

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2007**

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 John Certis
Trustee Dale DeCarlo
Trustee Carol Sheibley

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Mike Hutchinson, Village Engineer Mark Burr, Recreation Director Mark Benton

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

Public Present: Jim and Dolly Little, Marie Taber

Trustee Sheibley requested a moment of silence for the passing of Trustee DeCarlo's father.

Motion 181-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2007 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim and Dolly Little were present on behalf of the Cattaraugus County Bicentennial Committee to discuss the 175 mile wagon train ride which will begin in Ellicottville. It will run from August 9th through the 22nd and will be in Gowanda on August 13th. They will need the Village assistance for supplying meals for the participants. They also would need an area to be used for a wagon circle with an area for the horses near the woodline. Jim Little mentioned that on a prior ride, communities hooked them up with places to stay, eat, shower, etc. Schools and firehalls were good spots for this. It has been advertised; television stations and newspapers will be traveling with the train. Trustee Nephew asked how many horses. Ms. Little estimated about 100. There will be educational information supplied as well as musical programs. The purpose of this wagon train ride is to include the entire county in the celebration. There is also a stagecoach which includes a mail booth. The County is collecting something from each Village and Town to include in the time capsule. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson asked how many acres would be needed for the camp. He indicated there is a 5-acre parcel near the sewer plant which might be suitable. It is next to the creek and has

some parking ability. Ms. Little indicated that the Collins Draft Horse Club will also be bringing wagons. She indicated that any organization can sponsor a wagon. The County will be sponsoring some of them. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson asked if they would be using a campfire. Mr. Little indicated they would be since speakers will be talking around a campfire and music events will also take place. Village Clerk Mohawk asked how long it takes for a wagon train go through town as there would be some need for traffic control. Trustee DeCarlo indicated he would present the idea to the fire department and asked the Littles to attend a meeting to explain what events would be taking place. Dolly Little provided her telephone number, 938-6313, for any questions. Mr. Little indicated the train could be about 50 wagons and 100 horses.

Marie Taber spoke to the Village Board about the alternate GI exemption. It was enacted in 1984 and revised in 1994 and left up to each municipality to accept it or not. She asked the Village Board why they did not accept it. Mayor Klancer indicated that in 1994 the Village Board voted not to accept it as it would be a significant tax loss to the Village. Ms. Taber questioned how the Village Board could say they support veterans and then not give them this exemption. Mayor Klancer indicated that the veterans do get a tax break from the towns. Ms. Taber stated this exemption would certainly help those on a fixed income. Trustee Nephew suggested that the Village Board should revisit this issue. Mayor Klancer advised that Assessor Stark presented paperwork to the Village Board indicating the effect this exemption would have on the Village taxpayers.

Village Engineer Mark Burr spoke about the Hollywood Theater. He reported they are in the process of upgrading the electrical service. The overhead electric wire which services the back of the theater needs to be bigger and he suggested going underground with the electric service. The electric poles are on the north side of the Village easement behind the theater. Any new electric service would need to cross this easement. He will provide a detailed property map and a request for a permit at the next meeting. Village Engineer Burr indicated that the existing firemen's electric pole is insufficient to supply the theater.

BUILDING/BUSINESS PERMITS

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the Building Inspector's report:

“88 permits so far, 2 pending action

monies in -\$3,983

Fire Safety/Property Inspections: 29 done, 14 #1 priority to go. Should finish #1 by end of December.

Monies in - \$600

One of the permits pending is to redo a storefront of a historical building within our historical section of the Village.”

Village Clerk Mohawk reported on a business permit application submitted by William Hirschman at 167 West Main Street for a real estate sales office. Building Inspector Bowers indicated that very little work needs to be done as it was previously an office. Mr. Hirschman will return at a later time to request a sign. Trustee Nephew asked about parking. Village Clerk Mohawk indicated that no mention was made of parking.

Trustee Certis indicated that if Mr. Hirschman goes through the Planning Board for the sign permit and as long as Building Inspector Bowers has no problem with it, he would recommend approval.

Motion 182-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the Business Permit application submitted by William Hirschman for a real estate sales office at 167 West Main Street. Motion carried 5-0.

POLICE

Village Clerk Mohawk indicated that Officer-in-Charge Alessi did not have a report.

Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee:

"On behalf of Governor Eliot Spitzer, I am pleased to notify you that the Village of Gowanda has been awarded \$1,500 to participate in the statewide 'Selective Traffic Enforcement Program.'" Our goal is to reduce aggressive driving and speeding."

Village Clerk Mohawk stated that Officer-in-Charge Alessi indicated this money would be used to offset the cost of the D-line patrol.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley requested approval of the Saturday morning recreation employees: Dave Steves, beginning Saturday, December 1st, at \$10/hour
Sean Gabel for men's basketball beginning on January 8th, at \$10/hour.

Motion 183-07. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to authorize the Saturday morning recreation employee, Dave Steves, and the men's basketball employee, Sean Gabel, both for \$10/hour. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley requested approval of Mark Meyers as a roller skating counselor at \$7.50 per hour. He will replace Josh Bartholomew who was hired last week but has taken a different job.

Motion 184-07. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the appointment of Mark Meyers as roller skating counselor at \$7.50 per hour to replace Josh Bartholomew. Motion carried 5-0.

Recreation Director Benton advised that the ski program at Holiday Valley has 52 people signed up with 6 chaperones. He indicated there is still room for a few more to sign up until the first of the year.

Recreation Director Benton indicated that 38 children have been attending the roller skating. He advised that he will open it up for 7th graders as well. The program can handle as many as 60 skaters.

Mayor Klancer asked Recreation Director Benton about changing the position from Recreation Supervisor to Recreation Director. Mr. Benton indicated that the position involves more responsibility such as supervising employees, maintaining safety for the skaters, etc. Mr. Benton presented a draft job description for the director position. He advised that it would only be another \$150 for the entire program and the Recreation budget can handle it. Trustee Nephew indicated that more skaters participate in the winter months. Trustee Sheibley asked Mr. Benton if this would be a permanent change or whether it is a change for this particular person. Mr. Benton indicated he wants it to be a permanent change. He wants to make sure the person is a qualified one. Mayor Klancer reminded Mr. Benton that the Village Board set rates last year for the recreation employees. Mr. Benton advised that the rates were set without any job descriptions for the positions.

Trustee Certis advised that the Recreation Commission was planning on doing job descriptions for the positions. Trustee Sheibley asked who is responsible for bringing the money to the office. Mr. Benton indicated that Barb Inglut is responsible. Trustee Sheibley asked if Ms. Inglut was aware of the rate of pay prior to taking the job. Mr. Benton said he did not think so.

Motion 185-07. Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to upgrade the position from Roller Skating Supervisor to Roller Skating Director. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee DeCarlo indicated that before anymore changes are made, the Village Board should be presented with job descriptions. Recreation Director Benton advised that the Recreation Commission should work on these descriptions. Mayor Klancer asked when the next commission meeting was. Trustee Sheibley advised that the meetings are traditionally held when there is something that needs to be addressed.

FIRE

Trustee DeCarlo advised the fire department has had 160 calls to date this year which is very busy. Trustee DeCarlo reminded everyone to check their extension cords, smoke alarms, CO2 alarms, etc.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated they are in the process of leaf pickup. He indicated that the streetscape amenities will be picked up soon. Once the leaves are picked up, the holiday wreaths will go up.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson met with the DEC forester and they walked the property on Cemetery Hill. The suggestion was to hire a forester, make him a consultant to the Village, hire him and then have him oversee the logging operation for the Village. Mr. Hutchinson indicated he would issue an RFP for a forester to represent the Village

for the logging. He will present three of them to the Village Board to be interviewed as a professional service.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk requested authorization to relevy the unpaid taxes to Erie County and Cattaraugus County for their collection.

Motion 186-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to relevy the 2007-2008 Erie County Special Assessments in the amount of \$21,332.72 and the 2007-2008 Cattaraugus County Special Assessments in the amount of \$46,111.07. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk read an invitation:

“You’re invited to a holiday open House and Marine Corps Toys for Tots Collection Drive at Assemblyman Joe Giglio’s Office, Westgate Place, Olean. The office is a drop-off site for the Toys for Tots program and we’ll be accepting new, unwrapped toys to help provide children who are less fortunate with a little Christmas.”

It is November 29th from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported on a letter from Gowanda Central School District regarding the “Superintendent’s Forum.” The school is attempting to get feedback from the community.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported on funds received: \$17.83 from 1-800-Reconex for gross receipts tax and \$41.04 from AT&T for gross receipts tax.

ENVIRONMENT

Trustee Nephew indicated that at the last meeting the Village Board did not pass the resolution for the Young Lungs at Play. Mayor Klancer read the resolution:

“ WHEREAS, smoking is responsible for the premature deaths of over 430,000 Americans each year from lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is responsible for over 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, accidents, fires and AIDS combined; and

WHEREAS, 80% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 12 years old; and

WHEREAS, every year in New York an estimated 24,900 young people under the age of 18 begin smoking and one-third of these children will die prematurely from tobacco related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General’s report states, the scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke and

WHEREAS, adults smoking rate in Tri-County is 25%, a much higher rate than the NY State adult rate of 18%; and

WHEREAS, Tri-County Steps to a Healthier NY program is collaborating with town and municipalities in Tri-County to model healthier behaviors for our children,

THEREFORE, the Village of Gowanda Board resolves as follows:

That the playground and park area located at St. John's Park and Hidi Park in the Village of Gowanda be designated as tobacco-free zone. Appropriate signage will be posted designating tobacco-free zones.”

Motion 187-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adopt the foregoing resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 188-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda Board meeting is December 11, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk