

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
MAY 10, 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.

Present: Mayor Heather McKeever
Trustee Carol Sheibley
Trustee Aaron Markham
Trustee Wanda Koch
Trustee Paul Zimmermann

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Treasurer Mark Adamchick, Village Engineer Mark Burr, Account Clerk Kathleen Ellis

Media Present: Phil Palen, Cable Channel 22
Rebecca Cuthbert, Observer
Max Borsuk, Gowanda News

Public Present: Janet Vogtli, Rollin and Karen Besse, Jack Broyles, Ron Clabeaux, Charity and Joe Sweda, John Girome, Cattaraugus County Legislator Paula Stockman, Andy Burr, Gary Lauer, Larry and Bonnie Spire, Lou and Dorothy Selan, Dave and Kathy Schwedt, John Walgus, Elton Hansen, Terri and Don Dehos, Edward York, Alan Nephew, Daniel Mosier, Ed and Shirley Kota, Ryan McKeever, Charlie Smith, Carol Hansen, Margaret Moritz

Motion 47-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Village Board organizational meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor McKeever asked for some revision to the April 12, 2016 minutes of the special Village Board meeting. On Page 3, the sentence should read: Leaving garbage out of the budget reduces the tax levy by 2.5%. Also on page 3 after "Ms. Sweda asked if Mr. Opferbeck still has to answer to the Village Board. Mayor McKeever stated that he does."

Motion 48-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 Special Village Board meeting as revised. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 49-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2016 Special Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 50-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham to approve Abstract #35 dated May 10, 2016 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$30,889.37
Water Fund	13,661.68
Sewer Fund	31,626.41
UDAG	14,345.00
Flood Recovery	1,468.44
Joint Activity	69.90
Total	\$92,060.80

Motion carried 5-0.

PROJECT UPDATES

Village Engineer Burr gave an update on the Smart Growth Initiative, Creekside Improvements. It is a \$150,000 CDBG grant to finish the parking lot, doing paving, storm drains, etc. The job was re-bid and 9 bids were received last Friday, ranging from \$82,992 to \$160,000. Mr. Burr recommended awarding the contract to the low bidder, S. Tabone Construction pending approval of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning. He indicated that Tabone has worked for the Village before on sidewalks and paving jobs.

Motion 51-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the bid from S. Tabone Construction in the amount of \$82,992.00 pending approval from Erie County. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised the Asset Management grant has been having computer problems. Alan Nephew advised the County has a server on a private network. He will need a license to get access to work with their computer programs.

Mayor McKeever advised the final review of the draft BOA report was this afternoon. She reminded everyone that the informative public meeting will be May 19th at 6:30 at the Hollywood Theater and everyone was invited.

In conjunction with the Safe Routes to School project, a wellness walk through Healthy Community Alliance will be held on May 14th. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported that bids will be let out in June to begin construction.

Officer-in-Charge Raiport reported there was a good turnout at the forum last Saturday regarding the Community Connections. He thanked John Bennett, the School Resource Officer, for coordinating the speakers for the event. Officer Raiport reported that May 14th at 8:00 is the next meeting at the fire hall.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Edward "Dan" York introduced himself to the Village Board members and advised he is running for the Gowanda Central School Board.

Dorothy Selan stated that no garbage pickup is causing a lot of concern in the Village. She stated that she called the approved haulers and was told that none of them will take recyclables. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated that they had to. Cattaraugus County will be making the haulers have a plan for recycling and the plan includes where the recyclables are being taken. Ms. Selan indicated she wished the garbage pickup would have been put up for a vote.

Dorothy Selan also asked that the huge pothole at the end of Frederick Street be fixed.

Kathy Schwedt stated that seniors cannot afford to pay more. She indicated that Dave's Disposal will not take any new customers. She also asked that the code enforcement team address those who are storing garbage in their back yards. Mayor McKeever said it will be addressed. Trustee Koch said a tipline will be set up to report garbage.

Elton Hansen asked about reimbursement of unused garbage stickers. Mayor McKeever indicated it would be addressed in the public works section of the meeting. Mr. Hansen also feels the Village should invest in a truck for leaf pickup, maybe join with another Village.

Janet Vogtli feels a mailing should go out to all residents. Many don't read the paper. She feels the Village should use Code Red to advise people. Ms. Vogtli feels the Village needs to keep a limb and large trash pickup.

Terrie Dehos asked about big trash pickups. What do we do with that? She also stated it is hard to haul to a transfer station without a truck. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck stated he is working with Casella to do a large trash pickup on their last trash day.

Don Dehos asked if the Village recycling center could be open more. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck said he would consider making it open more often.

Mayor McKeever advised there are suggestion/complaint forms available in the Village Hall. Village Clerk Mohawk will make them available out front.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that leaf pickup is still going on. He also indicated he is looking for a place to put yard waste. That is a continuing discussion.

Charity Sweda asked about compost and why there is no more available. She feels if it is going to be less available, Village residents should come first.

Ed Kota asked about the cost of the dumpsters at the sewer plant. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck stated it costs about \$50 to pick up the metal recycling bin and the Village received a check for about \$300. The plastic costs the Village about \$105 a ton if any garbage is found in it.

There was more discussion about compost and why the sewer department doesn't sell it. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck explained the types of compost and indicated it cannot be used for food growth. It needs to be screened finer than the Village screener does it. Mr. Opferbeck explained that he saved 1,000 manhours per year from not screening compost. He indicated the Village has lots of wood chips. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck said he spoke to Gernatt's about storing compost there. He indicated Gernatt's could screen the whole amount in one day. Mr. Opferbeck stated there were no hours or rules for the compost operation and he felt it was both unsafe and unsanitary to have people walking in and out of the sewer plant.

TREASURER

Treasurer Adamchick said the BAN is still on hold until the project is ready to go. He indicated the Village has \$400,000 in the operating fund and is using the RAN money now. Treasurer Adamchick indicated the Village will have a surplus over budget in the general fund. The water fund has \$115,694 and is supporting itself. The sewer fund is also profitable with \$1,631.

LEGAL

Mayor McKeever advised that Village Attorney Chadsey will be sending a letter regarding the UDAG delinquency matter.

POLICE

Mayor McKeever advised that Officer-in-Charge Raiport requested the appointment of Larry Green as an additional code enforcement officer.

Motion 52-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to appoint Larry Green as an additional code enforcement officer. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk read the monthly report for April 2016:

“Total calls for service – 216; domestics – 3; motor vehicle accidents – 5; arrests – 12; traffic summons issued – 25; total patrol mileage – 4.367

The police department participated in the “no empty chair” campaign that took place April 17-22, 2016. The patrol hours were reimbursable under the Governor's Traffic Safety Grant that was awarded to us last year. Total payroll hours dedicated to the campaign was 25 hours. A total of 11 traffic tickets were issued during that time period. May 23 – June 5, 2016 is the annual Click It or Ticket it campaign. It is required as part of the grant funding that our agency participates in this. There will be extra patrols working during this time enforcing seat belt violations. This is also reimbursable under the grant.

I applied and submitted this year's proposal again to the Governor Traffic Safety Committee for grant funding for Police Traffic Services. Funding request was for 80 hours of personnel services for a total of \$1,360.

I would again like to thank the Village Board for your support of the Police Department and the efforts we are trying to accomplish together to make Gowanda a safer and healthier community. Without your support, this could not be accomplished. Thank you again for your work and dedication to this Village. Also a huge thank you to Kathy and Becky in the Clerk's office.

Our next Community Connections group meeting will be Saturday May 14, 2016 at 8 am in the Gowanda Fire Hall.”

Officer-in-Charge Raiport reported that the drug task force has made 21 drug arrests in Gowanda in the past year. They executed 7 search warrants, 4 for meth labs. Officer-in-Charge Raiport also spoke about the open burning issue. Recreational burning is permissible under the law. He also asked residents not to blow grass into the street as it plugs the storm drains.

Trustee Sheibley asked Officer-in-Charge Raiport to read a report she wrote regarding a telephone call from a Village resident:

“About three weeks ago, a resident from Chestnut Street called to inform me of an incident she experienced and to ask me to thank Police Officer Cory Kowalski for a random act of kindness he provided to her. She had an emergency situation (financial) and reached out to the police officer who was on duty that shift at the Gowanda Police Department. Officer Kowalski helped her personally. She asked that I make mention of his kindness at the next Village Board meeting. Thank you Officer Kowalski from the Chestnut Street resident and the Gowanda Village Board for your assistance and kindness.”

Shirley Kota asked Officer-in-Charge about the number of released persons in the Village. Officer-in-Charge Raiport stated that all he needs to keep track of are sex offenders.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley reported that the Village received \$1,021.00 from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services as the annual allotment for the youth recreation program.

Trustee Sheibley stated that an inspection of the playground equipment has taken place.

Trustee Sheibley reported that the deadline for applications for the recreation program is May 15th. She indicated that Recreation Director Benton said Chautauqua Opportunities wants to partner with the Village program again this year.

FIRE

Trustee Sheibley previously reported:

“A special meeting was held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 9 a.m. with Fire Commissioners Paul Zimmermann and Carol Sheibley, Fire Chief Mark Hebner, 1st

Assistant Chief Nicholas Crassi, Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department Fleet and Maintenance Manager Tim Twitchell, and Gowanda Fire Department member, Donald Offhaus, present. A visual inspection and explanation of the fire hall generator at the Gowanda Fire Department Aldrich Street Fire Hall location took place. After the inspection and subsequent discussion, it was recommended by both Fire Commissioners and all present that the Planned Maintenance Agreement with Penn Power Systems, Buffalo, New York be re-implemented annually with the cost for the Emergency Generator inspection be taken from the Repair and Maintenance line item A3410.46 in the Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department budget.

This recommendation is made with the safety, security, and health of the Gowanda residents and community, Gowanda Central School District, and nearby communities utilizing our fire hall location as an emergency operation center in times of emergencies.”

Motion 53-16. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to authorize the Penn Power Systems Planned Maintenance agreement for the Gowanda Fire Department, with the cost to be taken from the Repair and Maintenance Line item A3410.46. Motion carried 5-0.

Another letter was presented to the Village Board:

“At the April monthly meeting of Hidi Hose Co #4, the membership has made a recommendation to eliminate the position of cleaner, which is currently held by Don Dehos.

The membership has decided that the cleaning can be carried out by our members without any additional cost to the Village.”

Mayor McKeever indicated she would like more information on this. The Village Board takes the elimination of employees as a serious matter.

Trustee Sheibley reported that Fire Chief Hebner, Assistant Chief Crssi and Nadean Chamberlain attended fire training on I am Responding.

Trustee Sheibley asked Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck if fire hydrant maintenance could be added to their list. Mr. Opferbeck indicated they grease the hydrants every year.

DISASTER COORDINATOR

Trustee Sheibley presented Disaster Coordinator Crassi’s report in his absence. Mr. Crassi received notification that FEMA has agreed to a final payment on the municipal building for the 2009 flood. The amount is unknown although SEMO indicates the amount to be between \$10-20,000. Homeland Security, State Emergency Services and FEMA have agreed on the final Pt. Peter reservoir PW changes. It is now in Albany waiting for funds to be allocated which is targeted for the first week in June. All permits for the reservoir work have been filed and approved. After the money is allocated, Greenman-Pederson Engineering will have bids ready to go out for the reservoir work within two weeks.

PUBLIC WORKS

Motion 54-16. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Koch to reject all the garbage bids as previously submitted. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck presented proposals for playground wood fibers and bumpers from Parkitects, Inc. He indicated it is the only estimate he received. Trustee Sheibley stated that Highway Superintendent Denea knows of a second company for wood chips.

There was more discussion about garbage. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated that the public works employees will now be responsible for picking up the garbage cans downtown. He stated the Village will need to have dumpsters for the garbage. He indicated that Casella would charge \$78 per month for bi-weekly pickup or \$175 weekly. The charge would be \$60 for any extra pickups.

Motion 55-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve dumpsters from Casella for \$78 bi-weekly pickups. Motion carried 5-0.

There was discussion about reimbursement for previously-purchased garbage stickers. A form will be developed to be turned in with the stickers. Checks will then be issued to those requesting the reimbursement. The deadline for receipt of the requests is July 1st.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck also advised the Village Hall has a drop box located along the side of the building in the police door. It will be labeled soon. He also indicating the Village will be developing a policy for picking up compost.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported on the reorganization of the public works departments. Sewer and Water are now in the same building. He advised that Kirk Trumpore has been great at fixing things. The idea is to get everyone to work together and be able to cover for each other. The employees need to be dual-certified. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck also stated there is room for highway to move to the sewer plant as well.

Ed Kota indicated he felt the hours in water and sewer should be separated.

Charity Sweda asked if the public works reorganization was complete. Mayor McKeever said the resolution was made to begin the process of reorganization.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck gave an update on the Town of Collins project. The one year anniversary is May 13. The Town just received a clear write-up from Erie County so all has been going well in Collins. The Town and Village are moving forward with getting new meters. He just received a draft bid proposal for installing the meters from Supervisor Dave Tessmer.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that he has been dealing with the Department of Corrections and stated that he, Account Clerk Typist Ellis, Jeff Smith of Municipal Solutions, Jeff Telecky of Wendel, and Supervisor Tessmer met at Fredonia with the Department of State for grant ideas.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck stated that 14 applications were received for summer help and 8 were interviewed. One is Henry Frederick, 27 years old. Zachary Fisher and Jake Hansen-Ivett. These three individuals will be the lawn mowing crew. Some applications were received from individuals under 18 years old. Mr. Opferbeck indicated they could be used for moving the storage room, cleaning building, painting, etc. He mentioned Angela Bliss and Kyle Zimmermann.

Motion 56-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Markham to hire Henry Frederick and Jake Hansen-Ivett for summer laborers. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk was authorized to run the advertisement again leaving out the part about being 18 years old.

A resolution was received from Erie County listing surplus equipment that was transferred to the Village of Gowanda. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated that all the equipment is being used.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck presented information about equipment that he wished to purchase. All items were budgeted for and are on State bid. He advised the Village bought a new Bobcat about 1 ½ ago. He would like to trade it for a new track machine. The Village presently has two Skidsters. Mr. Opferbeck would like to offer one for sale. The price for the new Bobcat would then be \$4,999.50. The Village also has two backhoes. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck proposes to sell them and buy an excavator. On the three year plan, the cost of \$63,675.609 would make the payments \$22,850.16 per year. Mr. Opferbeck feels this piece of equipment would be useful since it has an extra 2 ½ foot reach. A new leaf machine has been talked about and was anticipated in the budget. The cost is \$42,216.00. Mr. Opferbeck indicated this equipment was all stuff that was anticipated and planned for in the budget. He also wants a Gator and a new lawn mower. Trustee Sheibley stated she feels the Board members should have had this paperwork to review prior to the meeting. Mayor McKeever stated she wants to keep the Board accountable and tabled the equipment purchases until the Board has more time to review the paperwork.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported on some problems at the wastewater treatment plant. He and Trustee Zimmermann toured the Attica sewer plant and were very impressed with the operation. Yvonne Tucker from the New York Rural Water Association gave the Gowanda wastewater treatment plant a poor review after a tour of the plant. Trustee Zimmermann said the Village needs to prioritize the projects that need to be done to upgrade the Village sewer facility. Mr. Opferbeck stated that the Attica plant only has 3 employees and they all have daily chores. They also do shredding of compost. Mr. Opferbeck also indicated there is no preventative maintenance plan at the

sewer plant. About every 2 weeks the pump plugs up and they have to manually pull the gunk out. There is no safety equipment anywhere. He advised that an inspection from PESH will be asked for to make sure the Village is following the proper safety procedures. Trustee Zimmermann asked to be included when that inspection takes place.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck spoke about GARC and the Zoar Valley Gateway Park. He indicated that public works is being asked to do things and he isn't sure the employees will have time for it. He indicated that the mowing and weed eating will get done but he asked the Village Board to determine just what in-kind services should be provided to the park. He then spoke about the Village rumors. He walked over to Trustee Sheibley and presented a copy of a voucher for \$19,000 to Global and indicated that it was not signed by him but rather by Sewer Superintendent Carriero. The Village Board originally approved \$6,000 for the expense. He indicated that part of the salary he collects is a vehicle allowance since he drives his own vehicle. He reported that he has worked 239 hours of overtime year to date. The next person is Dominic Capozzi with 107 hours. Mr. Opferbeck also reported that one employee has been off for 199 hours. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck mentioned he has been accused of stealing free mulch. He indicated his authority is being cut into when people go to others rather than him. He asked that any complaints be put in writing so there is a paper trail for follow up. He also stated that the decision to eliminate garbage was not his; it was a Board decision.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck then spoke about his accomplishments. He cut 30 hours in overtime from the water department. He increased the percent of sewer payment. The Village receives \$94,000 from the Town of Collins for taking over their water department; for that, Mr. Opferbeck receives a \$15,000 stipend. He has saved over \$100,000 in utility costs and the Village has self-performed road work. He is working to consolidate public works facilities and equipment and is pursuing operating agreements with the Town of Collins, Town of Perrysburg and the Department of Corrections. The \$1.8 million reservoir project will soon begin.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated he checked on a request that the elderly put their garbage in a dumpster at the wastewater treatment plant and then the Village could haul it to the transfer station. Cattaraugus County indicated the Village cannot do this because then the Village would become a transfer station.

Trustee Koch asked if Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck could delegate any of his work to others.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised he has 42 lots of equipment to put on Auctions International.

Mayor McKeever indicated some items are necessary to discuss prior to the June 14th meeting. Another meeting was scheduled for May 25th at 6:00 p.m. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised he would give a meter presentation at that time and discussion of hiring summer help could also take place.

ADMINISTRATION

Janet Vogtli reported on the upcoming Rediscover Gowanda festival. She said the Chamber of Commerce is trying to bring Pioneer Days back. The carnival will run May 26, 27, and 28 and the businesses will be open late. Sidewalk sales will also be going on. Train rides with Union and Confederate soldiers will take place on Saturday. Military movies will be shown at the Hollywood Theater. The theme is about veterans as it is Memorial Day weekend.

Mayor McKeever read the tax collectors warrant:

TO: Kathleen V. Mohawk, Village Clerk and Collector of taxes of the Village of Gowanda, Cattaraugus and Erie Counties, New York

“You are hereby commanded to receive and collect from the persons named in the assessment rolls the sums named in the last column thereof opposite their respective names for the 2016-2017 Budget of the Village of Gowanda.

Erie County	\$514,872.00
Cattaraugus County	\$844,347.00
Total	\$1,359,219.00

You will proceed to collect such taxes and assessment and all interest and penalties payable thereon in the manner provided by law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Village of Gowanda on this 10th day of May, 2016.”

Motion 57-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the Tax Collectors warrant as read. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the event application from Tri-County Crisis Pregnancy Center for the annual “Walk for Life” to be held on June 12, 2016. She indicated that a request was made for the insurance certificate.

Motion 58-16. Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the event application from Tri-County Crisis Pregnancy Center pending receipt of the insurance certificate. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter from New York State Corrections and Community Supervision:

“In November 2009, the staff of Gowanda Correctional Facility dedicated a memorial monument in remembrance of deceased employees. The memorial is located at our facility between the front entrance and the truck trap entrance.

The eighth annual memorial service for our staff will be Tuesday, May 24, 2016. This brief service will commence at 11:30 a.m. with opening remarks, a roll call of deceased friends and family and a ceremonial ringing of the bell. The service will conclude at approximately 12:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow.”

ENVIRONMENT

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck suggested that the recycling center at the wastewater treatment plant will also be open on Mondays as well.

There was more discussion about the garbage. Village Clerk Mohawk will prepare an informational flyer to have ready on Monday. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that even dumpster haulers should be on the approved list if they are picking up in the Village. Village Clerk Mohawk will do a Code Red to advise residents of the garbage situation and the confirmation of the reimbursement for unused stickers.

Charlie Smith spoke to the Village Board about his application for a can redemption business. The big question is whether there were going to be big trucks coming in and out. The Village Board asked that he submit a site plan.

Motion 59-16. Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Markham to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 10:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is June 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk