Mayor Smith, “Wanda’s not here yet but we do have 4 of us here so let’s open up the work shop. Hi Deb”. Attorney, “Hi guys”. Mayor Smith, “How’s your mom”? Attorney, “Being a disobedient teenager”. Mayor Smith, “Yes you’ll have that”. Attorney, “She, she and, she and her equally elderly boyfriend have decided that they will decide what the rules are that apply to them period”. Mayor Smith, “I see. Well, we’re gonna kick this work shop off. You’ll recall last time we had a discussion concerning David Barnes specific request. I think that there is a reachable compromise. We just talk, talked through it and make it work for everybody. That’s kind of our role as leaders here is to find workable solution that keeps everything copasetic and moving forward. So, Carol, you are the one that took the time along with Kirk Trumpore to meet with Dave Barnes and your familiar specially with what his request was. Do you have any, any information that you could start us off with tonight as we continue to talk through this”? Trustee Sheibley, “Well his requested concerns are he wanted the water bills in tenants’ names, he wanted shut offs to the tenants for non-payment of a bill and the other two things, he feels the late fees weren’t legal and that the Village cannot in other words put unpaid water bills on the taxes. The last two are covered in Village law, so we don’t have to really worry about those too much. What we need to do is have some discussion and to me, this doesn’t just involve Mr. Barnes, we have other landlords who have more tenants we’ll say then 10, 15 tenants and I think if we can find a way to help all of these people, not just worry about we’re doing this for one specific person, but something that might assist or help in other tenant or other landlords involved with tenants than I think we need to try to work at it and do it. I know a lot of the work has to be done in Village office. I think some of it has already been researched as far as Williamson law book ectara, ectara and so, I, I think you know, if we could do something to help, I think it might save us a lot of (Inaudible) in the future and I personally feel if something we can that’s not gonna be way out of whack and even quarterly, if we had maybe pay our part time employee if the office staff doesn’t have time, that she could follow up with some of these unpaid tenants and go from there so. I think there’s a solution we just need to work toward the middle and find out what it is, that’s my those are my comments”. Mayor Smith, “Okay, thank you, thank you also Deb for your preparation letter should we need to go in that direction. It was very well laid out. I appreciate that as well. I personally like to find, now that we know the legal answers that you laid out, I personally would like to find a solution, you know if I have an issue or concern, if I get a letter in the mail from an attorney, it’s on. I’m going to my attorney and showing them, the letter and I’m looking for an answer. I really, this isn’t about Mr. Barnes, it would be this way with Mr. whoever Okay? I really don’t want to pose having gloves up every time if we cannot get there. Traci, Danielle you put some thought into this and have looked at the Williamson system, what would be involved and what would be a workable number so that we can help not only Mr. Barnes, but others, (Inaudible) track that but not paint ourselves into a corner where we’re adding work load to us and doing a, a accounts job for, for landlords? Aaron”. Trustee Markham, “That was going to my point, I wasn’t here last meeting so forgive me if I’m a little behind. Barnes wants us to bill his tenants directly rather than him handle it right”? Mayor Smith, “Yep. Go ahead Traci. I don’t think we can do that right”? Trustee Markham, “Is that what he’s looking for”? Treasurer, “I, I don’t”. Clerk, “Yes”. Trustee Markham, “Okay. Not being a landlord myself, I don’t know how the system works. But don’t you assume some responsibility for your tenants in that regard when
you rent to them? Okay so, are we in danger of becoming the accountant for David Barnes? Which is not the role of the Village. If he can’t handle his own account why should we”? Treasurer, “The thing I will say to that is anything that we do never is about the work load that’s thrown on the office staff. If there is anything about the work load being thrown on the office staff it would’ve been way before this issue. We always take it on and it’s never about that. You ask us to do something, we will do it, that’s not the issue. The thing that we are most concerned about as being a part of this office and dealing with residents and, and individuals on a regular basis is, is probably to talk to what Aaron just said not a smart practice of the Village of Gowanda to start being responsible for ten, for property owners who multiple properties or tenants within the Village it open up a can of worms if it’s our responsibility to now to hunt these folks down for unpaid bills, however, a ten, a property owner can contact the Village of Gowanda as many do every month, every quarter anytime they want to find the status of one of their tenants and their unpaid bills or the status water sewer bills because ultimately as it’s written, it the property owners responsibility because it’s by the property not by tenant and because tenants come and go all the time we have to have some means and right now we have many property owners in the Village who come to us on a regular basis if not quarterly or more and find out specific tenants, it’s not all their tenants but as a property owner they have some that are problematic and some that they never have to worry about. They know that and those are ones they have to monitor. We can provide that to any property owner at any time so that they can keep track of what’s going on and in this particular case as we looked at last time out of his almost 40 properties he only had 8 at the end of last quarter that were not paid. Of those 8 there all under $200, it wasn’t even like it was a massive and by now I don’t know what the number is I should’ve looked by now that might be only 4”. Trustee Markham, “(Inaudible), so help, so if Joe Smith came here and said can I have a list of my property because he goes home and (Inaudible) the list matches theirs”. Treasurer, “Every, every property owner has a different system, some property owners require their tenants to give them copy of their paid receipt so they know it was paid, some property come in and they pay the water sewer bills and they ask us to make a copy of the receipt so they can provide to their tenants owe them the money. Everybody has a different process on how they handle their tenants. Paul has a process that he deals with, Wanda does, so it’s all different depending on because yes you’re right, ultimately the property owner’s responsibility if you’re gonna have 30 tenant properties to manage that, that’s why your collecting rent and putting in security deposits and everything else”. Trustee Zimmermann, “If it’s not an unusual request that somebody comes in to inquire about the status of a water bill what about just creating a form that gives a paper trail for that request to be made, the people that care enough to fill out the form and email it, send it whatever then you’ll reply”. Treasurer, “Absolutely”. Trustee Zimmermann, “If people are coming in and if it’s at the point where they’re at the window I don’t know frequently, if it’s a common thing that people ask of you, maybe a form isn’t so bad”. Treasurer, “and it’s not a problem, we’ve never had a problem answering any of those questions. But Yeah, if we want a paper trial of that to see where they’re coming from or what the issue is are. Absolutely we can develop something and say please fill this out, give me your account number, your address and we’ll get back with you, we can document it”. Trustee Zimmermann, “People can email that way if they want, it might easier with the Covid thing”. Treasurer, “Yep”. Trustee Zimmermann, “(Inaudible).” Mayor Smith, “Carol go ahead”. Trustee Koch, “I think that’s a good option”. Mayor Smith, “Carol what do you think of that”? Trustee Sheibley, “Well I, I think since we were asked however simple we can make it, there should be some notification I mean this was brought to our attention do we have chase tenants around for payment of bills, the answer is no but if we can help in some way any landlord, any property owner that requests which Traci and Danielle is saying now we’re doing anyway then I think we just need to continue doing
that, but beef up a little bit if we have to do a little extra”. Treasurer, “I mean, Danielle when water bills go out our phone rings like crazy that time period after, how many calls do you think from folks who are wondering that very status of bills or tenants”? Clerk, “It really isn’t that, as many as you think”. Treasurer, “Right, but they come to the window”. Clerk, “I have a few landlords that do have a few problem tenants and they just, they either call me and say I just want to know if 29 South Chapel paid their bill and I just look it up, it takes me 1 second”. Treasurer, “Right, right so”. Clerk, “They know”. Treasurer, “We can do that for Mr. Barnes at any time. If he wants to come visit us once a quarter with his list and we go through it with him, we can do that. If he wants, if he wants to come in with his list and we look at it once a month, we can do that. If he, what, we can help him out he’s just got to let us know he has an issue. This was the first time we didn’t really know he was having these kinds of issues until this came about, but my message to him would be come talk to us and go through your tenant properties with, and we can let you know anytime if their delinquent or not”. Trustee Markham, “That speaks more to his ability to keep track of his accounts then it does anything else. That’s not problem so”. Trustee Koch, “Basically the way it was presented to us last time was he wants them to go through and (Inaudible)”. Treasurer, “And we just, and we just need to be careful because in this community we have a large number of property owners who own multiple properties and we don’t want start getting into, we don’t want to pay our part time employee x amount of hours a week that comes out of the water budget to do this work that we do not, that we’re not responsible”. Trustee Koch, “(Inaudible) as a matter of fact, I have some work that needs to be done and you guys are gonna do it for me”. Clerk, “Leave it on the desk I’ll take care of it tomorrow”. (Inaudible). Mayor Smith, “So Mr. Barnes reached out to Carol specifically can we, do you think that Carol and maybe she could have Traci or Danielle with, meet with Mr. Barnes say in January, just give him a status update. We’ve talked about your request, we, we here’s the answers to your questions, here’s what we’ll do to help you, here’s a form you can fill out to cement that, that way we can use the same form if other landlords request the same thing and here’s what we’ll do. Do you guys recommend that Carol”. Trustee Sheibley, “I might add that Dave, Mr. Barnes did not reach out to me originally, he reached out to the office staff as water commissioner that was turned over to me, it was my suggestion at this point or that point that we needed to know what his concerns were. That’s why we set up a meeting with Kirk and myself and Mr. Barnes hence the notes I took. So, I, I think like I say, I think we can work through it, I, I, I just”. Trustee Markham, “We don’t send out”. Trustee Sheibley, “We have water hearings for other residents, we done that for I counted up the other day I had 27 water hearings that I sat here in attendance at going back to let’s see, 3 water supervisors so, amen”. Attorney, “Water hearings are a little different Carol”. Trustee Sheibley, “yeah I know”. Attorney, “Water hearings are required by state law in order to comply with due process requirement before we terminate their service, so it’s not something we do for people to help them out, we do it in order to comply with state and federal law before we can, before we can terminate a public service”. Mayor Smith, “So back to the”. Attorney, “I’m not saying don’t do what you what you want to do, I’m just saying I, I it’s probably, it’s not the same thing”. Mayor Smith, “Back to the question do you, does the majority board feel that Carol and Traci and Danielle should meet back with Mr. Barnes and have an update with him in January and lay out the answers to his questions and tell him what can be done for him and here’s a form to cement that and then just move forward, he came forward with a question, he probably just like any resident would deserves a response”. Trustee Zimmermann, “Sounds good”. Trustee Markham, “It all depends on how we word it (Inaudible)”. Mayor Smith, “Right”. Treasurer, “And I have no problem getting together with Carol prior to that so that we have kind of some talking points on what we talk with about and getting our ducks in a row and then establishing a meeting, Carol we can do that and if you want to do it fine, you know whatever, but I think it’s gonna need
more discussion you, we just sit with him tomorrow”. Trustee Sheibley, “Deb, do you think I’ve done some of this up to this point incorrectly or, or am I not thinking what I should be thinking on this”? Attorney, “Are you asking me”? Trustee Sheibley, “Yes”. Attorney, “I’m, I, I don’t think anybody’s done anything incorrectly. I think that it’s your responsibility as public servants to meet with your continuants and address their questions and concerns so you know, I’m, that’s super cool. I don’ think you should do anything for Mr. Barnes that you aren’t already doing for other people. I think if I think, I think there’s some optics involved you know people thinking oh you know the rich landlord is getting extra services from the Village that’s being paid for with tax payers’ money and that’s not fair but that’s not what Traci is suggested, I’m listening here Traci is suggesting that he be advised of the same process that you currently give to any landlord weather they got 1 apartment or 100 apartments”. Mayor Smith, “Yes”. Attorney, “There’s a form they can submit it you’ll get their information. What you won’t do is track the, his tenants and give him a heads up if you haven’t gotten a bill from one of them and I don’t think you can do that responsibly but I think you can provide him the same service you’re providing anybody else”. Treasurer, “Deb, outside of the pandemic that we are in right now, outside of that if Mr. Barnes or any property owner for that matter, they can, can they come here and request water to be shut off at their property outside of the pandemic, which is, what we cannot do right now”? Attorney, “Yeah, I mean, they can request that you enforce the law”. Treasurer, “Okay, so if, so if we”. Attorney, “Okay so if you have a law and you have a procedure that that procedure allows you to turn off the water then they can say yeah he can come and say look it I want you to you know exercise your municipal (Inaudible) powers and turn off the water at this service. What he can’t do is our, if our, if our law says that you have to be 60 days late and then we have to give you a notice and then you have 30 days and then we turn the water off, he can’t come in a say I don’t want to comply with your own statue and want you to turn the water off today”. Treasurer, “Right and we would go through the process if that happened, my only concern is we also develop another form for anyone who requests to have their water turned off because I don’t think it’s in the best interest of the Village to say, okay we’ll turn that off however that property has 2 tenants and if we turn off the water all, both tenants are gonna have no water and now it’s an issue”. Attorney, “well you can’t do that. If you cannot turn off the water to one tenant without turning the water off to someone who is not in default, you can not turn off the water”. Treasurer, “Okay, that was a big concern because the water shut off is at the street and it would be to the entire property. Which was a concern so that might, okay. Thank you”. Attorney, “(Inaudible), problem because then they’re going to sue you”. Treasurer, “Thank you for that”. Attorney, “They could sue you and, and you would be liable”. Treasurer, “Right and we don’t really want to even go there with shutting water off”. Attorney, “Yeah, I, I think that you, if someone, if Mr. Barnes comes to you and says you know can you check this house 123 and house 123 is 2 months delinquent on the water bill and, and the statue says that after 60 days you can send them a turn off notice he can say I want you to do what you’re supposed to do send the turn off notice. Now even if there only $60 past due and you normally don’t do that on such a small amount, so if you follow me if he, if he asks you to do something that’s in your legal power to do, then you absolutely can do it. But if their only 1 month behind and the problem is you bill quarterly right? So, if, if, if ten days after the end of the quarter maybe 20 days after, 20 days and the end of the quarter and he comes in and says did house 123 pay their water bill? You say no they didn’t and he says I want you turn that water off. I don’t think our local law will allow you to turn if off at that moment. You can send a notice that says we are going to turn your water off unless you pay your bill or make arrangements to pay your bill you can absolutely do that. Even if as a normal practice you don’t send somebody a notice because they’re only $60 behind”. Treasurer, “Okay. I just wanted”. Attorney, “Does that make sense”? Treasurer, “Yes, yes and I just wanted verify
because I’m recall during his initial conversation at the window about this issue, he comparing our water service to national fuel and nyseg, they can just shut off the gas or shut off the electric. I don’t think it’s the same for our municipal water so I just wanted to ask that question so that we were clear”. Attorney, “Yeah, so if, if the same in that a private company like national fuel has to follow the same procedural restrictions that you have to follow, it’s just your procedural restrictions come from a different body of law because you’re a public authority verses national fuel restrictions which come from a different set of laws because well, they are private they are providing a public service. Does that make sense”? Treasurer, “Yes”. Attorney, “The public servants commission will regulate them, they won’t regulate you”. Treasurer, “Right”. Mayor Smith, “Okay, so in January would the group like Carol and others to meet with Mr. Barnes and give him a status update based on the questions that he asked including what we’re willing to do for him and anybody else that requests it. Create a form for that purpose give to him at that time, is that what the board would like Carol and potentially Traci and or Danielle to do in January”? Attorney, “So I know I’m gonna be a pain in your ass here Mayor but we’re not creating a form for him”. Mayor Smith, “Or anybody else that asks for it”. Attorney, “Right”. Mayor Smith, “Which is what I just said”. Attorney, “I just want to make sure our minutes reflect that there are forms that you can use and he will be informed of all of these services you have provided, provide for everybody”. Mayor Smith, “Yes. And we do the same thing for every single landlord that request”. Treasurer, “However I just want to make sure too, this form, we don’t want to get into a position where Susie calls Danielle on Tuesday and wants the knows the status of her tenant who lives apartment a on Jamestown Street, now Danielle can look that up in 30 seconds we don’t want to make Susie fill out a form scan it, email or fill out a form and bring it down here, that just creates layers to this process. We want to still be able to answer if a tenant”. Attorney, “Yeah”. Treasurer, “If a property owner comes to our window and has 10 properties that want status on and they have all their accounts and they go through it with Danielle we want that property owner to have to fill out 10 forms, so it’s a”. Attorney, “What are you gonna, what are you gonna use the form for”? Treasurer, “Well that’s just what I’m thinking through right now. Like I don’t want to add an extra layer. You know maybe the form is used if there’s you know an excessive amount of properties that you’re looking for information on and it’s gonna take us more than 30 second look up because we have to go through each one”. Attorney, “Yeah. That sounds reasonable, like if you have 15 or more and more”. Treasurer, “Well I think the form can be used if you’re inquiring on 15 or plus properties, like multiple properties, it’s gonna take us awhile to look up”. Mayor Smith, “Right”. Trustee Koch, “That write that on the form”. Treasurer, “Then you’ll have to put that on the form and get it to us. If just calls for 1 or 2, that’s easy but if they come to us with 15 that’s gonna take us some time and we may be able to do it that minute or at the window that second. So that form could be used for multiples and we could, Carol and I and Danielle can work on that form and a threshold number so that it’s not extra layer to just everybody who wants to know their status. Is that fair”? Trustee Zimmermann, “The account numbers don’t (Inaudible). Attorney, “That sounds great”. Trustee Zimmermann, “because he wants to add new accounts, so he could take the form home and fill in all his accounts and you know (Inaudible)”. Trustee Koch, “Well and my thing, my thought is what if you guys are busy, and somebody calls and says can you look this up for me, why, if your gonna go through the whole thing of filling out a form then just have everybody fill out a form”. Treasurer, “I know but then they got bring it down here or they go to get it to us when it can just be taken care of in that 20 second phone call on a one, which is what we do now. We don’t want to make any cumbersome for what we are doing now”. Mayor Smith, “We are not in any hurry to solve this. Carol’s gonna meet with him in January. Carol can you and Traci and Danielle work out the particulars calling the attorney is needed prior to that meeting? Carol will meet with him; give him an update and we’ll move forward. The time
is now 5:59, we’ll close the work discussion for water law. Carol when you do meet with Mr. Barnes could run it like a water hearing meeting and track in minutes that we make part of the record for our own”? Trustee Sheibley, “Absolutely”. Mayor Smith, “Protection. Thank you”. Trustee Zimmermann, “Thank you Carol”. Mayor Smith, “Thank you”.

Meeting

Mayor Smith, “Okay the time is now 6 PM just about. We call the regular for the Village of Gowanda Village board for December 8th 2020. For the public reference we have just finished a public workshop discussion on water law and water particulars. We now call the meeting to order. As with any public meeting we honor America please rise and remove any head gear for the pledge to the flag”. All, “I pledge the allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands one nation under god in divisible with liberty and justice for all”. Mayor Smith, “Thank you. For the public benefit tonight’s meeting is closed to the public due to the Covid 19 pandemic. A, an audio recording will be made available for the publics benefit for any member of the village that requests to hear it. There will also be a written transcription of that audio recording for any member of the public that needs to read it. The minutes and the agenda are also posted on Villages website. I haven’t said this publicly yet a special thanks to the clerk. I’ve been here a few times when that written transcription of the audio is being transcribed and it is a very arduous and laborious process for the clerk to go through word by word. She does a great job with it; I don’t believe any member of the public has requested it at all. So, she’s been doing that for the last 9, this meeting will actually be the 8th meeting that this has happened for and no one’s ever requested it. But it’s part of the open meetings law that if a meeting is closed to the public has to be done”. Clerk, “I do post them online though”. Mayor Smith, “I really appreciate all that you do with that”. Clerk, “Thank you”. Mayor Smith, “I know the board does to”. Clerk, “Thank you”. Mayor Smith, “Thank you. Just a Covid 19 update leading to the meeting being closed, the cases on the Cattaraugus County side of the Village of Gowanda are multiplying. We’re getting about 300 new cases every week that come positive in our Cattaraugus County side of things. In Cattaraugus County from the beginning of the pandemic as of this afternoon there was 1,432 positive cases in total. 472 of those cases are currently active. The County has also suffered 32 deaths as a result of the pandemic and 62,051 have been administered since the beginning of the pandemic. Those numbers result in actions of public safety regarding the Village of Gowanda. For the publics benefit beginning yesterday Monday December 7th, the Village did decide to go back to a rotating work force with basically one man in each department attending work per day that keeps are employees safe first and foremost, secondly with the positive, with the, with the ramifications of a positive test both on the sick and on those with who the sick had direct connect and the quarantining that results from that. We found and felt that it would be prudent to keep our employees safe and separate from one another. Regardless of the pandemic the Village has the legal responsibility to provide (Inaudible) water, waste water treatment services and highway safety services to its residents. If our entire workforce should either be sick god forbid or quarantine as a result with their direct contact with a positive test, the Village would be unable to provide said required services. Accordingly, the Village has made the decision for the foreseeable future and until further notice to go to a rotating workforce. This will apply to the Village office as well. The decision was made to leave the office open to the public for regular hours because of the safe social distancing and Covid 19 protocols that the office has maintained. The rest rooms being closed to the public, with 6 feet distance between the window and the public, with hand sanitizer available, masks, ectara. We still do need to provide public service but the office staff will be limited on a rotating basis to stay away from one another for the same
reason. Should our clerk and treasurer and office worker all go down at the same time it would be the Village in a very compromising position in terms of the office work associated with those services I mentioned earlier. That began in part yesterday. Was implemented in full beginning today Tuesday December 8th. Each department head has provided the Village office a schedule for their rotation so we know who’s working when. I have also done some reading concerning a potential federal stimulus package that is design to come shortly after the new year which will include local government reimbursements, such as the Village of Gowanda. I asked the treasurer and clerk to track all the hours that employees are paid when they are not on the clock due to this rotation system and based on what I read those hours will be reimbursable through this stimulus package. Additionally, overtime hours which typically pile up in winter will also not be a factor if employees aren’t working more than 40 hours a week. Overtime is defined any hours that exceed the standard work week of 40 hours so the Village is looking at all the financial ramifications of the rotating system. But our number priority is keeping our workers safe and to keep providing required services to our public while keeping them safe. Next, we have the agenda for tonight’s meeting. Board members have had that available to them. Do we have a motion to approve tonight’s agenda for the December 8th regular meeting”? Trustee Koch, “So moved”. Mayor Smith, “Wanda thank you. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Trustee Sheibley, “Second”. Mayor Smith, “Carol. Thank you. Any questions or comments on the agenda? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor Smith, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? The agenda is approved. The mission statement for the Village of Gowanda and I appreciate that being in place all the time even when we work through the issues that are difficult or disagreeable. The Village mission is to open our hearts, mind and ears to the needs of our community, although we may not always agree, we vow to keep our hearts, minds and ears to open to each other opinions so that we can work together for the betterment of our entire Village. Our meeting minutes from our last regular November board meeting. Board members have had those. Do we have a motion to approve those minutes”? Trustee Zimmermann, “So moved”. Mayor Smith, “Paul. Thank you. Do we have a second”? Trustee Koch, “Second. Mayor Smith, “Wanda. Any questions or comments on the minutes from November? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor Smith, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comment? The meeting minutes are carried. There’s no public participation due to the meeting being closed. Mayoral updates tonight. We already spoke about Covid. One further note on that. The first lady and I would like to formally thank the best community in the world. We didn’t count the number of people that gave to us during the time that we were quarantine. A couple of them are in this room and they just kept coming and coming and coming. It was sweatshirts and chicken soup and French onion soup and fudge and chicken wings and cards and scratch off tickets and diet Pepsi and treats for the dogs and thing after thing after thing. Everyday we went out and there a new box with a message and a new card and there still coming, cards are still coming in the mail. We believe what makes are community the greatest is the love that the community members in it have truly for one another and I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else. There are times like anywhere where you get frustrated this or that especially when you don’t feel good. But I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else and we feel safe here and we’re thankful to live in the best community on earth. Just looking back at the last meeting on Veterans Day November 11th. We had the Veterans Day tribute in front of the library. Special thanks to American Legion post 409 and George Stark for his work in organizing the event. Deputy Mayor Sheibley joined me there that day, special thanks to her for that. And also of course it’s never to late to thank the Veterans for all that they have provided to us past and present. On November 12th, the next day, I had a zoom meeting with 3rd grade class and Gowanda elementary who requested time with the Mayor. They wanted to know how a mayor gets elected, what the mayor’s job is, they were really thrilled
with the Police badge that comes with the police commissioner’s status of being the mayor and they asked if I could arrest their teacher, I said it depends on what their doing. So, it was a very nice conversation, those are the fun parts of being mayor. Waterfront Development status. We had a site visit on November 24th. Special thanks to Trustee Koch for her attendance not only at that meeting, I’ve only attended a couple of them over the time, she’s been to all of them. And the site visit to Gateway was fascinating. Trustee Koch anything to add about progress there”? Trustee Koch, “The amplifier theaters done. The small kraft launch is done. They look fantastic. I encourage anybody to go down and check it out and get closer to the water. There done with everything at this point until spring and then their gonna start at Creekside Park doing the amplifier theater and everything there. And there’s gonna be like a Passover walk in between the current walk and the actual (inaudible). But it, it, it exceeds my expectations it’s absolutely breath taking and beautiful”. Mayor Smith, “Special thanks to Trustee Koch for all her dedication down there along with Mike Hutchinson and Rob Gaylord, Persia supervisor Walgus, Sean Christopher, they have all been down there and part of that process and you said perfectly, it exceeds all expectations. A big thank you to Joy Kueblar, the, the, site supervisor. Saint George construction and”. Treasurer, “C and S’. Mayor Smith, “C and S and there’s another group that did a lot of the wall work there”. Treasurer, “Lu engineering”. Trustee Koch, “yes”. Mayor Smith, “Lu engineer, engineering and a north, north”. Treasurer, “North land”. Mayor Smith, “Yep. So, there’s a lot of people that deserve thanks and to quote Jim Redline who runs Zoar Valley raft and he is just, he said it’s the best Christmas present he could ever have to have that done the way it is done there so. Thanks for talking to him to Wanda”. Trustee Koch, “No problem. It’s been a long work in progress and everybody’s that been involved for many, many years should be very proud of what they accomplished, it’s very wonderful”. Mayor Smith, “We had a community Development Block Grant suite visit on November 19th. A special thanks to Deputy Mayor Sheibley and Treasurer Hopkins for taking the walk with that lay there that day. Any a, ladies, any comment on the CDBG visit on the 19th”? Treasurer, “Yeah, were supposed to hear the week of December 28th”. Trustee Sheibley, “Oh is that when it is”? Treasurer, “Yep. Yep, so Carol’s already crossing fingers and toes so hopefully, we’ll see what happens”. Mayor Smith, “For the publics benefit, Treasurer Hopkins what were the requests this year”? Treasurer, “We submitted a grant to replace a bunch of sidewalk throughout the Village surrounding our parks and access to our parks and we also submitted a, another one to redo the parking lot behind the theater and businesses”. Mayor Smith, “Excellent. Thank you. The Cattaraugus County Health Board was done by zoom on December 1st. Covid was the dominating topic as you might imagine. Christmas in Gowanda 2020, occurred on December 5th. Special thanks to Carol Sheibley, Nick Crassi, Melinda Spire, Wada Koch who was misses Clause on those fire trucks for all of your help, but a special, special thanks to past Heather McKeever who was the driving force not only behind the birth of this program but has kept it going with her passion, optimism, persistent and energy. This year was no exception in fact it was even tougher due to all the virtual that went (Inaudible). For those that have not seen the. the video head to the Christmas in Gowanda Facebook page. It’s a tear jerker and it’s awesome and I don’t know if Mayor McKeever will ever hear this part but she certainly, she was great. We talked all week about it and I was quarantined during that week, Isolated so it was great to talk to her and reason through that stuff. It was really, really nice and special thanks to Deputy Mayor Sheibley for the poem that you provide relevant to Santa’s arrival that night. Very, very well done by all”. Trustee Koch, “That was, Carol and I were here at the meeting when we were discussing about not having and it was pretty amazing, everybody coming up with different ideas how to actually have it and the fire department was fantastic the trucks were great and my view had to have been the best in the whole Village because it was just amazing. Two hours driving around on truck and seeing all the little kids and families and
everybody is decorated so wonderfully it’s just beautiful. We went everywhere and it was cold”. Trustee Sheibley, “And I think Wanda, the residents that participated from their front yards, from their second-floor windows, their first-floor window, their front doors, it was amazing, it really was”. Trustee Koch, “You had a good seat, you had a toasty seat”. Trustee Sheibley, “I actually had a seat”. Mayor Smith, “Yeah. It was a magical night and the community has been overwhelming with their positive comments about that too”. Trustee Koch, “And Santa Clause was very overwhelmed too, he thanked me the next day and it was, it was just a really wonderful thing after all of this I mean, Halloween was good because we all needed that as a community but it was just really, really nice”. Mayor Smith, “Fantastic. Thatcher Brook, Army Corp flooding history interviews occurred. The first round of them on December 7th, Monday and then well maybe not. What was the date on those, I think I have that date wrong, that wasn’t yesterday was it Paul? I was last Friday”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Last Friday, December Mayor Smith, “December 4th. Okay, special thanks to Kasie Salzman, Village resident and Paul Zimmermann for appearing there in the video. Paul for your reference Jessie’s coming down to meet with me here tomorrow”. Trustee Zimmermann, “Oh great”. Mayor Smith, “To get, to get my record now that I’m back among the living”. Trustee Zimmermann, “I’m glad you were able to get that set up”. Mayor Smith, “Yeah. Any comments on the video Paul”? Trustee Zimmermann, “The pub, public affairs office, Jess Levenson came down and interviewed me so how it plays in the video has yet been determined. It’s just trying to comply different things and wanted, wanted to interview you know, a few different people involved in around the flood (Inaudible) that is part of the video. I look forward to seeing what he comes up with”. Mayor Smith, “Speaking of the flooding, Thatcher Brook Flood Diversion update, we had a conference call yesterday. We’ve been working with DASNY, Traci Hopkins has done a great job with DASNY and getting the particulars down to a make sure we get our million dollars towards the project. The DEC is working with us as well to get a PPA, which is an agreement on the spending. Paul Zimmermann, do you have an update on that process”? Trustee Zimmermann, “I think that was a good update right now it’s really between the, the contracts with legal end of things and wanted, wanted to interview you know, a few different people involved in around the flood (Inaudible) that is part of the video. I look forward to seeing what he comes up with”. Mayor Smith, “Speaking of the flooding, Thatcher Brook Flood Diversion update, we had a conference call yesterday. We’ve been working with DASNY, Traci Hopkins has done a great job with DASNY and getting the particulars down to a make sure we get our million dollars towards the project. The DEC is working with us as well to get a PPA, which is an agreement on the spending. Paul Zimmermann, do you have an update on that process”? Trustee Zimmermann, “I think that was a good update right now it’s really between the, the contracts with legal end of things and the financial end, it’s good that we’re at that point and (Inaudible)”. Mayor Smith, “Special thanks to Paul Zimmermann and Traci Hopkins and Deb Chadsey for your attendance in those calls. we’re getting down into the nitty gritty and this is probably the most important part of getting this done, so I really appreciate you joining in on those calls and helping to work through this. We did have a NYMIR insurance site visit that was originally scheduled for last week, it got rescheduled to the 9th and then we were contacted recently that they don’t want to have it at all due to the rise in Covid numbers. They don’t feel comfortable sending a rep to view the site so, that may not happen at all or maybe later on in the Spring if numbers lighten up. A special thanks to Gary Denea and Dennis Feldmann as well as Clerk Danielle Wagner for arranging for them to join us even though they didn’t have to. And lastly and maybe most importantly not only to my friends and colleagues here in this room which is Clerk Wagner, Treasurer Hopkins, Deputy Mayor Sheibley, Trustee Koch, Trustee Markham and Trustee Zimmermann but to anyone that may listen Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family. Please take some time coming in the next weeks if you can to rest, recharge, relax and celebrate what’s important and that’s health, happiness and family. Especially you Trustee Koch, you’re the busiest person I know. And a time is a good thing. So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. In the correspondence area, we did receive some correspondence form the Chamber of Commerce. We got a return of the fireworks money for the public benefit the Village donated $1500 towards the annual fireworks for Christmas in Gowanda, which did not occur this year so they returned that money. Along with a $100 contribution to update our current Christmas tree bulbs and lights in the Village. Special thanks to the highway crew for hanging those, the Village looks very beautiful at night and if we can improve those lights and decorations
in the future that’d be even better, so we did get that. Board round table, ladies first, Deputy mayor Sheibley”. Deputy mayor Sheibley, “I’d just like to piggy back on things you said about Christmas in Gowanda. I’d like to thank Chief Steve Raiport and all of the fire department members that had a part in working with past Mayor Heather McKeever in this Christmas in Gowanda. The fire department I’d say 8 or 10 of the members spent almost all of last Saturday afternoon decorating the trucks and I think anyone that saw Wanda think would agree they looked awesome and they did a good job. Steve put a lot of time himself and in into making all this happen and so, I, I think it was a good thing and”. Trustee Koch, “And there wasn’t a (Inaudible) they went out and, and, and figured out a route and there was not a street we did not miss and every street was worth going down, I mean, it was just fantastic”. Trustee Sheibley, “And it had to take Chief Steve at least an hour to get the route and the way they had it so there wasn’t any back turning (Inaudible) so, I think they did a really job”. Trustee Koch, “They did a fantastic job”. Trustee Sheibley, “And, and I say thank you to the fire department for their help too”. Trustee Koch, “of course, I think they liked running around shooting of the horns and everything”. Mayor Smith, “Yeah. One of the things that was great to about that route is they had a Facebook live connection on Gowanda fire. Treasurer Hopkins you’ll love this, they had a Facebook live connection so that everybody could see exactly where Santa was and they typed in the comments, next up is Caroline, next is so people knew and those kids ran out there looking at that face, it was just awesome”. Trustee Koch, “it was wonderful”. Mayor Smyth, “Awesome”. Trustee Sheibley, “And, and I heard a couple comment’s after the fact over the weekend that there are some other municipalities looking at having a fire truck parade for Christmas so, I think we were the leader”. Mayor Smith, “I think so. Very good, anything else Deputy Mayor”? Just one other thing, our fire department installation banquet will not be held in January this year, I think we’ll probably do the installations at the December fire meeting if indeed we’re able to have that so, but there’ll be no banquet this year. That’s my board round table”. Mayor Smith, “Trustee Koch”? Trustee Koch, “I just, I just want to wish everybody a happy and healthy Christmas and holiday season and we have so much to be thankful for”. Mayor Smyth, “Trustee Markham”? Trustee Markham, “(Inaudible) I just have a question on the body cams for the police officers (Inaudible) into that”? Trustee Koch, “They’re still looking into it, it was on my (Inaudible)”. Treasurer, “I will tell you that is something that Dennis and I talked briefly about today including in our next year’s fiscal budget which is what it’s gonna have to happen anyway because it just isn’t gonna go this year”. Trustee Markham, “I just want”. Treasurer, “But”. Trustee Markham, “(Inaudible)” Trustee Koch, “No and it’s something they definitely want but with I mean obviously we have to figure it into the budget as well. They’re not cheap as you would imagine. And he has done research, there’s not very many companies would do it. But, as long as we’re talking about it, there’s some that would want you to have each officer to have their own which that would be way expensive”. Trustee Markham, “It’s just easier to do for whoever’s on duty”. Trustee Koch, “Yeah he’s, he’s looked into a couple different things”. Trustee Markham, “Okay”. Treasurer, “It’s on the radar”. Mayor Smyth, “All good? Trustee Zimmermann”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Just wanted to say Merry Christmas everyone, God bless, thank you for everything you do”. Mayor Smith, “Thank you. Next in the official business portion of the agenda. Code enforcement because it’s a closed meeting Gary Brecker, officer Gary Brecker is not here but he provided his report to his liaison Trustee Koch”. Trustee Koch, “Gary has his report here for November. He had few very few complaints this month. He’s using the computer to do his studies and his, his code seminars done with the help of Danielle. God bless him. He’s working with Attorney in regarding a search warrant. New York State gas and electric has requested a permit to install a short telecommunications tower on Persia town hall, he’s waiting to hear about that. Oh, we did find out that one of the gentlemen did get certification so hopefully, we can look more into that, possibly getting him hired. We’re still
waiting to hear back about the (Inaudible). And he’s trying to work out a solution for the sidewalk situation on West Main Street. That’s about it”. Mayor Smith, “Very good, thank you Trustee Koch. Next in the public works portion of the agenda from highway Trustee Markham”. Trustee Markham, “Okay, I spoke to Gary briefly, they are using the snowblower that was requested, it’s a little slow blowing the heavier snow, so it’s gonna take a little bit longer for things to get done in the mornings. They did look at a snow plow with its own unit but they said the thing was shot, it’s not even worth (Inaudible) waste of time (Inaudible). But talking to the gentlemen, hey asked, well how do you handle your sidewalks? He goes, we just do the main drag, it’s up to residents to maintain their own sidewalks or they get fined. It turns out a lot of places are doing that. We’re just nice enough to do the sidewalks for our residents. So, he’s still gonna look for a plow but put the stipulation in there, if it’s narrow enough to fit on the sidewalks. We can get one narrow enough for the sidewalks I think we need to look at the speed to getting stuff done. Not a lot of movement on the street sweeper (Inaudible) right now basically I know they’re looking at some quotes on other equipment so, we’ll see where that goes in the future”. Treasurer, “We definitely need to come up with a plan for that because it’s having a severe impact on the 21 22 budget which is underway so I would like to have a conversation with you at some point”. Trustee Markham, “okay”. Treasurer, “Obviously we have to think about what is a plan for a street sweeper, we have the old street sweeper that we have figure out something to do with and this has to be done timely because so, so I mean, you know, we’ll talk about it, because it’s time now. I’m just worried about it because it’s a high dollar item so, so we’ll start planning. Thank you, Aaron,”. Mayor Smith, “Anything else from highway tonight”? Trustee Markham, “No I think that’s about it”. Mayor Smith, “Okay from sewer, liaison Trustee Zimmermann”. Trustee Zimmermann, “It continues to be a busy time for sewer, I think there’s in addition to Carol, I think between Carol and Traci and myself there’s been quite a process with everything going on down there but I think it’s all moving forward. First and foremost, all the repairs are completed at the lift station in complete, probably seen in your packet, the, the summary of the events down there, so that’s a, that’s, that’s absolutely good news and in addition that report he did also submit his regular board meeting report which I will read for the public. They’re daily responsibilities include continue along as well as their, their monthly responsibilities. They do, they been pumped approximately 10,000 gallons of primary sludge to the sludge thickening tank. Thickened the sludge to the digestor. Their normal month duties include, they did complete the monthly dmr report for DEC, helped the highway with leaf pick up, helped water with confined space (Inaudible) on Point Peter. Sam did work extensively with Kirk down here at the office to help with the boilers and heating system. Some assistant with Phil Palen with the tree planting. And they discussed the pumps issues at Perrysburg with the Town Clerk and the Trustee. There are a couple actions items that did come up with the roof issues at the sewer plant. Wendel is working with us to be able to do some of that work and get some of the bids out for that. Does, you know, there’s three roofs that really need to be repaired, it has to be split up overt time. the main plant in the, in the most of need of repair. So, if did have, so as far as the action items, I know Dave would probably read these out so we can get the wording right or you want me word (Inaudible)” Mayor Smith, “We had first, an action item for the one roof repair and design bid proposal and that is to you know, a, a proposal to repair the roofs. A design and bid for that as Paul discussed. Do we have a motion to approve that repair, design and bid proposal from Wendel”? Trustee Zimmermann, “So moved”. Mayor Smith, “Paul. Do we have a second”? Trustee Sheibley, “Second”. Mayor Smith, “Carol. Thank you. Any questions or comments on that bid proposal? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor Smith, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? That is carried. Next, we’re also looking into NYSERDA, which requires a preliminary study and engineering grant and so, do we have a motion to approve the Wendel preliminary NYSERDA study ad engineering
grant assistance”? Trustee Sheibley, “So moved”. Mayor Smith, “Carol. Do we have a second”? Mayor Smith “Paul. For the publics benefit, Treasurer Hopkins, what is the purpose of the NYSERDA study and engineering grant assistant”? in Treasurer, “From what I’m understanding we are, we are working on a capital project and getting a capital project underway for making infrastructure and plant improvements at the waste water treatment plant. In order for that capital project to start, there is a study that needs to be done by NYSERDA. They do in and look at Paul help me if I’m wrong. They do in a look at all the ways you could be energy efficient in lighting, in your electric, in your equipment and what pumps are you using and they do a whole study and that study then helps provide information to the things you need to purchase in equipment or things for your capital project so, this a requirement as a preliminary start to the capital project so regardless this will have to be done before entering into that capital project determining all those cost estimates and everything else. Is that”? Trustee Zimmermann, “yeah, thank you Traci”. Mayor Smith, “We had a motion on the floor made by Deputy Mayor Sheibley to approve that NYSERDA study. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor Smith, “Paul. Any questions or comments further? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor Smith, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? That is carried. Next Paul, the, the training for Jamie Wilson one of our employees in the sewer department”. Trustee Zimmermann, “Yeah absolutely. Jamie is at the point now where he is eligible to continue on with his licensing then we did want to get him into the next available class. With that being the case that is set up for June, it’s a two-week class that he has to attend usually it’s at Morrisville College and he is ready to go and we’re looking to having him go”. Mayor Smith, “Very good and then we had long time Village employee both in a full-time manner and most recently in a part time manner. I think combined 25 plus years of service to the Village. Recently Gary Lauer submitted his resignation for the second time. We wish Gary the best in his retirement and we thank him dearly for all of his years of service to the Village of Gowanda. Do we have a motion to approve the resignation of Gary Lauer”? Trustee Koch, “So moved”. Mayor Smith, “Wanda. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor Smith, “Paul. Any questions or comments? All those in favor”? Trustees,” Aye”. Mayor Smith, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? Anything else from sewer tonight Paul”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Nothing else, thank you Mayor”. Mayor Smith, “Thank you. Next, from water Trustee Sheibley”. Trustee Sheibley, “Each board member received the monthly water board report that was for Gowanda, Collins and Perrysburg. They processed gallonage for each of those municipalities. Also, I’d like to mention that Kirk indicated they cleaned a lot of trees out of the Point Peter, they took care of a lot of that maintenance and also within the last week to ten days Kirk and Sam Lauer worked on the boiler here at the Village hall as you can tell we have heat running and they did a good job so”. Trustee Koch, “Yay”. Trustee Sheibley, “Other than that, I have nothing for the water report. It says approval to start work with GPI pending official proposal review. Has that review been completed”? Treasurer, “No, I think that Mark Burr and wanted to discuss with Deb the official proposal review but wanted the board to approve it pending that so as soon as he had a chance to do that, he could get started as it’s critical and his email kind of reflects that”. Trustee Sheibley, “Than it reflects hat”. Treasurer, “Yeah. Good. Thank you”. Mayor Smith, “Do we have a motion to approve to start work with GPI pending the official proposal review. For the public’s benefit and the boards maybe, this is referring to the Point Peter project. The Village did receive formal approval last month from FEMA for the 3.2 million dollars to fix the point peter reservoir and that requires some engineering work and planning prior, lots of it in fact, prior to that going into place so, do we have a motion to approve starting the work with GPI pending the official proposal review by the attorney and Mark Burr”? Trustee Sheibley, “I so move”. Mayor Smith, “Carol. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor Smith, “Thank you Paul. Any
questions or comments? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor Smith, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? That is carried. Next madam Clerk Danielle Wagner”. Clerk, “I have nothing”. Mayor Smith, “Merry Christmas”. Clerk, “Thank you. You too”. Mayor Smith, “Next Police, Dennis Feldmann of course is not here so liaison Wanda Koch”. Trustee Koch, “Dennis has a couple different things here and I’m sure you all have them. His November police report they had 349 calls that were answered, 30 traffic stops, 4 motor vehicle accidents and there were 4 custodial arrests along with 10 police reports filed. He had separate man power (Inaudible) which I’ll go over in a minute. Patrolmen Kehr will be graduating from (Inaudible) at that time he will get department training as required by New York State. Obviously, the police force has been affected by Covid as well. And I did hear today we also have an officer that’s resigning. But he hasn’t officially done it yet. So that’ll be said in this other letter. We are going to meet with two gentlemen on Friday morning and see how they are and probably bring that to the table in the near future”. Mayor Smith, “Very good. Thank you. Disaster Coordinator Nick Crassi is not here but Deputy Mayor Sheibley has been working closely with him on the multi-jurisdictional hazard plan resolution. Board members have a copy of said resolution. Carol before we take it to vote did you have any comments on that item”? Trustee Sheibley, “No, it was a long process but a good process and I think we have everything in place that we need. I learned a lot and going to county meeting and working on this, so I think I feel very comfortable in having the action on it”. Mayor Smith, “Excellent. Thank you for your time and dedication to that. Much appreciated. Do we have a motion to approve the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan as stated in the resolution”? Trustee Sheibley, “I so move”. Mayo Smith, “Carol thank you. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor, “Paul thank you. Any questions or comments? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? That is carried. Next, from fire Paul Zimmermann and Carol Sheibley. Anything Paul? Deputy Mayor Sheibley”? Trustee Sheibley, “We have the Perrysburg contact for action tonight. This is their annual renewal, they both of individuals the clerk. Town clerk and supervisor have already signed this so, it’s waiting our clerk and our Mayors signature. I’ve reviewed I. Everything’s in order and there is a 1 and half percent increase so, I think it’s good to approve”. Mayor, “DO we have a motion to approve the town of Perrysburg 2021 fire agreement as stated”? Trustee Koch, “So moved”. Mayor, “Wanda thank you. DO we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor, “Paul. thank you. Any questions or comments? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? That is carried. Next, joint activity and recreation Trustee Markham anything”? Trustee Markham, “I don’t have anything”. Mayor, “Deputy Mayor Sheibley”? Trustee Sheibley, “Just a couple things I’d like to acknowledge the fact that the American Legion if they haven’t already done so, will be donating $1000 to the Gowanda ski program”. Mayor, “Wow”. Trustee Sheibley, “Yeah, that’s, that’s really good and (Inaudible) Mark Benton takes care of recreation as far as the thank you letters so, he’ll have that all handled and this year we have 55 in our ski program last year we had 27 so”. Mayor, “Double”. Trustee Sheibley, “Good stuff”. Trustee Zimmermann, “Get out there”. Trustee Sheibley, “Roller skating is to be announced. If it’s possible to have it say in January or February, we’ll have some roller skating at this point right now it’s not possible. That’s my report”. Mayor, “Thank you very much. next legal Deb Chadsey. Hey Deb”. Attorney, “Hi sorry. It somehow corrupted my board package so I’m going to address the supplemental site agreement with the PRP’s and I’m going to give you an update on the Dollar SEQRA and Traci you need to tell me what else is on my list. I don’t remember off the top of my head”. Treasurer, “The Thatcher Brook SEQRA”. Attorney, “Oh 3 things, okay. That was the first one. You got emailed to you late today the finalized supplemental site agreement. I just need the board to approve it tonight and authorized the mail, Mayor to sign it”. Mayor, “This is supplemental site agreement between the
PRP’s relevant to Gateway Park. Deb, that’s been a long process and I thank you so much for all your work on that. Do we have a motion to approve the supplemental, sorry Deb what was that”? Attorney, “It’s the supplemental site agreement and just before you vote by way of information you have also seen we have just under $400,000 coming. Traci and I going to continue to work on satisfying EPA’s requirements to see paperwork, but the idea is the majority of this money will go into a, a, cd or time deposit account that will earn us very little interest at the moment. Hopefully much more interest over time. And that will be in addition to the account that we currently operate at Citizens Bank”. Mayor, “And the roughly $394,000 a will be set aside to provide OM&M on that site. Correct”? Attorney, “Correct”. Mayor, “Do we have a motion to approve the supplemental site agreement as stated by attorney Chadsey”? Trustee Koch, “So moved”. Mayor, “Wanda. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor, “Paul thank you. Any questions or comments? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments. That is carried”. Attorney, “Mayor if you would kindly sign a copy and Traci or Danielle can email it to me”. Mayor, “yes”. Attorney, “I already reached out to GARC to get their consent and I expect that tomorrow”. Mayor, “you got it”. Attorney, “thank you, second I need the board to name itself lead agency for purposes of Thatcher Brook process. The federal government has already completed a nepra review which is the national environmental policy act. And has reached a conclusion that there are no significant environmental impacts. For the most part, we will adopt the federal review findings. But we still have to go through the process of naming of ourselves as lead agency, coordinating with other agencies which will primarily include the New York State Department of Environmental Conversation and ultimately our goal is to issue a negative declaration so this project can proceed”. Mayor, “Do we have a motion for the Village of Gowanda to be named lead agency for the SEQRA relevant to the Thatcher Brook Flood mitigation federal 205 project as stated”? Trustee Zimmermann, “So moved”. Mayor, “Paul thank you. Do we have a second”? Trustee Koch, “Second”. Mayor, “Wanda. Any questions or comments”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Thanks Deb”. Attorney, “You’re welcome”. Mayor, “All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? That is carried”. Attorney, “Next month you’ll have a package to review that, to just remind you of the procedure and Traci and I and Danielle will get notices out. So, we’ll just give you copies of all of that next month. The last thing on the agenda is an update of the Dollar General site plan and SEQRA review. Everybody got notices that the proposed draft Environmental impact statement has been at the Village for several weeks now. I have my comments done, I have Gary Breckers comments, I’ve had an exchange with Wendal about getting their comments. I need comments from anybody at the board who has any comments to make by this Friday. Once we have all the comments submitted on the 18th the Dollar General team will go back and revise that draft environmental impact statement to make it the final draft environmental impact statement. The goal will be to have that and hopefully be able to set a public hearing on the final draft. It will go up for public review for 30 days. And I’m thinking it’s probably gonna be February before we are able to issue our final decision just giving timing issues. Does anybody else have comments by the way? Does any of the board members have anything they need to talk to me about or send me with respect to their review”? Mayor, “We can email you our comments right if we have them”? Attorney, “Absolutely. I just need them by Friday guys”. Mayor, “Very good. Thank you”. Attorney, “And the comments I need, just let me clarify quickly and then I’ll let you move on. the comments I need are if you read something in there and you think they got it wrong or you read something and you really don’t understand what it is they’re saying that’s the kind of thing what I’m asking for comments”. Trustee Koch, “Okay”. Treasurer, “And Mark Burr has a copy and he will, is reviewing as well Deb”. Attorney, “Correct and, and he knows that I need them by the 18th so Mark and Wendal,
I just need their comments you know the day, the 17th the day before I need to pass them on”. Treasurer, “Yep. He knows that. I’ll follow up and make sure”. Attorney, “And that’s all I have Mayor”. Mayor, “Very good. Thank you, Deb and Merry Christmas,”. Attorney, “Merry Christmas to you guys too and maybe the next time we talk I’ll be a grandmother”. Trustee Koch, “How exciting. Merry Christmas”. Attorney, “I know my daughter is certainly hoping that that’s going to happen in the very near future”. Trustee Zimmermann, “That’ll be a nice tax baby”. Attorney, “Yeah. Except apparently the New York State rules on like family leave which would include maternity leave change effective January 1 and you get like an extra week or something starting in 2021, so she’s kind of, she’s right in the fence on that one Paul”. Mayor, “This is true”. Trustee Koch, “Well if she’s anything like you she probably won’t want that extra week”. Mayor, “right, right. Thank you, Deb and good luck,”. Attorney, “Thank you guys”. Trustee Zimmermann, “All good”. Attorney, “Thank you and happy holidays. Everybody, stay safe”. Trustee Koch, “You too”. Attorney, “Mayor, I didn’t even know you were sick until you were well”. Mayor, “well”. Trustee Koch, “You didn’t, you don’t watch channel 4”? Mayor, “Yeah they had me on the news. Remember those compliment’s I was giving the community earlier. Erica Brecker who did the interviewing told me she heard from 14 different resident’s that the Mayor was ill and that they wanted channel 4 to pray for the Mayor, so then I ended up, they called me during the bills games and wanted to do an interview, I said no freaking way, wait an hour. Good lord”. Attorney, “If you were still passionate about the bills, I’m gonna take that you didn’t get to terribly ill”. Mayor, “Oh no I did fall asleep”. Attorney, “Or maybe not, I take that back (Inaudible)”. Mayor, “I did fall asleep last night”. Attorney, Inaudible. Mayor, “I fell asleep last night during the bills game, which is, it’s gotta be the first time in history but anyhow, Treasurer Hopkins”. Treasurer, “The first thing on here is our current payroll system is computer search which we have had for many years before me, Carol can probably attest to how long, it’s been a long time. We are still continuing with Computer Search but they are moving their platform to a new system called evolution payroll. This is effective January 1st. So, we will be seeing a change in the way that we process payroll, that I enter payroll which is really sad for me because I just got payroll figured out and I’m really efficient in it. And now their gonna change it up on me which like how it happens every time. So, it’s okay though it’ll be a much more, it’ll me a, an system so they say it’ll have a lot more features and things that will make it easier and I just need to get the hang of it. I just wanted to let you know that change is happening effective January 1 add, add to the list. Point Peter financing I also wanted to just let you know and I guess the public as well as the Mayor mentioned FEMA has approved the point peter reservoir project, this will result when everything gets worked out with the engineers and the contractors and all the agreements in place, this will result in significant borrowing that the Village will have to do in short term until we, until FEMA then reimburses us 100% for the project so that is a new process for me that I will work through. I’m already thinking about it, I’ve already talked with municipal solutions about it, I already talked with Mark Burr. I just need to identify the particulars. Right now, we’re waiting on firm cost estimates that will revolve around the scope of work change o, once all that gets squared away then we’ll have some more concrete numbers that can be discussed. I just wanted to let you know that that’s coming down the pike probably, probably quickly. The next item is the 2020 2021 budget modification number 4 as itemized in your packet. There are a few budget modification requests in the water fund, in the sewer fund, mostly related to the retired, New York State retirement payment that we will be paying between the employees’ retirement and the police retirement. This is a $111,000, 600, $111,681 is our retirement contribution. It’s a big-ticket item and we estimate this and then it gets refined based upon salaries by department, by tier so, there’s a little fluctuation between employees benefits that we need to balance out by line item so, I’m asking the board to approve budget modification #4 as itemized in your packets”. Mayor, “Do we have
a motion to approve budget modification as itemized in your packet”? Trustee Sheibley, “So moved”. Mayor Smith, “Carol thank you. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor, “Paul. Thank you. Any questions or comments? All those in favor”? Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments? That motion is carried”. Treasurer, “The abstract bills to pay, you will see also, itemized in detail. I’m asking the board for approval to the pay the general fund bills to pay of $99,181.17, the water fund $21,295.98 and the sewer fund $84,044.75”. Mayor, “Do we have a motion to approve the abstract bills to pay as stated”? Trustee Koch, “So moved”. Mayor, “Wanda thank you. Do we have a second”? Trustee Sheibley, “Second”. Mayor, “Carol. thank you. any questions or comments”? Treasurer, “I just want to note those are high because of that $111,000 retirement payment that is split up between those 3 funds, so that contributes largely to those large amounts that we don’t see every month thank goodness”. Mayor, “Any further questions or comments? All those in favor”. Trustee, “Aye”. Mayor, “Opposed? Any abstentions or further comments. That is carried”. Treasurer, “I’m working, that’s it really, I’m working on the already in December for June 1 budget year. we’re already working on the budget for 21 22. I’ve had multiple conversations many with the Mayor and I’ve had some conversation with Carol and we are underway in that process and there will be more to come very quickly on that as well”. Mayor, “For our planning purposes, typically we start budget workshops in the near future you see that in January or February”. Treasurer, “The first budget work shop will be in February as usual. Our first finance committee meeting will be in January after you have been able to kind of refine your, your budget to initiate that conversation. The budget calendar will be ready for the January meeting”. Mayor Smith, “Very good. Thank you. Any other comments tonight madam Treasurer”? Treasurer, “No sir”. Mayor Smith, “Okay the next meeting for the Village of Gowanda will be at 6 PM unless we schedule a workshop at 5 or 5:30, right now it’s 6 PM Tuesday January 12th 2021 as we move into the new year. Do we have a motion to adjourn tonight’s meeting”? Trustee Koch, “So moved”. Mayor, “Wanda thank you. Do we have a second”? Trustee Zimmermann, “Second”. Mayor Smith, “Paul. thank you. All those in favor”. Trustees, “Aye”. Mayor, “Opposed? That is carried. The meeting is adjourned at 7:00 exactly.