented a plaque from the Village of Gowanda Police Department.

Motion 238-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adopt the foregoing proclamation for Officer Sean Campus. Motion carried 5-0.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heather McKeever, Mayor of the Village of Gowanda, New York, along with our Village Board of Trustees, Gowanda Police Department and the residents of this community, do hereby proclaim today March 8, 2016 as SEAN CAMPUS DAY and urge all residents to recognize the valuable contributions made by Officer Sean Campas and encourage others as they are inspired by his example to serve this community.”

Mayor McKeever then presented Certificates of Appreciation to Trustee Barb Nephew and Trustee Pete Sisti in recognition of their valuable contributions, service and dedication to the Village as this is their last Board meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported that the next phase of the Smart Growth project, paving and drainage, will be put out for bid tonight.

The Asset Management grant is still stalled waiting for an intern.

The BOA grant is finishing up and the Village is waiting on the final report for Stage 1.

Sara Booth reported on Community Connections. She indicated the on March 29th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. there will be an adults only meeting at Gowanda Central School. The next meeting for the general public is April 30th from 9:00 until noon.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that the Village met with several homeowners on Caroline/Allen/Seneca Streets to discuss the Safe Routes to School project. This will be going out to bid in mid-June.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Walgus came to support hiring another full-time police officer.

Sara Booth, chemical dependency counselor, reported the she sees 60 to 100 clients per week. She has known Sean Campos and he has pointed many of them to help for their addictions.

Charity Sweda also spoke in favor of a full-time police officer.

David Yezek spoke about the burning ordinance and asked that a reminder be put in the paper. He also spoke about the notice for the water. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck stated it was required by the County. The water has been sampled twice since and the barium content is below allowable limits. Mr. Yezek also complained about non-stop traffic on Torrance Place and said the road needs to be repaired.

TREASURER

Treasurer Adamchick reported that he received all the necessary paperwork for the RAN and the money sold be received soon. He indicated that all the bills have been paid. The Village cash flow situation is hurt because historically the insurance bill is due in March. Next year it won't be due until June which is tax collecting time. The RAN is for \$150,000 less than last year.

Treasurer Adamchick advised that everyone turned in their budget sheets. He, Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck and Mayor McKeever will meet Thursday to work on the budget.

LEGAL

Village Attorney Chadsey negotiations on the Time Warner contract have dragged on. One issue is the length of the contract. They will agree to a 5 year term. The second issue is the definition of revenue. The franchise fee is based on net revenue of cable service. The Village has asked that it include all the bundled services like internet and telephone. Time Warner knows there is no competition in the Village so they will probably not negotiate that issue. No other company will provide service to the Village.

BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS

Building Inspector Brecker advised that the Cattaraugus County IDA held a hearing on 49 South Street. That is the proposed location for the Savarino project, the old print shop. Once the IDA approves the project, Building Inspector Brecker will get the paperwork for the demolition and all necessary building permits.

Building Inspector Brecker advised that the Town of Persia has reviewed a tax assessment grievance from the other location on Jamestown Street. Village Attorney will call counsel to get the status.

Building Inspector Brecker advised he received a rezoning request from Mr. Emborski for the Memorial Drive site. Mayor McKeever asked Mr. Brecker to make sure the easement is still going to be allowed. Mayor McKeever asked Village Clerk to set a zoning hearing for this matter.

Building Inspector Brecker advised that blank inspection forms were given to Disaster Coordinator Crassi to begin working with the fire department.

Trustee Sheibley reported that she and Disaster Coordinator Crassi attended a meeting on flood hazard mapping. They reviewed the maps which can be changed and adopted to the local code. Disaster Coordinator Crassi stated the Village must adopt these maps within 6 months. He stated there are a lot of plusses with this program, especially for the homeowners. The insurance policies are great: \$250,000 on the structure, \$100,000 on furnishings. It was mentioned that there is still interest in relocating the athletic field out

of the flood zone. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck, Disaster Coordinator Crassi and Village Engineer Burr will look at rezoning of the appropriate easements.

Mr. Girome stated that the garbage situation at 20 Broadway Road is still an issue. Trustee Sisti asked Code Enforcement Officer Brecker to make this a priority.

DISASTER COORDINATOR

Disaster Coordinator Crassi reported that he is working with Account Clerk Ellis on the 2009 flood paperwork . He indicated that the \$1.6 million for the reservoir work has been approved by FEMA. Mr. Crassi also indicated that FEMA has agreed to quarterly payments. He advised that Dean Messing has agreed to collect and submit the information to FEMA and it will probably be 60 -890 days before the Village would get the money back. Treasurer Adamchick will work with Jeff Smith at Municipal Solutions for the RAN which is 100% reimbursable except for the interest. Disaster Coordinator Crassi said the Village is looking at a start date of May or June.

Motion 239-15. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve Treasurer Adamchick to pursue a Revenue Anticipation Bond and develop a plan that is best for the Village to borrow \$700,000 for work at Pt. Peter Reservoir, to be 100% reimbursable by FEMA. Motion carried 5-0.

There was discussion about removal of the trees as part of the mitigation. Disaster Coordinator Crassi advised that has been approved by FEMA.

Cattaraugus County Legislator Paula Stockman reported that a Thatcher Brook Task Force meeting has not yet been scheduled.

POLICE

Village Clerk Mohawk read the February 2016 monthly report:

“Total calls for service – 143; domestics – 1; motor vehicle accidents – 4; arrests – 6; traffic summons issued – 8; total patrol mileage – 3,968.

Respectfully ask permission to hire Kris Booth as replacement for Full Time Officer. Kris currently works for the Village Police Department and is the only one currently eligible. Kris lives on Maltbie Road at the Village line before Designer Pools. He is very active in the community and knows many of the residents. I am asking that his start date for Full Time be effective March 21, 2016 with a 6 month probation. I am asking to fill this position immediately to keep the continuity of things running smoothly within the police department. “

Motion 240-15. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sisti to hire Kris Booth as a Full Time Office to replace Sean Campas, effective March 21, 2016. Motion carried 5-0.

“The new civil service list is out for Police Officer from Cattaraugus County, two of our employees will be eligible once civil service can certify things, however, they must complete and pass a physical agility test first. It is my recommendation to the board once they do complete this, that we present this back in front of the Board to hire them Competitive Part Time off the list. The two employees that will soon be taking the agility test are Elwood Mohawk and Josh Bartholomew.

Community Connections – As of February 12, 2016, we have been able to assist 18 individuals in helping them get into some sort of inpatient or outpatient program for rehab/recovery for their drug addiction.

Also for the month of February, our officers have responded to 6 incidents where they had to use Narcan on a person to revive them.”

Mayor McKeever reported the Officer-in-Charge Raiport is visiting local individuals in Florida at Recovery Now. They have helped 25 people get into recovery.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the backboard at St. John’s Park was removed due to vandalism.

Trustee Sheibley advised that the winter programs have concluded. In 4-6 weeks the Recreation Commission will begin interviewing for summer employment.

FIRE

Motion 241-15. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the Contract for Fire Protection Services with the Town of Perrysburg as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley reported that she met with Fire Chief Hebner and he has requested approval to purchase two portable seeing lights at \$450.00 each.

Motion 242-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the purchase of two portable lights at \$450.00 each. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley advised that Kathy Camp, one of the fire captains, requested approval to attend Fire Prevention School in the fall for \$130.00.

Motion 243-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve Kathy Camp to attend Fire Prevention School for \$130.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley reminded residents of the pancake breakfast sponsored by the fire company the weekend of March 19th and 20th and the weekend after Easter. Mayor McKeever also advised there will be Easter Bunny train rides the weekend of March 19-20.

Trustee Sheibley reported that she had a conversation with the VFIS insurance representatives. Two firemen will be going to a program on "Train the Trainer" for EVAC training.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that the bids for garbage pickup were opened on Friday. He read the results for 2016:

"Latona's Tree Service: Option 1 - \$156,000; Option 2 - \$156,000; Option 3 - \$156,000. Casella Waste: Option 1 - \$191,620; Options 2 and 3 - no bid. Modern Disposal - Option #1 \$196.25/unit (\$215,875); Option 2 - \$171.43/unit (\$188,537); Option 3 - \$155.02/unit (\$170,522). Latona's Tree Service was the low bidder for Option 1. Mr. Opferbeck indicated a budget meeting will be held on Thursday to discuss this issue. Mayor McKeever indicated that 2 budgets will be presented, one with and one without garbage service.

Village Attorney Chadsey advised that a New York State DEC waste hauler permit is necessary. Mr. Latona asked what other option the Village has if garbage is not picked up. Village Attorney Chadsey said it would be a private contractor. The current contract cannot be extended.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that there will be another information meeting to educate residents on the new water law.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck and Village Clerk Mohawk will follow up on getting a drop box for payment of water/sewer bills.

Account Clerk Ellis provided information to the Village Board regarding accepting credit card payments. GovPay has no charge to the Village.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported that he had Energy Assessment updates done for the treatment plant facilities looking for options to save some money.

Account Clerk Ellis reported that the time for getting the State Revolving Loan Fund application on the IVP site has passed for this year. She suggested that the Village hire Municipal Solutions for \$4500 to do the grant application for the sewer projects as they have a great deal of experience with it. The cost is reimbursable if the project is approved. Trustee Sheibley asked about the municipal restructuring grant for water projects. Account Clerk Ellis indicated that everything she read about it only deals with savings on taxes. The second round for the application is July 12th.

Motion 244-15. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to hire Municipal Solutions to work on the state revolving loan application. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported that Auctions International has agreed to do an inventory with him at no charge. He sent an e-mail to the Board members

indicating the items that would be auctioned. Mr. Opferbeck indicated that the fire department would like to use the old white dump truck.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported that Highway Superintendent Denea has asked to be paid for 72 hours of unused vacation time. The supervisor's contract allows for it. If Mr. Denea asked for vacation and it was denied, he can get paid for it.

Motion 245-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize Village Clerk Mohawk to run an advertisement for part-time summer help. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 246-15. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the advertisement for bids for the South Water Street parking lot paving and site improvements. Motion carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the event application for the Hollywood Happening on June 3 – 5, 2016. She reminded the Village Board that the insurance for the event renews very close to the happening.

Motion 247-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the event application for the Hollywood Happening contingent upon receiving the appropriate insurance certificate. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever spoke about the Southethn Tier West training at Houghton College and encouraged everyone to attend, including the new trustees to be elected.

Account Clerk Ellis presented information from two credit collection agencies. She indicated they all work on contingencies.

Motion 248-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to accept the proposal from Caine & Weiner who work on a contingency basis of 30% for collection efforts. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever suggested adding 2 members to the UDAG committee. She nominated out-going Village Trustee Barbara Nephew.

Motion 249-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to appoint Barb Nephew to the UDAG committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever also suggested that a liaison from GARC be appointed to serve on the UDAG committee.

Motion 250-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to appoint a liaison from GARC to the UDAG committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Nephew thanked the Village Board for their assistance and wants to still work with the beautification. Trustee Sisti thanked the Village Board and the residents for giving him the opportunity to serve.

Motion 251-15. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sisti to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk