

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
CDBG PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 16, 2007**

A Special Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was held October 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose was to hold a public hearing for public input as to possible projects for the Community Development Block Grant funding. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Mike Hutchinson

Media Present: Mary Pankow, Gowanda Pennysaver

Public Present: Phil Palen, Jack Torrancem, Robert Heichberger

Motion 159-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Klancer advised that the purpose of the meeting is to review the projects before the Village. Rural Transit Van has requested to be third.

Mayor Klancer read the request from the Gowanda Volunteer Fire Company:
“The Gowanda Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. would like to apply for \$100,000.00 from the Community Development Block Grant funds.
The funds would be put towards the construction of our proposed Disaster and Training Center. This project will impact low, moderate and all incomes. It will be able to house victims of disasters that occur in our area and will be also used as a community center, able to hold large meetings and will be handicap accessible. Will be a training center for area fire companies, and an outreach center for area community colleges. Corrections will be able to train without traveling to Cheektowaga as they now do. It will be a win-win situation for so many people who will have access to it.”

Mayor Klancer read about the North Water Street parking lot, called Gowanda Commons.
“The project involves improvements to and creation of additional parking on North Water Street in the Village of Gowanda. The project would include enhancements to the existing village parking lot to provide support for community events to include Hollywood Happening, Pioneer Days, and the Harvest Festival. This project would support commercial development and support retention and creation of jobs in the Down Town Business District. This project is consistent with the Village Master Plan and the Down Town Revitalization study. This grant would involve a first phase of infrastructure improvements to the existing parking lot.”

Mayor Klancer then read about the Parking Lot Improvements project on South Water Street.
“The project involves improvements to the Village parking lot on South Water Street. The improvements will include lighting, landscaping, and a scenic walkway that embraces and interacts with the natural beauty and historical significant sights in the Village. The parking lot will not only provide functional parking space but will also provide a scenic river overlook walkway and a picnic area/Armed Services Memorial. The service memorial component of the Creekside Service Park will focus on Colonel Tom Parker, the highest ranking military man from Gowanda, who opened a business at this location. The Village of Gowanda Business Development & Downtown Revitalization Report stated that ‘Properties along South Water and Jamestown Streets do not have the same historic character and are generally not in as good a condition as those on West Main Street. High commercial vacancy rates and inappropriate land uses have

prevented South Water Street from achieving its full potential. Few businesses along South Water Street have taken advantage of the adjacent Cattaraugus Creek, and the area does not have parks or public spaces to allow residents and visitors to enjoy this important natural resource. Jamestown Street is still relatively vibrant. However, several buildings are in need of repair and there has been an increasing number of vacancies along the west side of Jamestown Street between Walnut and West Main Streets. Parking is a concern for the downtown, especially near the intersection of West Main, South Water, and Jamestown Streets. Additional parking would also be needed to support expanded business activity along Jamestown Street.”

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that when this project was previously submitted, the Village received a letter back stating that the project should be resubmitted at a later time. It was the Village’s #2 project last year.

Jack Torrance stated that since the Creekside project began in 2005, he feels it should be completed. He urged the Board to rank the South Water Street/Creekside project as first. Concept drawings are already in place which help to show that the project could be completed. Phil Palen endorsed the project as well. Mr. Palen suggested that a different name for the project should be considered since the Village already has a Creekside Park. He feels this project would be an asset to the community and indicates vitality in the Village. Mr. Palen indicated that improving the West Main Street parking lot would also be a benefit, although he knows that the entire lot is not owned by the Village. He also suggested ranking the South Water Street project first.

Trustee DeCarlo asked Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson if he had any idea whether or not fire company projects are funded by CDBG. Mr. Hutchinson indicated that Mark Lee advised that most often fire company projects are not funded, primarily because there are many other sources of funding for fire departments.

Trustee Sheibley agreed that finishing the South Water Street project is good. She also suggested that maintenance of the Panther Drive landfill should be considered as it is of urgent need and will cost the Village a lot of money. It should at least be on the list for next year if it is eligible. There is no design for the project yet but the Village needs to respond to the DEC within 45 days with a plan for stemming the erosion. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson inquired whether there might be some type of assistance or other funding from other partners regarding this landfill. The property belongs to the school and is located in the Town of Perrysburg. It is unclear how the Village ended up paying for the closure with no funding or assistance. There doesn’t appear to be anything hazardous in the landfill. It is construction equipment and debris. The groundwater is monitored regularly. Mayor Klancer suggested the Village should go after member items for assistance with this expensive project. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that if the site could be fixed for some sort of reuse, the school might be more inclined to help out with the cost. The landfill is approximately 9 acres. Removal of the construction debris is not an option.

Trustee Certis stated that the fire company request should certainly qualify as a community need, especially as a disaster center.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that the Village usually gets funded every other year. The funds need to be spent within the current year.

Mayor Klancer reviewed the suggested projects: South Water Street, to finish the park there; the parking behind the stores on West Main Street for electrical lighting, etc.; the fire company disaster/training center; and Rural Transit.

Trustee Certis stated that he would order the projects as the South Water Street project, the fire hall/disaster center and Rural Transit. Trustee DeCarlo agreed with the order. Trustee Sheibley agreed that the South Water Street project should be finished and she agreed with the Rural Transit van funding. She feels that the fire company training center is a good idea but she would like some clarification whether it is an eligible project. She also felt the Village should research funding for the landfill project. Jack Torrance stated that some backup project should be considered if Mark Lee determines that the fire

company project is not eligible. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that Mark Lee will be in the Village tomorrow for a meeting and his opinion on the fire company eligibility would be discussed. It was determined by the Village Board that if Mr. Lee does not think the fire company project is a viable one, Village Clerk Mohawk will advise the Board members to select a different No. 2 project. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that the fire company project has more of a chance of being funded than the West Main Street parking lot since there is other funding in place, there are plans and designs, etc. There is none of that for the parking lot.

Trustee Sheibley reported on a matter not related to the CDBG hearing. She stated that the ski signups will be October 25th instead of October 24th.

Motion 160-07. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Certis to close the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 161-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to rank the CDBG projects as 1. Creekside Park; 2. Fire Company disaster/training center; and 3. Rural Transit Van. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 162-07. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Certis to adjourn the Special Village Board meeting at 7:50p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk