

**SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 2008**

A special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was held November 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Richard Klancer (arrived at 6:10)  
Trustee Barb Nephew  
Trustee John Certis  
Trustee Dale DeCarlo  
Trustee Carol Sheibley

Others: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk

The main topic of this meeting was to discuss a resolution to designate the old eye doctor building on South Water Street as “spot blight”. This was a request from the Erie County Department of Environment & Planning as further documentation for the Village CDBG grant application.

There was some discussion about designating the entire area on South Water Street as “blight”. Trustee Nephew felt it would be better for the Village in terms of getting funding. Trustee Certis maintained that the Village needs to be careful about designating a certain area as “blight” particularly in light of the fact that there are private residences involved. Trustee Sheibley indicated that this particular resolution for spot blight would not affect the present application and the project rankings.

The Village Board discussed investigating the idea of “spot blight” prior to next year’s round of grant applications. Trustee Sheibley volunteered to call Erie County to ask about the implications of “spot blight” designations.

Trustee Nephew stated she would be interested in finding a plan to attract first-time homebuyers to the Village.

Motion 202-08. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adopt the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, the former optometrist office, located at 60 South Water Street (SBL 8.084-1-6), has been vacant for over four years, and  
WHEREAS, the continuing deterioration and decay of said property from water damage and lack of maintenance has caused slum and blighting conditions on a “spot” basis, creating a negative impact on the Village Center; and  
WHEREAS, the Village of Gowanda has acquired the former optometrist’s office from the previous owners and has developed a plan to eliminate the specific blighting conditions by demolition of said structure; and  
WHEREAS, the old optometrist’s office is an unsafe structure and poses a health and safety risk to the community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that 60 South Water Street be designated a “spot blight” location relative to the Community Development Block Grant application; and that this blight will be removed upon demolition of the building.”

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 203-08. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter indicating that the Village will send a letter to Erie County committing to the Village share for any grants that may be awarded through Community Development Block Grants. Motion carried 5-0.

Village Clerk Mohawk also indicated that Village Engineer Mark Burr requested a support letter for the Hollywood Theater project as well.

Motion 204-08. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support for the Hollywood Theater project. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 205-08. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the Special Village Board meeting at 6:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk  
Village Clerk