

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 11, 2008**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor Richard Klancer at 7:00 p.m. in the Board room, Municipal Building. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Trustee Certis was previously excused from the meeting.

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Village Attorney Deb Chadsey, Public Works Superintendent Mike Hutchinson, Treasurer Cindy Schilling, Assessor George Stark

Media Present: Mary Pankow, Gowanda Pennysaver
Phil Palen, Cable Channel 22
Tim Latshaw, Observer

Trustee Sheibley stated that the motions on page 2 are numbered incorrectly with the year. Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the motions continue through the fiscal year and continue with 07. They should all read 07 instead of 08 at the end. Trustee Sheibley also indicated that any motions regarding the fire department issues should read 3-0 as fire department members should recuse themselves from voting. Trustee DeCarlo indicated that these items were Village equipment rather than fire department issues.

Motion 229-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008 Villlage Board meeting and Grievance Day as corrected. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 230-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve Abstract #10 dated March 11, 2008 on all funds as follows:

General Fund -	\$43,835.46
Water Fund -	\$ 8,025.19
Sewer Fund -	\$26,373.92
Joint Activity -	\$ 45.44
Total	\$78,280.01

Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Phil Palen reported that the street sign at Buffalo Street and East Main Street was either stolen or disappeared. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that the DOT

truck took it off. Mr. Palen asked if another one had been ordered. Village Attorney Chadsey advised the Village should make a claim for it.

ASSESSOR

Assessor Stark reported on two grievances from Grievance Day. He advised that Mr. Dentice, who owns the storage buildings on Palmer Street, will not pursue the grievance any further. He will apply for the business exemption for next year.

Assessor Stark reported that Mr. Shields, 120 Chestnut Street, presented 6 comparables to his property. Mr. Stark suggested that the Village reduce the assessment by about \$800. Trustee DeCarlo indicated that the property is in bad condition. Village Attorney Chadsey stated for the record that a homeowner's failure to take care of his property is not a legal basis for reducing an assessment.

Motion 231-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to reduce the assessment on 120 Chestnut Street by \$800. Motion carried 4-0.

PLANNING

Mr. Torrance reported at the last workshop it was agreed the Village Board would be given two months to respond to the proposed changes. One month has already passed. He stated that if they hear nothing, the Planning Board will proceed as if all is okay. Mr. Torrance also contacted the Town of Persia Planning Board and indicated he would meet with them to explain the Master Plan and seek a determination from them if they wish to be a part of the process.

Village Attorney Chadsey asked if when she reviews the minutes of the Planning Board, do they coincide with the Master Plan numbers. Village Clerk Mohawk indicated that was the intent of the minutes. Mr. Torrance asked Village Clerk Mohawk to supply the handouts which were presented to the Village Board for their review.

BUILDING/BUSINESS PERMITS

Village Clerk Mohawk presented a new business permit request for the new owner of Bella Bodyworks.

Motion 232-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the business permit for Bella Bodyworks. Motion carried 4-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Building Inspector Bowers presented another business permit application for the tanning salon and beauty shop at 18 East Main Street. He did the fire safety inspection and all appears to be in order.

Motion 233-07. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the business permit for the tanning salon and beauty shop at 18 East Main Street. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Torrance advised that Academy Place is supposed to be providing a site plan. The Planning Board is desirous of seeing how the adjacent parking space would be handled. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated the site plan should be coming in about a week.

Building Inspector Bowers did a fire safety and property maintenance inspection of the Municipal Hall at 27 East Main Street. There are some items that need to be addressed but basically all is in pretty good shape.

POLICE

Village Clerk Mohawk read the February 2008 police report:

“121 reportable calls, 18 arrests, 17 traffic tickets issued, 4 violent domestics, 5 motor vehicle accidents, 6 winter parking tickets issued.”

Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter from Officer-in-Charge Alessi:

“I am requesting the hiring of Officer Mike Kubiak of Lake View and Officer Gregory Szarowicz of Derby to our Police Force. Officer Kubiak is a 11 year veteran with the North Collins Police Department and Officer Szarowicz is a recent graduate of the Batavia Rural Police Academy.

Our department has two openings and these officers will fit into our team very nicely as both are available to work the overnights when needed.”

Motion 234-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve hiring Officer Mike Kubiak and Officer Gregory Szarowicz as part-time police officers. Motion carried 4-0.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley reported that the ski program concluded March 2nd, men’s basketball will conclude March 18th, and roller skating concluded March 7th.

Trustee Sheibley reported that the Torch Fund sent a donation for the recreation programs for \$2,000. The Recreation Commission will send a thank you on behalf of the Village.

Trustee Sheibley reported that two advertisements ran in the Pennysaver for summer employment positions. Letters were sent to those who previously worked for the program but it will be necessary for them to complete application forms as well. The deadline is April 1st. The next meeting of the Recreation Commission is April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

FIRE

Trustee DeCarlo advised the fire department has had 28 calls so far this year.

Trustee DeCarlo asked residents to shovel any hydrants that are near them.

Mayor Klancer read a letter from Rosemary Harris regarding a vacancy on the Gowanda Ambulance Board:

“This letter is to indicate my interest in this appointment and my willingness to serve the community.

I grew up in Gowanda as a child, left and returned in the early eighties to be with family.

I presently teach first grade for the Gowanda Central Schools.

I would appreciate consideration for this appointment.”

Motion 235-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the appointment of Rosemary Harris to the Gowanda Ambulance Board. Motion carried 4-0.

TREASURER

Treasurer Schilling advised that work is continuing on the budget.

Treasurer Schilling advised that she attended a meeting of the Erie County Municipal Administrative Officers Association and was elected President for the next 2 years. Next month they will have a representative from the Comptroller’s Office meet with them to answer any questions.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson reported on some funding from the Transportation Safety Enhancement Program which funds transportation related issues. He would like to apply for funding for the Peter Cooper project and the Veterans Park. Mr. Hutchinson sent information to the New York State Department of Transportation outlining both projects to seek a determination of whether or not these projects would be eligible. Treasurer Schilling asked if there would be any Village matching with this project. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated there would be a 20% match for the grant. Village Attorney Chadsey indicated that the Peter Cooper project will involve a substantial amount of cash. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that for the Veterans Memorial Park, CDBG funds are eligible matches. June 27 is the deadline for the application. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised he would like the application to be pre-screened before the deadline if possible. He indicated that any properties to be acquired need to be in conformance with federal requirements for property acquisitions. Village Attorney Chadsey indicated that some of these requirements may include easements, title searches, how much you pay for it, how you pay for it, etc. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson will provide Village Attorney Chadsey with the citation information so she can review it.

Motion 236-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson to proceed with the application process for the Transportation Safety Enhancement Program with regard to the Peter Cooper site and the Veterans Memorial Park. Motion carried 4-0.

Jack Torrance advised that he attended the Cattaraugus County Planning Board meeting. They are putting together a grant for signage for the Amish Country.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson reported that the Town of Collins requested the Village to waive lead agency status for the SEQR for the group home on Aldrich Street.

Motion 237-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to waive lead agency status to the Town of Collins for the SEQR for the demolition of the STEL house on Aldrich Street. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson requested authorization to bid chlorine and ferric chloride which is done every year. He asked Village Attorney Chadsey if it could be a two-year bid. She indicated that whatever contract can be negotiated with the vendor should be acceptable as long as it is good for the Village.

Motion 238-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to authorize Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson to solicit bids for chlorine gas and ferric chloride. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson presented some information on upcoming hearings on dam safety regulations. The Village has a dam.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that he has been negotiating with Vac-Con regarding the new flusher truck. He has been disappointed with the performance of the vacuum unit. Vac-Con has agreed that the truck did not meet the specifications of what the Village was seeking. They have offered to upgrade to a 3-stage pump which would do soft digging, cleaning the grid chamber, cleaning the digester, etc. A 3-stage pump would deliver about 200 inches of vacuum which is more powerful. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated they had to rent a vacuum because they could not get under the side hatch. The cost of the pump would be \$2200. If the pump had been purchased when the truck was ordered, it would have cost \$7800. Mr. Hutchinson indicated that funds would come out of the repair line item.

Motion 239-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize the purchase of the 3-stage pump for \$2200 rather than replace the same 2-stage pump. Motion carried 4-0.

The Village Board was presented with a petition from homeowners on Dawson Drive. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that there are lots of springs on Dawson Drive and only one catch basin on the street. The homeowners would like an expanded

storm drain system that would catch the runoff water. An estimated cost would be \$4-6,000. CHIPS money would be used for this project.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson presented a clean agreement for the Peter Cooper project. Village Attorney Chadsey indicated that the major difference between the two agreements is the last one put the risk of cost overruns entirely on the Village. Now the risk of cost overruns is split instead of putting it entirely on the Village. The Village is better able to control the risk.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson reported that the Village has three employees with the 40-hour Hazardous Waste training program. Trustee DeCarlo indicated that all employees with this training should maintain their certification.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated he met with the forester. He should have an inventory to the Village in the next month.

Trustee DeCarlo advised that Assemblyman Giglio introduced the bill in the Assembly to rename the bridge Gowanda Veterans Memorial Bridge.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the Event Application for the Cabin Fever Walk for Sunday, April 6th. The insurance certificate was also filed along with the walk route and the time.

Motion 240-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the event application for the Cabin Fever Walk submitted by LOVE, Inc. for April 6, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Village received \$75.00 from the Town of Collins for fine money.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that next Thursday, March 20th, Adecco will be using the Board room for recruiting purposes.

ENVIRONMENT

Trustee Nephew presented a check for \$1,000 received from Cattaraugus County Arts Council for Music-in-the-Park and the Heritage Harvest Festival. She also presented a certificate of merit from Assemblyman Joseph Giglio's office in recognition of being a recipient of the 2008 Community Arts Grant.

Trustee Nephew reported that the Village received a letter from the Department of Environmental Conservation congratulating the Village for being a Tree City USA village for 6 years. She also presented a trophy.

Trustee Nephew spoke about the amendment for the tree budget for \$1500. Mr. Torrance indicated the Village will recover \$750 from the tree grant. This will purchase about 20 trees depending on the price. The tree committee looks to Turnbills, Schichtels and Concord Nursery as they have in the past.

Treasurer Schilling advised the Board members that spending is close this year. Mayor Klancer had indicated that no unnecessary spending should occur.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that a spring tree harvest could mean revenues for this year which could be used for tree functions.

Motion 241-07. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo for a \$1500 budget amendment. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Klancer reported on the meeting with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the wagon train. The Gowanda Moose will make the meals and has offered their grounds. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson will apply for a road closing of Aldrich Street for use of the property across the street at the sewer plant. Bathroom facilities will be available at the Moose and showers at the high school. There will be another meeting in Little Valley on April 1st. Fire Chief Raiport and Historian Phil Palen will be involved with a committee for further planning.

Motion 242-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to go into Executive Session. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion 243-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

Motion 244-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Village of Gowanda Board meeting is March 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk