

Village of Gowanda
Board Meeting
March 13, 2018
Minutes

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called into order by Mayor Smith at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Hall.

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

Excuse Trustee Wanda Koch

Village Employees: Treasurer Traci Hopkins, Village Clerk Danielle Wagner, Public Works Superintendent Jason Opferbeck, Village Attorney Deb Chadsey, Officer in charge Dennis Feldman, Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi, Phil Palen

Media Present: Phil Palen, Cable Channel 22, Andrew Kuczkowski, Observer

Public Present: Jack Broyles, Theresa Girome, John Girome, Sean Christopher, John Walgus, Mary Grimm, Justin Grimm, Andy Burr, William Mackey

Agenda Approval

Motion 3-226- Approve the agenda for the March 13, 2018 Village Board Meeting. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.

Mission Statement

Mayor Smith read the Village Mission Statement.

Minutes

Motion 3-227- Approve the minutes from the February 13, 2018 Village Board Meeting. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation

Sean Christopher from GARC gave a presentation for the Village Board on the Gowanda Zoar Valley Gateway Park Expansion. He went over the site plan options for the playground structures.

Jack Broyles expressed his concern that having a part time police officer serve as a code enforcer also, is illegal and he informed the board that he reported it to the attorney general's office and will let the board know when he hears back from the attorney general.

Mayoral Updates

- a. Moment of Silence
Mayor Smith offered a moment of silence in the recent passing of Dan Newcomb, James Moyer, Lou Selan, Howard Parrish, and Linda Howard.
- b. Smart Growth/ESD SEQR
Gowanda submitted their intent proposal. There needs to approval from The Empire State Development Board, which should occur on March 29, 2018. Empire State Development needs to be appointed lead agency for the SEQR by the Village Board.
Motion 3-228- Approve designating Empire State Development as the lead agency for the SEQR. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.
- c. Stations of the Cross Walk Event Application
Motion 3-229- Approve the event application for The Stations of the Cross Walk to take place on March 30, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.
- d. Cabin Fever Walk Event Application
Motion 3-230- Approve the event application for The Cabin Fever Walk to take place on April 8, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.
- e. Budget Public Hearing
The public hearing for the 2018-2019 budget will take place on March 27, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the Village Hall.
Motion 3-331- Approve the tentative budget for the 2018/2019. Motion made Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 4-0.
- f. Community Effort and Staff Thank You.
Mayor Smith thanked everyone who helped the Village after the March 1st snow storm. The Village lost many trees and had downed power lines as a result of the storm. With all the tree damage done, the Village will have a professional arborist come and offer an opinion on the tree's structure and ability to survive any future weather.
- g. Youth Stabbing
On March 7, 2018, there was a stabbing the occurred between two young girls on Chestnut Street in the Village. The victim and her family will be at the April 10, 2018 board meeting. Mayor Smith thanked Officer Peter Randall, who responded to the call in an estimated 90 seconds and saving the victim's life.
- h. Congratulations to Village Clerk

The Village Clerk has taken and successfully passed the Notary Exam.

- i. DOT Pedestrian Safety Grant
The DOT Pedestrian Safety Grant has been submitted on March 9, 2018.
- j. “Round-About”
The Village Board will formally open a discussion with the DOT on a “Round-About”. Treasurer Hopkins will set up the meeting.
- k. Camden Equipment Meeting
There was a meeting with Jeff and Ken from Camden to discuss the Villages Equipment.
- l. Point Peter Meeting
On March 1, 2018 there was a meeting with GPI and Mark Burr.
- m. Mentor Meeting
On March 1, 2018 there was a mentor meeting with the governor’s office.
- n. Lori Cornell, Governors Office Meeting
On March 6, 2018 Mayor Smith and his wife had a meeting with Lori Cornell. Mayor Smith is seeking funding for tree repair from Governor Office.

Correspondence

- a. NYSEG will be doing some tree trimming in the Village.
- b. Erie County Parks will be doing an inspection on Creekside Park.
- c. The Gowanda American Legion Post will be having their 99th Birthday on Saturday March 17, 2018. Mayor Smith and his wife will attend.
- d. State and Municipal Facilities Program has sent an award letter to the Village for \$1,000,000.00. That funding is for Gowanda’s share in the Flood Mitigation Project.
- e. The Hollywood Theater has been awarded \$324,000.00 in funding for the Restore IV Project.

Board Roundtable

Trustee Zimmerman discussed the trees that came down in Thatcher Brook. He inquired if there’s any funds left that Senator Young gave the Village last year to help with the tree situation at Thatcher Brook. Jason Opferbeck noted that the funds are reoccurring.

Official Business

Police- Officer in Charge Dennis Feldman

Officer Feldman reported that there were 488 calls for service in the month of February. The defensive tactics training that Trustee Markham set up is scheduled for March 24, 2018.

Officer Feldman is looking to get two new officers appointed. Mayor Smith swore in the two officers William Mackey and Justin Grimm.

Motion 3-332- Approve the hiring of part time police officer William Mackey effective March 12, 2018 with a start date in June of 2018. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 3-333- Approve the hiring of part time police officer Justin Grimm effective March 12, 2018 with a start date in April 2019. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann.

Disaster Coordinator-Nick Crassi

Nick Crassi mentioned that Trustee Sheibley attended a public workshop for The Erie County Disaster Center on Monday March 12, 2018.

Fire-Nick Crassi/Carol Sheibley/Paul Zimmermann

Trustee Sheibley thanked Nick Crassi for inviting her to the Public Workshop.

Nick Crassi noted that the firemen will be starting their physicals.

Environment-Phil Palen

Phil Palen thanked the Village for their quick response during the storm on March 2, 2018. Gary Denea kept in touch with Phil regarding the trees that were damaged. Phil Palen will look into ordering trees for spring planting on a deferred payment until the new budget year on June 1, 2018, as there are no funds available for the remainder of this budget year.

Joint Activity/Recreation- Carol Sheibley/Aaron Markham

GARC is looking to purchase two Port a Pots for Gateway Park. Upon this purchase GARC would like the Village to maintain, clean and store them at the end of the season. Trustee Sheibley is seeking approval for the Village to maintain the port a pots. Mayor Smith mentioned that in the event the Village employees are unable to provide service to the port a pots, they will place a service call.

Motion 3-334- Approve the port a pot purchase by GARC, which the Village Employees will maintain. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.

Legal-Deb Chadsey

The SEQR for the Gowanda Ambulance Site Plan indicated that there is no negative environmental impact. The Village needs to approve the SEQR and the site plan for the Gowanda Ambulance.

Motion 3-335- Approve the SEQR having no negative environmental impact on the Gowanda Ambulance Site. Motion made by Trustee Zimmerman, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 3-336- Approve the Gowanda Ambulance Site Plan. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 4-0.

The Village Board will work on finding community members to serve on a planning board.

There is a New York State Screening Leave Policy. It allows employees time off to get certain types of cancer screening. Deb Chadsey drafted a policy for the Villages approval.

Motion 3-337-Approve the Cancer Screening Leave Policy effective March 18, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.

Deb Chadsey has received notice that the insurance company has closed the file on the lawsuit from The Savarino Construction against the Village. The company has not pursued that lawsuit.

Treasurer-Traci Hopkins

Treasurer Hopkins has provided the board with the abstract bills to pay for the month of March.

Motion 3-338-Approve the abstract bills to pay for March, 2018 as follows.

General Fund \$20,711.53, Water Fund \$6,530.36, Sewer Fund \$22,654.49

Motion made by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 4-0.

Municipal Solutions has submitted a proposal to continue to work with the Village.

Motion 3-339- Approve to continue disclosure filing with Municipal Solutions and renew the two year contract with Municipal Solutions. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Markham. Motion carried 4-0.

The Village has received a letter from Cattaraugus County Bank asking that the Village Board appoint them as one of the Villages depository Banks. Based on the interest rate they offer and that Village has two banks now, the services at Cattaraugus County Bank are not needed.

The Villages Health Insurance contract needs to be renewed for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

Motion 3-340- Approve the Independent Health Insurance contract renewal for the 2018/2019 fiscal year, effective June 1, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Zimmerman, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.

Currently there is inconsistent distribution of Village provided cell phones and cell phone reimbursement of Village related expenses. It is in the Villages best interest to have a fair and consistent policy. The Village is required by contract to provide a stipend to the public works

employees and has determined it wishes to adopt a reimbursement stipend only policy and no longer provide Village paid cell phones.

Resolution, Effective June 1, 2018, The Village will no longer supply or pay for cell phones for Village employees. Currently SEIU members receive an annual stipend to compensate for personal cell phone use, and supervisors are entitled to the same benefit.

Motion 3-341- Approve the cell phone resolution effective June 1, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.

It has been decided during the work session discussion to remove any potential liability to our employees and The Village by eliminating animal control duties from employees due to the lack of licenses and certification and engage in a licensed nuance wildlife control operator.

Motion 3-342- Approve removing all animal control duties from Village employees. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmerman. Motion carried 4-0.

Safe Routes to school needs a contract extension as it expired December 31, 2017. There are still signs that have not been installed yet, due to weather.

Motion 3-343- Approve the safe routes to school contract extension to December 31, 2018. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Works- Jason Opferbeck, Jeff Overstrom

There was a water hearing on February 19, 2018. The board had been provided a copy of those minutes.

Motion 3-344- Approve the minutes from the February 19, 2018 Water Hearing. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.

The Village received a fine of \$50.00 from the Cattaraugus County Department of Health for failure to comply with providing a disinfection byproducts/stage 2 samples.

The board had been provided a copy of a copy of a report from Camden of all the things done since they came to the Village.

Jeff Overstrom would like to bring in two retired part time help at the Sewer Plant the gross compensation and hours will be under the Civil Service limits.

Next Meeting

Next Village Board Meeting will be April 10, 2018.

Executive Session

The board will move into executive session. There will be no formal motions other than adjournment.

Motion 3-345- Approve to move into executive session at 8:00 PM. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 3-346- Approve to come out of executive session at 8:38 PM. Motion made by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

Motion 3-347- Approve adjourning the meeting at 8:39 pm. Motion made by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Danielle Wagner