

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2009**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees special meeting was called to order by Mayor Richard Klancer at 6:10 p.m. in the Board room, Municipal Building.

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

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

The sole purpose of this special meeting was to adopt a resolution for a study to investigate the feasibility of merging the Village of Gowanda and Town of Persia Highway Departments.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that he delivered a copy of the proposed resolution to the Town of Persia as well.

The study will determine the feasibility of such a merger. There are obvious differences such as union vs. non-union employees, an elected highway Superintendent, civil service classifications, etc.

Mayor Klancer feels that the project can be done. New York State is urging communities to investigate ways to consolidate services. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that the process will take some time, but this study will help provide some answers as to how it can be accomplished.

Trustee DeCarlo indicated that if the Village can justify the project, the State would more than likely provide the funding.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson stressed that the project would not be abolishing any department, but rather merging departments. He estimated the savings would be about 20%.

Mayor Klancer read the resolution:

“The Village of Gowanda and the Town of Persia are desirous of merging and sharing highway services, and
WHEREAS, by authority of Section 119-o of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, the parties hereto are enabled to enter into binding agreements for the cooperative or contract performance of various municipal functions; and
WHEREAS, in accordance with that authority, Persia wishes to merge highway services with Gowanda; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that authority, Gowanda wishes to merge highway services with the Town of Persia; and

WHEREAS, after examination and review on the part of the Village of Gowanda and the Town of Persia, and their respective attorneys, an equitable method of determining the services to be provided hereunder will be researched in a joint highway department merger study; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees has authorized Mayor Richard Klancer to submit an application to the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program for the 2008-2009 program year to evaluate the feasibility of a Gowanda, Town of Persia Highway Department merger; and

WHEREAS, said Mayor Richard Klancer has been authorized to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to said grant program and the Village of Gowanda has authorized the expenditure of the 10% local share;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and representations, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. The Village of Gowanda and Town of Persia are requesting \$25,000 funding for this feasibility study and will provide the additional \$2,777.77 as the local share for a total project cost of \$27,777.77.
2. The Village of Gowanda and the Town of Persia will be providing the following services to the residents of both the Village and the Town: Highway Department merger study.
3. The Village of Gowanda and Town of Persia will enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement for the purposes of the study to merge highway departments.

Motion 242-08. Motion by Trustee Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Nephew to adopt the foregoing resolution. Motin carried 5-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson stated that another draft agreement has been prepared with Gernatt's for the property sale. It appears that Mr. Gernatt wants to reverse the payment order - \$15,000 up front and the remainder of the \$65,000 at closing. Mr. Hutchinson also indicated that there may be a need to rent space there for a repair garage. The block building is not big enough.

Motion 243-08. Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to adjourn the Special Village Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk