

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 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 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

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

Public Present: Jack Torrance

There was some discussion about the minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting minutes. Trustee Nephew indicated that she did not feel that the motion of a prior meeting should be removed from the minutes. Village Clerk Mohawk indicated that she did not remove the motion but rather indicated that the motion was rescinded at a later meeting. Village Attorney Chadsey advised that the action taken was correct as long as the minutes of the prior meeting note that the motion was later rescinded. Trustee Nephew indicated that more discussion should have taken place regarding the rescission of the motion.

Motion 199-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2007 Village Board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee DeCarlo advised that the Abstract was large due to two big bills: New York State Retirement and Workmen's Compensation.

Motion 200-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve Abstract #8 dated January 8, 2008 on all funds as presented:

General Fund	\$119,199.46
Water Fund	\$ 20,380.14
Sewer Fund	\$ 45,668.16
Capital Fund	\$ 115.04
Joint Activity	\$ 315.51
Total	\$185,678.31

Motion carried 5-0.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jack Torrance presented the Planning Board report:

“On Monday, January 7, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Board the primary focus was on discussing and preparing the revisions to the Master Plan that will be recommended to the Village Board at its regular meeting on January 22, 2008.

The Village Board still needs to decide if they want to maintain the combined Gowanda-Collins Master Plan or initiate a separation of the plan into a Gowanda Master Plan.”

Mr. Torrance that they would be attending the workshop on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Village Board questioned if this would be enough time. Village Attorney Chadsey advised that the Village will need to fully SEQRA these revisions. Village Attorney Chadsey indicated that the Town of Collins should be approached about their piece of the plan. Mayor Klancer indicated that Village Clerk Mohawk will send a letter to the Town of Collins advising them of the special meeting with the Planning Board. The Village Board decided that a special meeting will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 with the Planning Board, the Town of Collins and the public.

Phil Palen asked if the Village received any word from Erie County regarding the CDBG application. Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter from the County of Erie:

“The Project Selection Committee of the Community Development Block Grant Consortium has completed their review of the community project applications for funding in Year 2008. . . . Unfortunately, the following projects submitted by the Village of Gowanda were not recommended for inclusion in the Consortium Year 2008 funding application to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development: Creekside Veterans Park/Parking Lot and Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department & Tri-County Training Facilities.”

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson indicated there was a substantial decrease in funding this year. He indicated that the Village was funded last year so this was not the year. Interest in the Veterans Park might indicate funding would be possible next year.

## **BUILDING/BUSINESS PERMITS**

Village Clerk supplied a copy of the letter from Clinton Brown with the attached look for the new sign at Gabel Brothers.

## **POLICE**

Village Clerk Mohawk gave the December 2007 police report:

“146 reportable calls; 27 arrests; 38 traffic tickets issued; 2 violent domestics; 6 motor vehicle accidents; 20 winter parking tickets issued.

The Gowanda Police Department hosted the General Community College Police Academy recruits Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup> for the 20 recruits final practical before graduation. Volunteers from the community ages 14 to 65 and 10 Gowanda police

officers performed 5 scenarios at different areas of the building. Everyone did a great acting job as all the scenarios were based on patrol calls handled through the year. We would like to thank the community for all the donations of toys and clothes in regards to the “Cops, Kids and Christmas”. SRO Jen Alessi and community volunteer members who wrapped and handed out gifts to over 100 children. This was an outstanding event that put a lot of smiles on kid’s faces.

Just another reminder to please lock your vehicle as we are occurring more car break-ins. The kids are calling it “car bobbing”. We have made arrests this past month but we are dealing with 8 to 10 individuals.

I will have a yearly report at the next January meeting.”

### **JOINT ACTIVITY**

Mayor Klancer read the minutes of the Gowanda Recreation Commission meeting of January 2, 2008:

“The main issue was the salary of the person in charge of roller skating. There was some confusion as to the commission’s recommendation. Since the Village Board sets the salary of anyone hired, we had agreed (minutes 10/30/07) that any decisions on this matter should rest with the board. Further discussion ensued and commission members were all in agreement that the salary should remain at the present rate: \$10.00 per hour, that of a supervisor.

Another item on the agenda was ice skating at St. John’s Park. The commission has no real information on this activity. We need clarification as to the days and times this program will be held, weather permitting. Staffing also needs to be addressed.

The mayor and the commission feel that the various roles of those who fall under the umbrella of the commission need to be further defined along with the role of the commission itself. Carol Sheibley has written a rough draft that can be used as a guideline.

Our next meeting is scheduled on January 23. Starting on February 6, we plan to meet the first Wednesday of every month. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.”

“The Gowanda Recreation Commission did not recommend a change in either title or salary for the person in charge of roller skating. As stated in the minutes of our meeting on October 30, 2007: “Since the commission could not as a whole reach an agreement on this issue, we decided that the decision should be made by the village board. Carol Sheibley was asked to bring it before them as any change would require board approval.” Also: During the commission’s first meeting on April 12, 2007, we listed the chain of command as follows: Village Board, Recreation Commission, Director, Supervisor, Workers.

We have decided, starting on February 6, to hold our meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Due to questions that arose on January 2, 2008, we have also scheduled a meeting on January 23.

Diane Brown, Secretary”

There was discussion about an earlier motion that was subsequently rescinded. Trustee DeCarlo indicated that the decision had been made on information which was not correct. Village Attorney Chadsey advised that the Village Board should refuse to take any action unless a recommendation by a majority of the Recreation Commission has been received in writing. Village Attorney Chadsey advised that the Recreation Commission must keep minutes, they must be supplied within 7 to 10 days, they must present their advisory recommendations in writing by supplying them to the liaison and they must indicate that the issue has been reviewed and passed by a majority vote of the Recreation Commission. Trustee Sheibley stated that the Recreation Commission minutes are on file in the Village Clerk's Office. Village Attorney Chadsey advised Village Clerk Mohawk to supply copies of the Recreation Commission meeting minutes in the Board packets.

### **FIRE**

Trustee DeCarlo advised the fire department has had 4 calls so far this year.

### **TREASURER**

Treasurer Schilling indicated that the budget timetable was submitted.

Treasurer Schilling indicated that the website is up and running and she is putting together forms that people use.

Treasurer Schilling advised that she received an e-mail from Municipal Services requesting payment of \$21,306.58 for the first lease payment for the new plow truck.

Motion 201-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to authorize payment of \$21,306.58 to Municipal Services for the first lease payment for the new truck. Motion carried 5-0.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson presented pictures of the Veterans Park they visited in Greece, New York for some ideas for the Village's Veterans Park. Trustee DeCarlo indicated that both Senator Young and Assemblyman Giglio support the Veterans Park idea. The Town of Greece will be sending some information about the application process and how they went about getting started with the project.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson discussed the NYSEG easement for the electric line on Center Street. Village Attorney Chadsey will review prior to execution.

Motion 202-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to authorize the Mayor to sign the electric line easement with NYSEG, pending approval by Village Attorney Chadsey. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that the new truck is in the parking lot if anyone wishes to see it.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Village Clerk Mohawk requested resolutions regarding elections.

Motion 203-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis indicating there will be no Village Registration Day. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 204-07. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Nephew stating the polling place for the Village Election is the Village board room and the polls will be open from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk reminded the Board members of the meeting with Assessor Stark scheduled for Saturday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Alternate Veteran's Exemption.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported on a Recycling Day for Computer, Textiles and Trees on Saturday, January 12, at the Buffalo Zoo from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter from Assemblyman Quinn:  
"We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a dinner to discuss issues affecting the Southtowns on Thursday, January 24, 6-8 p.m., O'Brien's Pub in Eden. We are aware of the vast issues that you deal with on a daily basis. As an executive leader of a municipality, this dinner will provide a forum to share ideas, interests and concerns with other elected representatives. RSVP by Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>."

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that the office is still working on the paperwork for the Village-owned properties and where they are located.

Village Clerk Mohawk reminded everyone that this is the last quarter water/sewer billing. Now is the time to make payment arrangements for larger bills before they are relieved on the Village tax bills. Once the amount is relieved, it is necessary to pay the entire amount.

Trustee Sheibley reported that some of the stationery coming from the Village has incorrect names on it. Village Clerk Mohawk will make sure to get rid of it.

Motion 205-07. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

The next Village of Gowanda Board meeting is January 22, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk  
Village Clerk