

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

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 Pete Sisti
Trustee Paul Zimmermann

Trustee Barb Nephew was absent.

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Treasurer Mark Adamchik, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Village Attorney Deb Chadsey, Account Clerk Kathleen Ellis, Building Inspector Gary Brecker (arrived at 8:00)

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

Public Present: Representatives from Casella Waste, Jack Broyles, Janet Vogtli, Legislator John Mills, David Latona, Ivan Broyles

Mayor McKeever indicated there were corrections needed to the minutes of the October 13, 2015 Village Board meeting minutes so they could not be approved at this meeting.

Motion 172-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2015 Special Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 173-15. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve Abstract #17 dated November 10, 2015 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$68,176.11
Water Fund	5,755.73
Sewer Fund	10,047.71
UDAG Fund	1,584.89
Flood Recovery	2,185.00
Joint Activity	5.49
Total	\$87,754.93

Motion carried 4-0.

PROJECT UPDATES

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck reported on the Smart Growth initiative. A pre-construction meeting was held today. A 10-day notice will be provided for asbestos

removal and the contracts should be ready by Friday. December 1st is the target date for the demolition.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that the Asset Management grant is temporarily stalled.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised the Dan Reichert of C&S Engineers indicated a second stage of Brownfields Opportunity grants for \$200,000 is coming out through the EPA. Mayor McKeever advised that the next community meeting will be held during the Christmas in Gowanda event.

Mayor McKeever advised that invitations to the Christmas in Gowanda event will be going out to the local officials. The event will be held December 4th and 5th. The parade theme is Thank you Veterans. World War II veterans will be lighting the tree this year. Mayor McKeever thanked Historian Phil Palen for his efforts with the World War II memorial plaque located at the historical society.

Mayor McKeever reported that Community Connections has been formed to deal with the many drug issues in the Village. The meetings are held on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Mayor McKeever reported on the Safe Routes to School grant. The Village is hoping to see some construction in the spring. Tracy Hopkins from Healthy Community Alliance has been working with Treasurer Adamchik for reimbursement. Mayor McKeever also indicated that a Santa's Snowflake Walk will be held during the Christmas in Gowanda weekend.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Village Board welcomed Legislator John Mills to the meeting. He spoke about the initiatives undertaken in Erie County. He was pleased to report that 56% of Erie County's budget was spent in the Southern Tier. Legislator Mills indicated that Aldrich Street is the only County road in the Village. There is a \$1.6 million budget and he is attempting to move some of the funds around. Legislator Mills reported that Erie County became a Purple Heart County. A sign will be placed at Routes 39 and 219 in Springville. Legislator Mills provided the Village with several pamphlets: the Community Resource Guide, the Yellow Dot program which is provided by the New York State Sheriff's Association, a Guide to Services for Older People and a guide to Southtowns Scenic Byways. Mayor McKeever advised Legislator Mills that the Army Corps has been doing a lot of surveying in the community and will meet with the Board sometime in January. Legislator Mills asked to be included at the meeting regarding Thatcher Brook and Grannis Brook.

Janet Vogtli asked the Village Board to vote down the proposed landlord law and adopt a property maintenance law.

Dave Latona asked for a copy of the municipal code book. He presented a letter he received from Building Inspector Brecker which Mayor McKeever read:
"This letter is a courtesy in lieu of violation. It is a violation of Ch. 60, Sec. 60.82, and Ch. 30, Sec. 30.24 of the Village of Gowanda Municipal Code to park commercial vehicles on a residential street such as Chestnut Street, Village of Gowanda. Please remove such vehicles owned by you and/or your business as soon as you receive this notice. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter."

BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS

Motion 174-15. Motion by Trustee Trustee, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to withdraw the proposed Local Law relative to the rental properties. Motion carried 4-0.

Trustee Sheibley presented a sample property maintenance law and would welcome any suggestions.

Village Clerk Mohawk asked about the unpaid lawn mowing charges which were billed. Village Attorney Chadsey advised her to send a copy of the properties to her office to research the owners. Trustee Sisti asked for an update for the next meeting.

Building Inspector Brecker spoke about the issue with Mr. Latona. Mr. Brecker indicated he did not specifically mention who made the complaint, only that it was a referral. Building Inspector Brecker stated that the Village code does not allow large commercial trucks to be parked on residential streets. Mr. Latona also appears to be operating a business out of his home without a permit. Mr. Brecker indicated he was just enforcing the code.

Building Inspector Brecker presented his property, fire and safety inspection reports for the properties that were listed on the "First Look" report from BENLIC. He indicated there are 4 properties that should be looked at as they should not be lived in. The next step is to notify BENLIC of the properties that the Village wishes them to purchase. Village Clerk Mohawk will copy the report for all the Board members. Village Attorney Chadsey indicated a resolution will be necessary once the properties are identified.

POLICE

Village Clerk Mohawk read the monthly report for October 2015:
"Total calls for service – 195; domestics – 1; motor vehicle accidents – 2; arrests – 11; traffic summons issued – 11; total patrol mileage – 4,337.
Please see the attached notes from our first Community Connections meeting on October 24. It is a coalition of concerned citizens, health professional and government leaders that are concerned with the growing drug addiction of the residents in the community. We want to take a proactive approach and have the resources available to not only offer help to the person suffering from drug addiction, but also to their families. I am very

encouraged on the progress of this committee and looking forward to our next meeting November 14, 2015 at 8 am. Anyone is invited to attend.

Halloween was a quiet night. It appeared to be a lower turnout than usual.

Just a reminder that Christmas in Gowanda will be December 4 7 5. Tree lighting on December 4 at 6 pm. This year we will be honoring the WWII vets as they light the Christmas tree this year. The grand parade will follow at 7 pm.

Also congratulations to the Gowanda Panthers Youth Varsity football team for winning in the playoffs and representing Gowanda in the Super Bowl in Tonawanda on November 7, 2015 at 7 pm. Proud to see our youth accomplish something positive and represent our community.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Raiport"

Mayor McKeever also thanked the fire department for their help with the sendoff of the team to the Super Bowl.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley reported that last year the Village disconnected the phone at St. John's Park for the winter. She indicated that if the skating program is ongoing, it would be good to have the phone. The Village Board agreed to leave it on.

Trustee Sheibley advised that the next Learn to Ski signup is November 18th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Roller skating will begin on November 30th at Academy Place and will run for 12 weeks. The charge is \$2.00 per child. K-4 will skate from 4:30 – 5:30 and 5-8 will skate from 5:30 – 6:30. The basketball program will also run for 12 weeks from 5:30 to 7:00. Trustee Sheibley advised she is working on the state report for funding.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck also advised that the driver for the ski program will need to use a different truck than in the past and will pick it up at the sewer plant.

FIRE

Trustee Sheibley invited everyone to the Hidi Turkey party which will be held on November 120th at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Sheibley reported that the new fire vehicle has arrived. It is a special operations truck and they would like to have some sort of dedication for it. She indicated it should be ready in about a week. Trustee Sheibley commended the fire department for selling the pumper and purchasing this particular piece of equipment.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that he spoke with the firemen about the value of the Suburban. He was given a price of \$4,999 for the truck and the enclosed trailer. He would like to purchase them to use for the water department to carry tools and supplies. Mayor McKeever asked Trustees Sheibley, Sisti and Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck to agree on some type of good price.

Mayor McKeever thanked the fire company for the Halloween efforts with the parade and costume contest.

DISASTER COORDINATOR

Disaster Coordinator Crassi was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor McKeever advised that he is making calls and continuing to work with Senator Schumer's office. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised the Village is filling the reservoir. Treasurer Adamchik also indicated that Disaster Coordinator Crassi is moving along.

TREASURER

Treasurer Adamchik advised they met with Jeff Smith regarding long-term borrowing. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck indicated they are waiting to get an answer back regarding options for financing.

Treasurer Adamchik presented the Treasurer's report and asked for feedback from the Board members on what he provided. He advised that 80% of the revenues have been received in the general fund. The profit & loss statement shows the percent of the budget used to date. Department heads can get a line-by-line printout of their budgets.

LEGAL

Village Attorney Chadsey advised there is still no word yet from Time Warner. It should be before the end of the year.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that 3 pieces of equipment were listed on Auctions International. They received bids of \$3,000 for the 2000 International Dump truck, \$4,650 for the sander and \$800 for the air compressor. He would like to accept the two bids for the dump and the sander but is asking at least \$1,000 for the air compressor.

Motion 175-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the bid of \$3,000 for the 2000 International dump and \$4,650 for the sander. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised that the highway department is continuing to pick up leaves. The truck is broken so they are using a truck from Cattaraugus in the interim. Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck asked Trustee Sisti to come look at the equipment as the Village is spending a lot on repairs.

Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck advised a meeting has been scheduled for November 23 to discuss the recycling matter. A meeting on December 1st at 6:00 will be held regarding the water law. The Local Law updating Chapter 45 – Water Service will be on the December 8 agenda.

Village Clerk Mohawk reminded residents that the garbage pickup schedule will be the same this week but will be one day late the week of Thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk asked about the advertisement for the Valley Bugle since she was not at the last Board meeting. Mayor McKeever advised that the school is designing the ad.

Mayor McKeever spoke about the insurance renewal for the Village. She stressed to Village Clerk Mohawk that the renewal process needs to begin earlier in the fiscal year since the renewal is February 15. She asked for a timeline of what needs to be done for the renewal for next year.

Due to complaints from the residents, it was decided to reopen the Village office on Fridays.

Motion 176-15. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Sisti to reopen the Village office on Fridays, beginning December 4th. Motion carried 4-0.

There was some discussion about the UDAG program and the use of the funds. Village Attorney Chadsey indicated it was originally urban development money but the Village Board should decide what they want the money to be used for. The program will be redesigned. Trustees Zimmermann, Sheibley and Nephew agreed to be board liaisons with the committee.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Gowanda Free Library and Mike Randall will present a solo performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Gowanda High School Auditorium on November 13 at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will go towards making the library handicapped accessible.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the 2015-2016 unpaid Village taxes to be relieved to the respective Counties. The amount for Cattaraugus County is \$58,071.87 and the amount for Erie County is \$37,139.36.

Motion 177-15. Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to authorize Village Clerk Mohawk to relevy the unpaid Village taxes to the respective Counties in the above-noted amounts. Motion carried 4-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the tentative schedule for the CDBG site tour is Wednesday, November 18. She indicated that Erie County was waiting for confirmation from one of the scoring committee members before finalizing the schedule.

ENVIRONMENT

Phil Palen advised that on Friday Mitchell will be in the Village to grind the stumps from last year. Trees will be planted on Thursday. He requested the use of a backhoe and operator from Public Works Superintendent Opferbeck. He indicated he might need a laborer as well depending on how many volunteers show up.

Phil Palen advised the Village has planted close to 1,000 trees since 2001.

Motion 178-15. Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is December 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk