

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 24, 2007

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor Richard Klancer at 7:15 p.m. in the Board room, Municipal Building. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Present: Mayor Richard Klancer
Trustee Barb Nephew
Trustee John Certis
Trustee Dale DeCarlo
Trustee Carol Sheibley

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Mike Hutchinson, Treasurer Cindy Schilling, Village Attorney Deb Chadsey, Officer-in-Charge Joe Alessi

Media Present: Mary Pankow, Gowanda Pennysaver
Tim Latshaw, Observer
Phil Palen, Cable Channel 23

Public: Jack Torrance, Don Offhaus, Sue Torrance, Eileen Humphrey, Janet Vogtli, Warren Adair

Trustee Sheibley advised of an error in the April 3, 2007 Organizational Meeting minutes. On Page 3, where it states "Trustee Certis advised that St. Joseph's School students are willing to do volunteer work ...", it should read Trustee Sheibley.

Motion 11-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2007 Organizational meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 12-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the minutes of the 2007-2008 Budget public hearing as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 13-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve Abstract #12 dated April 24, 2007 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$28,635.86
Water Fund	\$ 5,614.58
Sewer Fund	\$11,753.62
Capital Fund	\$ 994.25
Total	\$46,998.31

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jack Torrance presented the Planning Board report:

“On Monday April 16th the Planning Board met. The main topics were a) work on survey analysis for the next steps in preparation of Master Plan update, b) training about Special Use Permit requests, and c) Planning Board 2007-2008 budget request status.

- a) After discussion, Steve Meyers agreed to chair a work session of the Planning Board on May 1st at 6:30 aimed at analysis of the survey responses. Dennis Stopen suggested a good starting point would be “Who Are We – The Survey Respondents”, a first of a series of articles in the Pennysaver.
- b) It was agreed that formal training time will be spent at the next scheduled Planning Board meeting using the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal Tutorial “Special Use Permits” previously distributed.
- c) The Planning Board request for 2007-2008 will be submitted by the Village budget committee at the Village Board meeting April 24, 2007 for approval.
- d) Comments are requested from the Village Board concerning examples of the forms to a) request a Special Use Permit or to b) request a zoning change.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting is set for May 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.”

Mr. Torrance also reported that “Per Paul D’Orlando of Erie County Planning, the CCIP program ends the end of this December. He suggested another letter signed by the Mayor might be in order to be sent to property/business owners in the commercial district about the program. The program amount has been increased from up to a \$7,500 match to up to a \$10,000 match. Erie County would still also pay for the architect.

During the conversation he clarified that the addresses in Gowanda that are registered with SHPO as Gowanda Village Historic District are 37, 39, 41-45, 47-49 and 53 West Main. Additionally the Bank of Gowanda (Persia Town Hall) is also registered.”

Mr. Torrance reported that Schictel’s will be digging bare root trees sometime next week so a crew will be needed for planting.

Sue Torrance questioned whether the Heritage Festival budget request was included in the budget. She also asked that the library funding be restored.

Warren Adair asked about the requested donation to the library.

Mrs. Humphrey also requested the donation be made to the library. She expressed concern also about the lack of crosswalks on Buffalo Street.

Don Offhaus was present on behalf of the Gowanda Fire Company. He requested a resolution from the Village to donate the land on Aldrich Street for the new fire hall to the Gowanda Fire Corporation. Village Attorney Chadsey will draft a formal resolution to be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Offhaus indicated the company is currently in contact with the legislators regarding funding. No grant funding will be made available until the company owns the property.

Trustee Sheibley reported that she contacted Legislator Mills regarding the possibility of providing funding for the stolen signs. He responded favorably that the signs will be covered up to an amount of \$2,000. Trustee Sheibley thanked Legislator Mills for this effort.

Trustee Nephew asked where the signs would be located. Trustee Sheibley indicated they would be on Sand Hill, Route 438, Broadway Road, Dayton Road, and Chang-Hu Park. Trustee Nephew indicated that perhaps a different site than Chang-Hu Park should be considered. Mrs. Torrance asked whose responsibility it is to maintain the chain-link fencing used by businesses for their signs. Jack Torrance indicated that the new sign law makes it clear that it is the Village's responsibility to maintain them.

Mayor Klancer advised that when working on the budget the tax rate from 2005-2006 was incorrectly used for a comparison which resulted in more severe cuts than necessary. He recommended restoring the funding for the library, for the Animal Control Officer, and \$1,000 for the NIMS trainer which is a federal mandate. This will result in a \$.17/1000 decrease for Erie County residents and \$.38/1000 decrease for Cattaraugus County residents. This also includes \$1300 for disability insurance for the firemen.

Trustee Sheibley asked the library representatives if they have an audit. Mrs. Humphrey advised that all of their figures are sent to Jamestown. All figures are available on-line. Treasurer Schilling advised that the Village is considering a contract with the library with a stipulation that the library submit a balance sheet and financials to the Village each year.

Motion 14-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the 2007-2008 Village budget with the following changes: \$8,000 for library funding, \$3,250 for animal control, \$1,000 for NIMS trainer and \$1300 for disability insurance for volunteer firemen. Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Torrance asked the Village Board if they would once again go on record as supporting the library request of \$20,000 from the school. Mayor Klancer and Trustee Certis both indicated they support this particular request.

BUILDING/BUSINESS PERMITS

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the Board a copy of an article for the Pennysaver supplied by Building Inspector Bowers regarding Permanent Home Generator Requirements.

Motion 15-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to authorize Village Clerk Mohawk to publish this notice. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Lorie Oberst requested authorization to run a hotdog concession.

Motion 16-07. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the business permit submitted by Lorie Oberst to operate a hot dog cart. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the Code Enforcement Report:

12 complaints to date, handled or being worked on\

10 permits issued to date; total \$810

Fire Safety, Property Maintenance inspections are being done. 2 inspections have been done at the request of the owners.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that all Priority #1 businesses have been sent letters to schedule inspections.

Village Clerk Mohawk also advised that the Valu Home Center work is done except for landscaping. The Certificate of Occupancy will be issued. Community Bank work is in progress. The Subway Restaurant will be starting soon. The fire safety and property maintenance inspections are being done. Starting next month, Building Inspector Bowers will call and schedule the inspections. He needs to do 3 per week in order to be done by the end of the year.

POLICE

Officer-in-Charge Alessi gave the March police report:

“148 reportable calls; 31 arrests; 34 traffic tickets issued; 8 violent domestics; 5 motor vehicle accidents.

Please accept with regret the resignation of employment by Officer Ron Russell and Officer Ken Achtyl.

On April 21st, 2007 our K-9 dog Ambo passed away from heart failure after tracking a fugitive that was involved in a home invasion on Buffalo Street. The fugitive was captured an hour later.

Our thoughts are with K-9 Officer Dave Hock who has spent a lot of time training Ambo. We will have a new dog by mid-June.

Officer Hock has been selected by Erie County STOP-DWI as one of the top officers in combating DWI in Western New York. A breakfast award banquet will be held on April 27th in West Seneca.

Please accept Joe Frentz for employment as a Gowanda police officer.

I have been trying to contact Central Police Services regarding updating the car computers.

I request that we use the South Water Street building as a place to park our vehicles.

I request that we accept the bid of Emerling Chevrolet for a 2007 Trailblazer for the new K-9 truck.”

Motion 17-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to accept, with regret, the resignations of Officer Ronald Russell and Officer Ken Achtyl. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 18-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Nephew to accept the bid of Emerling Chevrolet for a 2007 Trailblazer for \$19,700, to be paid for with the grant funds from Senator Young's office. Motion carried 5-0.

Officer-in-Charge Alessi indicated that he would keep the old K-9 vehicle as a backup since the police are not getting a new car this coming budget year.

Motion 19-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize the hiring of Officer Joseph Frenz on the recommendation of Officer-in-Charge Alessi. Motion carried 5-0.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley advised that the Recreation Commission met about 10 days ago. John Weider was appointed the Chairperson and Diane Brown the secretary. The date of May 2nd was selected as the date to meet with the Recreation Director to work on the summer program. The minutes of the Recreation Commission meetings are kept at the Village Hall. The other two members on the commission are Mary Clark from the Town of Collins and Paula Schueler from the Town of Persia. Trustee Certis indicated that volunteers are still needed to fill the commission seats.

FIRE

Trustee DeCarlo advised the fire department has had 55 calls so far this year.

Trustee DeCarlo advised the fire department will be washing down the sidewalks once the weather gets better, before Pioneer Days.

Trustee DeCarlo read a list of the new fire company officers for 2007:

President	Nick Crassi
Vice President	Gordon Ackler
Secretary	Don Offhaus
Treasurer	Stacey Raiport
Sgt. At Arms	Ted Andolsek
Chief	Steve Raiport
1 st Asst.	Jim Moyer
2 nd Asst.	Ryan Vogtli
3 rd Asst.	Jon Valone
Training Officer	Tim Twitchell

Trustee DeCarlo advised that at the banquet some special awards were given out to Ron Andolsek for 50 years, Trustee Sheibley for 5 years and himself for 30 years. Senator Cathy Young and Assemblyman Joe Giglio also attended the banquet.

Trustee Certis thanked the fire company for extending an invitation to he and his wife.

TREASURER

Treasurer Schilling advised that a date has been set for the annual audit to begin on July 17th.

PUBLIC WORKS

Trustee Sheibley requested authorization for the application for grant funding from the Restore NY program for the Academy Place project. The Village would be the applicant but the application will be prepared by Healthy Community Alliance. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated this program is for the demolition, deconstruction, rehabilitation or reconstruction of commercial property. He indicated this is a partnership between the Village and the Town for rehabilitation of Academy Place. The Town of Persia will become the transfer owner of the property. Village Attorney Chadsey questioned whether this building is within the control of the Village.

Motion 20-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Nephew to apply for the Restore NY funding for Academy Place. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Attorney Chadsey asked Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson for a copy of the grant outline obligations for the funding. She advised that the Village should have a copy of the terms and conditions of the grant on file.

Trustee Sheibley indicated that the Village is in the process of soliciting proposals for engineering services for the CDBG generator project.

The Frederick Street storm drain project is moving along.

Trustee Sheibley requested the Board members review the costs for repair/replacement of the clock on the Municipal Building. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that the clock works would be replaced with a new digital system. The other option would be buying a new clock but that would be expensive. Trustee Certis advised that perhaps some of the wiring could be donated.

Trustee Sheibley advised that on Sunday 11 volunteers from St. Joseph's Church participated in the area cleanup. Participants included Marissa and Melissa Budsizewski, Allison Kota, Karen, Shane and Kaleb Miller, Kelly, Andy, Jess, and Drew Carriero and Nick Martin. They started at St. John's Park removing limbs, then on to Chang-Hu Park where they picked up three bags of sticks and twigs. After lunch, they went to work in Creekside Park.

Trustee Sheibley advised that a Gowanda student, Amanda Stang, was highlighted in the Olean Times newspaper for the Youth Citizenship Award. Trustee Sheibley indicated that she spoke with Principal Kim Moritz earlier in the year about nominating someone for this award so she was pleased to see Amanda Stang win.

There was some discussion about the purchase of the new plow truck. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated there is a 6-week time line for the equipment for the truck and a 3-month time line for delivery of the truck. The International trucks are on State bid. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that he will have the particulars and the correct dollar amount for the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk presented a list of items that can be disposed of according to the Records Retention Schedule.

Motion 21-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the destruction of office records per the records retention schedule. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented a request from the Gowanda Free Methodist Church for using Chang-Hu Park for Vacation Bible School. She also advised that she spoke with the insurance company about the Youth Worship Event which had been previously requested by the Gowanda Free Methodist Church. The insurance company indicated that the Village has coverage for these types of events in the parks.

Motion 22-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to authorize the use of Chang-Hu Park from July 9-13 for Vacation Bible School. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 23-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the event application for FUEL – Youth Worship Event sponsored by the Gowanda Free Methodist Church scheduled for June 8th. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the event application for Pioneer Days along with their insurance certificate listing the Village of Gowanda as an additional insured.

Motion 24-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the event application submitted for the 54th Pioneer Days Festival to be held May 17th through May 20th. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter received from Gowanda Central School:
“On Tuesday, May 15th, the public will vote on the 2007-2008 budget for the Gowanda Central School District. In an attempt to explain the budget and the impact on taxes and the educational program, I am offering to meet with your group in the near future.”
Village Clerk Mohawk will contact Superintendent Rinaldi to see if he can attend the May 8th meeting.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported there will be a Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics/Computer Recycling Collection Day on Saturday, April 28th, at the Erie County Highway Garage in East Concord.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Cattaraugus County will be offering compost and mulch on Saturday, May 12th, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Five Points Transfer Station in the Town of Mansfield.

Village Clerk Mohawk reminded all Board members of the Local Government Conference which is sponsored by Southern Tier West and offered at Houghton College. This year's program takes place on Wednesday, May 9th.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported on funds received: \$42,214.68 from Cattaraugus County for 2006-2007 returned Village taxes; \$1,622.27 from Cattaraugus County Probation for restitution from the damaged sign at Chang-Hu Park; \$13,538.39 from Erie County for 2006-2007 returned Village taxes; \$25.00 from the Town of Collins for fines; \$4,609.17 from Erie County as the Village share of the 1% sales and use tax revenue sharing; \$11.92 from IDT Corporation for gross receipts tax; \$45.18 from ACN Communications for gross receipts tax; \$53.13 from AT&T Communications for gross receipts tax; and \$10.61 from Manhattan Telecommunications for gross receipts tax.

ENVIRONMENT

Trustee Nephew reported that next week will be tree planting.

Trustee Nephew asked about getting the flower barrels out after May 1st. She advised the committee will meet over the weekend and leave Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson a map of where the barrels will go.

Trustee Nephew asked about the water fountains and bicycle racks which need to be installed.

Trustee Nephew read the Arbor Day Proclamation:

“WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and
WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and
WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and
WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and
WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and
WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and
WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Klancer, Mayor of the Village of Gowanda, do hereby proclaim April 24th as ARBOR DAY in the Village of Gowanda and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.”

Trustee Nephew advised that the Beautification Committee is asking the Chamber of Commerce for \$500 for plant material for the flower barrels.

Motion 25-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda Board meeting is May 8, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk