

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2010**

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 Carol Sheibley
Trustee Heather McKeever
Trustee John Certis
Trustee Dale DeCarlo

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

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

Public Present: Janet Vogtli

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that she made a correction on Page 7 of the December 8, 2009 meeting minutes. The correction was to the motion made after the Executive session. It originally read that the motion was for an in-house posting and that Trustee Sheibley disagreed because she felt the Village could better utilize their current employees. It was changed to read that the job was advertised to the public and that Trustee Sheibley disagreed because she wanted to wait until the upcoming budget numbers were worked out.

Motion 249-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2009 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee DeCarlo advised that the large amount of the abstract was due to the Union Concrete expense for the flood and the compensation insurance costs.

Motion 250-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve Abstract #8 dated January 8, 2010 on all funds as follows:

General Fund	\$101,552.40
Water Fund	\$ 37,980.11
Sewer Fund	\$ 31,806.88
Flood Fund	\$382,115.64
Joint Activity	\$ 3,620.73
Total	\$557,075.76

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Janet Vogtli advised that GARC needs approval from the Village Board for payment of bills.

Motion 251-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to authorize GARC to Benchmark. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 252-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee McKeever to authorize payment of the GARC bills. Motion carried 5-0.

The invoice from the Evans Agency has not been received yet but it needs to be paid by the 21st. It should not exceed \$1350.00.

Motion 253-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the payment to Evans Agency in an amount not to exceed \$1350.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Janet Vogtli requested approval to spend \$100,000 of the site improvement money in the Peter Cooper trust account as the local share for the Great Lakes Initiative grant application.

Motion 254-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee McKeever to authorize spending \$100,000 of the site improvement money in the Peter Cooper trust account as the local share for the Great Lakes Initiative grant application. Motion carried 5-0.

Janet Vogtli asked about the Governor's promise to supply the extra 12 ½ % for flood relief for the residents of the Village. Mayor Klancer advised that it would not happen. The impact on the taxes for the Village residents is yet to be determined since the budget process has not yet started. Ms. Vogtli advised that she is following up with Mr. Lawrence from TLC regarding the status of the hospital.

BUSINESS/BUILDING PERMITS

Trustee DeCarlo asked about the status of the problem on Palmer Street. Mayor Klancer indicated that Building Inspector Brecker is still working on it.

POLICE

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the Village received a check from the Town of Persia for \$150 for court fines.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented the 2009 Police Report:
"3025 reported calls which includes quick-calls, 252 arrests, 542 tickets issued, 51 violent domestics, 55 motor vehicle accidents.
Our goals for 2010 – increase training (ex. Firearms, report writing, suicide prevention for the jail part of our operation).

Replace one of the patrol cars as 2 cars have over 100,000 miles.

Our state inspection on December 10th, 2009 regarding our lock-up and booking room passed. The next inspection will be December 2013.

Erie County Central Police gave our department a brand new Toughbook computer for Car 80 (blue car), value of \$3500, as this will make the new plate reader work more efficient, plus we will not be charged for cell service.”

Treasurer Schilling suggested that the Village Board revisit the issue of a Village Court. Something is not right with the funds received from the tickets issued in the Village.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley requested approval to hire the following for ice skating at St. John’s Park on an as needed basis per the recommendation of the Recreation Commission: Ernie Stebbins at \$7.50 per hour; Carrie Poff at \$7.50 per hour; Aaron Benton, Drew Carriero and Shane Miller at \$8.00 per hour.

Motion 255-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee McKeever to approve the above-mentioned residents for ice skating at St. John’s Park on an as needed basis per the recommendation of the Recreation Commission. Motion carried 5-0.

FIRE

Trustee DeCarlo thanked all the other responding fire companies for their assistance at the disastrous fire on Erie Avenue. Mayor Klancer also thanked the Village Highway Department for removing the ice on the street.

TREASURER

Treasurer Schilling presented a memo that highlighted the flood costs to date. She advised the Village received just about \$1 million of FEMA reimbursement to date.

Treasurer Schilling advised that she will be getting spreadsheets together to begin work on the budget.

Trustee Sheibley asked Treasurer Schilling if she has been shopping around for better rates for the Village funds. Treasurer Schilling indicated that she has been and the best rate still is at Chase.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson requested authorization of an expenditure of \$8500 to Wendel Duscherer for preliminary design work for the Village hall.

Motion 266-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to authorize an expenditure of \$8500 to Wendel Duscherer for preliminary design work for the Village hall. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that interviews were held for a new public works employee. He requested a brief executive session to discuss his recommendations.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that support letters are being solicited for the Great Lakes Initiative project funding. Trustee Sheibley will follow up with those she contacted.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson presented a contract with Wendel Duscherer for the restoration of Thatcher Brook. It is for rip rap on South Chapel Street and also at Torrance Place. FEMA will fund this project. Mr. Hutchinson asked for authorization of the design of the project.

Motion 267-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee McKeever to authorize a contract with Wendel Duscherer in the amount of \$59,300 for the design/restoration of Thatcher Brook. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson requested approval to award the drywall bid to Clarence Wall & Ceiling for the low bid as follows: the ceilings for \$7,450, the drywall for \$11,590 and the insulation for \$2,600.

Motion 268-09. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee McKeever to award the drywall bid to Clarence Wall & Ceiling for the total low bid of \$21,640. Motion carried 5-0.

A statement of loss for this building is still being reviewed. The Village Board already approved the statement of loss for the Public Works Building. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that some of the reservoir work is out for bid.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that 63 projects have been written for FEMA projects for \$3,607,172. Eight projects remain to write. The Village is a little over \$4 million in damages. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson and Treasurer Schilling are working on determining where the Village stands in terms of local share and donated time and equipment. Treasurer Schilling stated that the department heads and supervisors have done an excellent job in documenting their time worked.

There was some discussion about Mayor Klancer lifting the State of Emergency. There are some issues still tied to the emergency so Mayor Klancer indicated it was not time to lift it yet.

The Hollywood Theater draft Grant Disbursement Agreement needs board resolution. The theater received a \$660,000 Restore NY grant.

Motion 269-09. Motion by Trustee McKeever, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the Grant Disbursement Agreement pending Village Attorney Chadsey's review. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated that today is his anniversary date at the Village. The contract states he should use his vacation time before his anniversary date or reschedule it.

Trustee DeCarlo suggested that the Village Christmas decorations should be replaced as the current ones are old. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson stated the decorations are owned by the Chamber of Commerce.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk asked the Village Board whether they would be holding a Registration Day.

Motion 268-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to not hold a separate Village Registration Day for elections. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk indicated the Village Board needs to adopt a resolution identifying the polling place and the hours the polls will be open, at least 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. Originally the Village Hall was supposed to be under construction so the polling place was moved to the Fire Hall. It was now changed back to the Municipal Hall.

Motion 269-09. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Certis to identify the polling place for the March 16th Village election as the Village board room. The polls will be open from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented information on a grant program through Erie County regarding feral cats. The animals must be caught and taken to Erie County but the \$10.00 includes spay/neuter, rabies, distemper, flea shots, etc. You must be a resident of Erie County and you must pick the animal back up.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that she received a call from the Town of Persia regarding the PILOT program for Academy Place. Last year the Village billed Academy Place and they paid us. It is necessary to determine how the funds will be divided with the Town of Persia and the school. Treasurer Schilling reminded the Village Board that the correspondence that occurred between the Town of Persia and the Village Attorney regarding this issue is not present in the office. Village Clerk Mohawk will check the minutes for any reference to payments to the Town of Persia from the PILOT for Academy Place.

Village Clerk Mohawk presented information from NYCOM regarding a Special Forum in Western New York: Local Government Consolidation and Dissolution: Understanding the New N.Y. Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. It will be held Wednesday, January 20, 2010 from 6-8 p.m. at Orchard Park High School. Mayor Klancer indicated he would attend.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Village received another \$1,000 from Dr. Hu for Chang-Hu Park. A thank you note will be sent to her.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Village received \$200 from Erie County for the use of the board room for elections.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Cattaraugus County indicated the Village was paid \$360.00 in miscellaneous payments, \$6,248.59 in mortgage tax payments, \$44,455.25 in real property tax payments, and \$160,109.89 in sales tax payments for a total of \$211,083.73 in 2009.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the September and October Treasurer's reports have been received and filed.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that she and Officer-in-Charge Alessi culled out more files from the listing of documents that were sent to Document Reprocessors and the new estimate for the work is approximately \$207,000. She indicated that after meeting with the FEMA representatives, it was determined that this would be written as a large project and it will need to go to bid. She requested authorization to put the project out for bid. The estimate provided by Document Reprocessors will need to be used to put together the specifications to put the job out to bid.

Motion 270-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to authorize Village Clerk Mohawk to put the document recovery process out for bid. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Disaster Recovery Relief fund has approximately \$19,000 for disbursement to residents affected by the flood.

Trustee DeCarlo asked if the Village received an animal control report. Village Clerk Mohawk will request a report from Animal Control Officer Dankert.

Motion 271-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to go into Executive session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 272-09. Motion by Trustee McKeever, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to come out of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Sheibley discussed her decision regarding hiring another employee. One of the top 5 applicants was the only one not currently employed and should could vote for him.

For Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson's recommendation, Trustee Sheibley stated should would vote for him if all work performed at the sewer plant be paid from sewer department monies so as not to impact the General Fund budget. Mayor Klancer agreed that this would be the case.

Motion 273-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis, to appoint Gary Lauer to the Motor Equipment Operator position, after verification from David Orth that he is going to retire. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 274-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 9:50 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda board meeting is January 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk