

Village of Gowanda  
Board Meeting  
January 9, 2018  
Minutes

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor David Smith at 6:02 pm at the Municipal Hall. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor David Smith  
Trustee Carol Sheibley  
Trustee Paul Zimmermann  
Trustee Wanda Koch  
Trustee Aaron Markham

Village Employees: Treasurer Traci Hopkins, Village Clerk Danielle Wagner, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Officer in Charge Dennis Feldman, Code Enforcement Larry Green, Phil Palen

Media Present Phil Palen; Cable Channel 22, Andie Kuczkowski; Observer

Public Present Jack Broyles, Haley Broyles, Theresa Girome,

**Agenda Approval**

**Motion 1-187-** Approve the agenda for the January 9, 2018 Village Board Meeting. Motion made by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 5-0.

**Mission Statement**

Mayor Smith read the Village Mission Statement.

**Minutes**

**Motion 1-188-** Approve the minutes from the December 12, 2017 Village Board Meeting. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 5-0.

**Public Participation**

Cub Scout Troop #276. Mr. Crouse, Mr. & Mrs. Kirkpatrick along with two cub scouts Conner and Cole came to participate in the Village Board Meeting. Conner asked the Board of Trustees “What made them want to serve the Village of Gowanda?” Trustee Koch says “I love Gowanda and I want to help make it a better place”.

Mr. Crouse mentioned that he’s been a resident of Gowanda his whole life and has been a Cub Master for over 20 years. They are chartered through the American Legion and cover several areas, including Perrysburg, Dayton, Collins and the Seneca Indian Reservation. Mr. Crouse thanked the board for letting them participate in the board meeting.

## **Mayoral Updates**

**a. Happy New Year**

Mayor Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**b. Employee Appreciation Luncheon**

Thank You to Mayor Smith, Traci Hopkins and Jason Opferbeck for funding lunch that was provided to employees for the employee appreciation luncheon.

**c. Camden Group**

Camden met with the employees on December 18, 2017 to provide an update. The report from Camden has been provided to the board.

**d. Smart Growth Incentive Proposal**

The incentive proposal needs to be approved by the board.

Empire State Development has approved the waterfront development portion of the project at Gateway Park, Aldrich Street Bridge and Creekside Park. Any funds remaining upon completion of waterfront development may be used towards interior renovations at the Hollywood Theater. There is a 1 percent commitment fee that will need to be provided by the Village, the fee will be paid shared by The Gowanda Area Redevelopment Corporation, the Hollywood Theater, and the Village of Gowanda.

**Motion 1-189**-Approve the acceptance of the Incentive proposal for the Empire State Development Grant. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch. Motion carried 5-0.

**e. Senator Cathy Young Visit**

Senator Cathy Young came to visit Gowanda on December 19, 2017. She toured the Village. A formal letter was submitted to Cathy Young's office requesting the funds needed for the flood mitigation project.

**f. Modification Resolution for Jason Opferbeck**

**Motion 1-190**- Approval to table discussion. Motion made by Trustee Koch, seconded Trustee Markham, motion carried 5-0.

**g. Labor Relations Meeting**

Labor Relations meeting with SEIU and local union officers was held on December 27, 2017.

## **Correspondence**

The Gowanda Area Redevelopment Corporation submitted a 2017 Consolidated Funding Application. The application was denied.

## **Board Round Table**

The 2018 Election Resolution needs to be approved.

The 2018 Election will be March 20, 2018 in the Village Board Room from 12pm-9pm.

**Motion 1-191**- Accept the 2018 Election Resolution. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley was reached out to by the Town of Amherst to create a proclamation for their bicentennial. Trustee Sheibley submitted one to them on behalf of the Village.

### **Official Business**

#### **Police-** Officer in Charge Dennis Feldman

Officer Feldman reported there were 312 calls for service for the month of December. The Police Department was notified in collaboration with the Seneca Nation and Cattaraugus County, the receipt of a \$400,000 grant to help combat the opioid crisis for treatment either post or pre-arrest. No matching funds are needed. Officer Feldman interviewed roughly 18 Police Officers. Two officers were hired Megan Ess and Mitchell Schultz effective January 9, 2018. Megan Ess and Mitchell Schultz were sworn in by Mayor Smith.

#### **Code Enforcement-** Larry Green

Mr. Green stated that United Refinery has installed barriers at the entrances to 26 Jamestown St parking lot due to liability issues.

Mr. Green is currently working with the Broadway Group on code issues for a property acquisition for a retail store in the Village and is also working on a list of the top three blighted properties in the Village for Cattaraugus County Landbank, as funding may be available to return these properties to productive use.

#### **Fire-**Nick Crassi/Carol Sheibley/Paul Zimmermann

Village residents are asked to keep fire hydrants around their property shoveled out. The Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department installation dinner is Saturday January 13, 2017 at 5pm.

Trustee Sheibley submitted a Member Initiative grant application for a new fire rescue truck to Senator Cathy Young on behalf of The Village of Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department.

#### **Environment-**Phil Palen

Officer Milks called Phil Palen about a tree that came down on Lovers Lane lying on some electrical wires, officer Milks closed part of the road off. The tree was removed by the end of the day.

#### **Joint Activity/Recreation-**Carol Sheibley/Aaron Markham

Mark Benton submitted to board members a letter requesting a salary increase. Trustee Sheibley is seeking approval to give Mark Benton a salary increase.

**Motion 1-192-** Approve a salary increase of \$2,250 to Mark Benton effective January 9, 2018 through this budget year May 31, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley thanked Bruce Lockwood from West Seneca for donating a sound system to roller skating program; he has grandchildren who participate in the skating program. Ski club started January 7, 2018 there are 34 students in the ski club. Trustee Sheibley thanked the American Legion and George Stark for the \$1,000 donation to help offset the cost of the buses for the ski program and also thanked Jerry Greenlee from the Kiwanis Club for the \$500 donation for the soccer program.

**Treasurer-** Traci Hopkins

Treasurer Hopkins provided the board with the bills to pay abstracts for the month of January.

**Motion 1-193-** Approval for the abstract bills to pay from the general fund totaling \$25,634.54. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion 1-194-** Approval for the abstract bills to pay from the Water Fund totaling \$55,162.72. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion 1-195-** Approval for the abstract bills to pay from the Sewer Fund totaling \$35,634.59. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Hopkins created a Budget Development Timeline calendar to prepare for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

**Motion 1-196-** Approve the Budget Development Timeline calendar. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 5-0.

Denise Veloski is leaving R.A. Mercer and going to Johnson, Mackowiak & Associates, effective January 2, 2018. Treasurer Hopkins is looking for approval for the Village to continue working with Denise and transfer the Village files to Johnson, Mackowiak & Associates.

**Motion 1-197-** Approve for the Village to continue working with Denise Veloski, with the Village files to be transferred after the Village obtains what files are at R.A. Mercer. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Koch. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Hopkins has a meeting with Betty Accordino next week in regards to the DOT Pedestrian Safety Grant.

Approval is needed to amend the November 14, 2017 minutes. A motion was made to replace the water filter media's with funds from the water system reserve account. Declaring it as an emergency was omitted from the motion.

**Motion 1-198-** To approve amending the motion from the November 14, 2017 board meeting for approval of Water Filter Media Replace as an emergency with funds from the water system reserve account. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 5-0.

**Public Works**-Jason Opferbeck/Jeff Overstrom(Camden Group)

Jeff Overstrom worked with Ken and the Camden Group to put together a waste hauler permit. for Moench Company to haul it's leachate from the Pt. Peter landfill only, to the Gowanda waste water treatment plant.

**Motion 1-199-** Approve the waste hauler permit for leachate hauling from Moench Company to the Gowanda Waste Water Treatment Plant. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Opferbeck wrote a letter to the Attorney General asking for any information they may have to offer on a Utility Insurance Coverage that the Village could potentially offer to the residents. It would help cover leaks in their house and in the water line. It would also help protect the Village and residents against unforeseen financial loss.

**Motion 1-200-** Approval to accept the resignation of Josh Veloski effective December 22, 2017. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Koch. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion 1-201-** Approval to accept the resignation of Sherry Felle effective January 14, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Opferbeck spoke to Cattaraugus County soil and water back in December of 2017 and they mentioned that they had some funding available, they sent \$6,000.00 for Thatcher Brook reimbursement.

Jason Opferbeck mentioned that it was recommended by the finance committee that the Village move forward with the purchase of a plow, a wing, and a sander for the 550 truck. It was not on tonight meeting agenda, but it has been a discussion at previous meetings. Jason mentioned that the quote is from July 2017, waiting until the February board meeting will make the prices go up to 2018 prices. It was in the original budget and will cost less \$50,000.

**Motion 1-202-** Approve the purchase of the plow, wind and sander for the 550 truck. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 5-0.

**Next Meeting**

Next Village Board Meeting will be on February 13, 2018 at 6pm.

**Executive Session**

The board will move into executive session for the purpose of personal issue and there will not any formal actions in executive session other than adjournment.

**Motion 1-203**-Approval to adjourn into executive session at 7:05 pm. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch. Motion carried 5-0.

**Adjournment**

**Motion 1-203**- Approve to adjourn the executive session board meeting at 8:25 pm. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted  
Danielle Wagner