

Village of Gowanda
Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024

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, WWTP Supervisor Andy Carriero, Water Supervisor Kirk Trumpore, Code Enforcement Jason Pickering & George Poff, Highway Supervisor Adam Reid, OIC Ben Shields, Attorney Deb Chadsey (*via telephone @ 6:30PM*)

Public Present: Theresa Girome, John Girome, Jack Broyles, Penny Tivnan, Al Schaffer

Agenda & Minutes

Motion 2-127-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the agenda for the February 13, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion 2-128-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Participation

Jack Broyles-Where will the additional trash rack be located.

Mayor Updates

- January winter wind storm-thanked everyone for the clean-up and services
- 2024-2025 Budget Meeting on 1/24
- Thatcher Brook Flood Diversion Update conference call on 1/29-the design is nearly complete.
- Cattaraugus County Health Board-Mayor Smith has been appointed president of the health board
- NYS Forward Grant-Treasurer Hopkins provided some insight and better understanding of the grant.

NY Forward Grant Eligibility/Process

This grant opportunity targets smaller, less dense, rural communities focusing on downtowns, village centers, and hamlets. Downtown revitalization represents tight commercial activities, in a compact, well defined concentrated boundary.

Potential NY Forward communities are those that have lost industry around which their community grew reflecting small business districts along corridors that connect major employment centers and magnet cities in their regions.

NY Forward is not designed to fund one large expensive project. Applicants should develop a suite of synergistic projects representing both public projects to support municipal needs, and private projects to provide capital to private business that ultimately drives revitalization and economic

growth. Private projects must leverage other funding sources to the greatest extent possible. Recommended to provide projects that will exceed the \$4.5 Mill if awarded.

Winning communities are matched with a consulting team and project manager from DOS who will help guide us through targeted community-based planning to develop a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

A Local Planning Committee (LCP) will be established to oversee the planning process and development of the SIP.

The Planning committee will:

- Refine Vision Statement
- Develop a clear and concise downtown profile
- Articulate the story of the region and the downtown
- Identify key challenges and opportunities
- Provide a logical basis for project identification (recommended project applications submitted)
- Identify and vet projects that advance the communities vision, goals, and revitalization strategies
- Develop detailed project profiles for each project that the LCP recommends (the LCP will identify a final slate of projects that exceeds the available funding)
- Provide broad public engagement throughout the entire process to solicit input, identify projects, and build support

The Consultant team will then develop the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) which will be submitted to the state for review. This list of potential projects may include some of those included in the original application and others that were identified through the process. Each project will be evaluated and recommendations will be selected by the state. **It is expected that the majority of the funds will be used for capital projects that will transform the physical environment of the downtown in ways to benefit current residents and future generations.**

This should reflect an exciting and positive opportunity for the Village. However, large funds create large challenges including controversy. The leadership team will be called together to provide consensus and equity, while leveraging the most opportunity. Ultimately, NY State will help identify funded projects that will advance economic revitalization.

We cannot always control false comments, negative feedback, or media inaccuracies. We can tell you that these funds are not intended to fund a micro-brewery as all media outlets have displayed. A micro-brewery has already been established by a local business owner with no Village of Gowanda funding support. That is an example of inaccuracies that create negative feedback, contributing to the challenges ahead. We can tell you that a planning team will be identified, potential projects will be solicited through a detailed application process, projects will be reviewed to identify the largest leveraging opportunity to revitalize and provide capital to our downtown, those projects will be included in the final strategic investment plan to be reviewed and selected by the state for funding opportunity.

Correspondence

- Erie County-denial letter for the CDBG for St John Park Improvements
- Erie County-release of digital copy of Erie County Community Climate Action Plan

Official Business

Code Enforcement-George Poff, Jason Pickering

Building Permit-2, Business Permit-2 pending, Complaints Filed 1, Violation Notices Sent 2, Court Cases-1

Large Trash Pick-up-Trash may be put no more than 5 days prior to pick-up and must be removed 5 days after pick-up for anything not picked up.

Sewer-Andy Carriero

The bids for the WWTP Capital Project were opened on February 7th. Wendel submitted their recommendations to the board for approval which is broken down into 3 categories General, Mechanical and Electrical.

Motion 2-129-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the recommendations for General Contracting to STC Construction Inc \$5,527,300, Mechanical to Quackenbush Inc \$170,908 and the Electrical to BECC Electric \$582,950. Motion carried.

The WWTP has some items that have been laying around that they cannot use anymore or they were the wrong fit. Approval is needed to declare as surplus to either sell on Auction International or scrap.

Motion 2-130-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to declare Heater from compost building, 2 new motors not needed as part of our mixing compressors, 6 motors that have been replaced with new pump controllers and influent channel grinder. Motion carried.

The roof on the WWTP compost building was damaged during the wind storm in January.

Motion 2-131-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sisti to declare the WWTP Compost Building Roof Damage from the January storm 2024 wind storm as an emergency. Motion carried.

The Village filed an insurance claim for the roof repair.

Motion 2-132-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti for authorization to accept the roof damage claim of \$50,673.60 provided by the insurance company to repair the WWTP Compost Building roof. Motion carried.

Motion 2-133-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley for authorization to secure RMG Metal Roofing as the lowest quote received at \$52,550 pending results of additional quotes. Motion carried.

The Vac truck is 15 years old, the tank on the truck is in bad shape and is unusable. A replacement tank is needed. The truck itself is still in good condition with low miles. This will be a sewer/water split.

Motion 2-134-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve to replace the Vac Truck Tank as quoted \$89,690.19 as a water/sewer split. Motion carried.

Water-Kirk Trumpore

A soil management plan is needed for the disposal of the soil that is being removed from the Point Peter Reservoir. Some of the soil will be at the dump site Gernatt property located near the Reservoir and some will be used at Gateway Park to create a second ball field. Before the soil can be used it has to go through testing. GARC has given the board permission to use the remaining funds from a Cattaraugus County Revitalization Grant if it is not FEMA Eligible.

Motion 2-135-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley for authorization to apply the remaining Cattaraugus County Revitalization Grant of \$10,298.20 to the soil management plan expenses if not FEMA eligible. Motion carried.

Motion 2-136-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann for authorization to execute the supplemental agreement with GPI for additional soil testing and soil management plan at Gateway Park for the sediment disposal per DEC regulations not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried.

Clerk-Danielle Wagner

Motion 2-137-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the USA Property access request to trap invasive species. Motion carried.

Police-Ben Shields

The new police car has been on order since March 2023. That was purchased with the use of Local State and Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Motion 2-138-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to authorize to take delivery on the 2023 Dodge Durango at \$40,175.00 as allocated in the 2023-2024 budget. Motion carried.

Motion 2-139-Motion by Trustee Sisti seconded by Trustee Koch to authorize the order of police radios at \$8,715.60 as quoted with SLFRF as allocated for police protection equipment in 2023-2024 budget. Motion carried.

Motion 2-140-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to authorize the hiring of Paul Valera as a trainee pending required background review. Motion carried.

Motion 2-141-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to authorize the hiring of Andrew Schumaker as a trainee pending required background review. Motion carried.

Treasurer-Traci Hopkins

Last month the board approved the big trash proposal from MRC for big trash pick-up.

Motion 2-142-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to authorize to enter into an agreement with MRC Disposal for big Trash Pick-up 2023 not to exceed \$14,975. Motion carried.

There has been some interest from a youth group to use the Village Hall space upstairs for their practices. The upstairs needs to be cleaned out for that to happen. A list of what needs to be done has been provided to the board.

Motion 2-143-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to authorize to proceed with building prep for potential upstairs rental tenants. Motion carried.

Another potential site has been identified for the second trash rack. A survey needs to be completed.

Motion 2-144-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the survey quote at \$5,600 for a second location for a potential second trash rack as authorized with County Flood Mitigation support. Motion carried.

Budget Modification #4 for the General fund has been provided to the board for approval.

Motion 2-145-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve budget modification request #4. Motion carried.

Abstract bills to pay #9 was provided to the board for approval.

Motion 2-146-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Sheibley to approve abstract bills to pay for general fund \$112,093.90, water fund \$8,999.49, sewer fund \$19,268.87 and capital projects \$57,912.27. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 12, 2024 at 6 PM.

Adjournment

Motion2-147-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to adjourn the board meeting at 7:16 PM. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted
Danielle Wagner
Clerk