

Village of Gowanda  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2023

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor Smith at 6:00 PM.

Present: Mayor David Smith, Trustee Paul Zimmermann, Trustee Peter Sisti, Trustee Wanda Koch, Trustee Carol Sheibley

Employees: Clerk Danielle Wagner, Treasurer Traci Hopkins, Attorney Deb Chadsey, OIC Ben Shields, Water Supervisor Kirk Trumppore, Code Jason Pickering & George Poff

Public: John Walgus, Jack Broyles, Theresa Girome

### **Agenda and Minutes**

**Motion 7-20**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve the agenda for the July 11, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

**Motion 7-21**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing at 6:05 PM for the Firefighters Tax Exemption

The public hearing is for the tax exemption for members of the volunteer fire department who reside in the Village and have been a member for at least 2 years. The exemption is 10% off their property tax. Any member interested in the exemption must apply for it, it is not automatic.

Public Comment:

Jack Broyles asked if the 20-year exemption would apply retroactive. Yes, it does.

Mayor Smith closed the public hearing at 6:09 PM.

### **Public Participation**

Jack Broyles-Gateway Park-who does the park belong too. Is it private or public?

John Walgus-Town of Persia is in the process of trying to get solar farms. Town Residents can get a 20% savings on their electric bill if through NYSEG.

### **Mayor Updates**

- Cattaraugus County Health Dept. 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration on 6/15.
- Remembering George Stark Eulogy on 6/15.
- Collins Conservation Eagle Scout recognition ceremony on 6/19.

- Cattaraugus County Youth Awards on 6/20.
- Town of Perrysburg Water contract meeting on 6/21.
- Gowanda Fire Dept. Annual inspection on 6/21.
- Gowanda Class of 2023 Graduation on 6/23.
- Boston Trip on 6/24-6/29.
- Perrysburg/Dayton Code Red-There was an incident on Townline Rd. in Perrysburg-the code red system the Village uses is for the Village.

### **Correspondence**

- New York State DEC letter RE: LEWPA short term mitigation permit requirements
- Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES thank you for the 2023 criminal justice internship.
- Gowanda Area Historical Society annual funding allocation request letter.

### **Official Business**

#### **Mayor/Board of Trustees**

GARC is looking for the boards support in applying for a grant through the NYS CFA.

**Motion 7-22**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the resolution to support GARC in the development and re-submission of a grant through the NYS Consolidated Funding application. Motion carried.

GARC is looking for a letter of Support to the grant seeking.

**Motion 7-23**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the letter of support for GARC. Motion carried.

#### **Code-George Poff, Jason Pickering**

Building permits-4, complaints filed-1, violations on patrol-8, violation notices sent-9, pending court-5.

Code is hoping to get board approval to use some previously allocated funds to get outside mowing services to help with several abandoned properties. It is a liability risk to have Village employees do it.

**Motion 7-24**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve Code to seek mowing services for 3 or 5 abandoned properties in the Village. Motion carried.

#### **Highway-Peter Sisti-Adam Reid not in attendance**

The only bid the Village received for the sidewalk replacement project was rejected by the board at the June board meeting. That one bid was amended with a reduced project scope. The board needs to accept the amended bid received to reflect the funding available by October 31, 2023.

**Motion 7-25**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the amended sidewalk improvements project bid with the reduced project scope to meet funding available until October 31, 2023 for \$ 182,086.76 with recognition that it was the only bid received Motion carried

#### **Sewer-Paul Zimmermann-Andy Carriero not in attendance**

The board needs to amend the agreement with Municipal Solutions to update and resubmit the WQIP grant application for the WWTP Capital Project that the Village did not get funded for last year.

**Motion 7-26**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve to amend the agreement with Municipal Solutions to update and resubmit the WQIP Grant Application by July 28, 2023 for the WWTP Capital Project. Motion carried.

#### **Police-Ben Shields**

The current tasers the police department uses are old and outdated. They can not be repaired anymore. Funds have allocated from the American Rescue Funds.

**Motion 7-27**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the authorization to enter into a purchase agreement for (2) new tasers including licensing, cartridges, and training for up to (10) officers. Motion carried.

#### **Legal-Deb Chadsey**

**Motion 7-28**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to adopt Local Law 1 of 2023, the Tax Exemption for Firefighters & First Responders Chapter 86 of the Village of Gowanda Code.

Roll Call: Mayor-Aye, Trustee Zimmermann-Aye, Trustee Sisti-Aye, Trustee Koch-Aye, Trustee Sheibley-Abstain. Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer-Traci Hopkins**

The Village insurance NYMIR needs to be renewed for the year.

**Motion 7-29**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve the NYMIR Insurance renewal. Motion carried.

Budget Modification #10 for the General and Sewer Fund was provided to the board. It is the final request for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

**Motion 7-31**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve Budget Modification #10. Motion carried.

Bills to pay abstract #2 was provided to the board.

**Motion 7-32**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the abstract bills to pay for General \$19,976.91, Water \$9,406.35 and Sewer \$11,681.33. Motion carried.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting for the Board of Trustees will be August 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Village Hall.

#### **Executive Session**

**Motion 7-33**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to recess the regular meeting into executive session to discuss personnel contractual at 7:04 PM. Motion carried.

**Motion 7-34**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to return from Executive Session to regular meeting at 7:37 PM. Motion carried.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion 7-35**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted  
Danielle Wagner  
Clerk

DRAFT