

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Carol Sheibley at 7:10 p.m. in the Board room, Municipal Building. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Present: Deputy Mayor Carol Sheibley
Trustee John Certis
Trustee Dale DeCarlo

Village Employees: Village Clerk Kathy Mohawk, Public Works Superintendent Mike Hutchinson, Fire Chief Steve Raiport

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

Mayor Klancer was absent due to work commitments and Trustee McKeever was absent due to a death in the family.

A moment of silence was held for Marilyn Utley, a 26-year member of the Gowanda Village Planning Board.

Trustee Sheibley indicated there was a typographical error on Page 3 of the November 10 meeting minutes.

Motion 215-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 Village Board meeting as corrected. Motion carried 3-0.

POLICE

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the Village received \$720 restitution for the tree that was damaged on Buffalo Street.

Officer-in-Charge sent his wishes for a safe and happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

JOINT ACTIVITY

Trustee Sheibley reported there is another ski signup scheduled.

FIRE

Fire Chief Raiport stated he spoke with representatives from Federal Signal Corporation about an advance warning system. This system could also be used for fire calls. The

company would be willing to come out to the Village for a demonstration. An alert can be placed on the creek which activates a controller and sets off a message of alarm. He will give a demonstration the first week in December. Once he gets the date, he will notify the Board members to attend the demonstration. The alert would be placed on Thatcher Brook. Village Engineer Burr suggested putting the sensor up near the catch basin. It is a computer-based system.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson requested approval of the negative declaration for the Hollywood Theater.

Motion 216-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to approve the lead agency status of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and the negative declaration for the Hollywood Theater project. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson requested Board approval to accept the insurance estimate of damages to the Public Works Building. This does not include the asbestos abatement and mold and moisture surface demolition. It includes everything that was removed as damaged by the flood. There was no equipment damaged. The appraised value is \$76,919.78. With depreciation the settlement to the Village is \$62,752.43. Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that he would bid individual contracts for the work to be done.

Motion 217-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to accept the insurance settlement in the amount of \$62,752.43 on the recommendation of Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that Alston, Schaefer is willing to do the electrical work for \$1,792.00, the amount of the insurance offer, plus an estimated \$500 in materials.

Motion 218-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to authorize Alston Schaefer to do the electrical work for \$1,792.00 plus an estimated \$500 in materials, on the recommendation of Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson requested authorization to allow Zoladz Construction to clear and grub the Peter Cooper site for \$38,500, to be paid with GARC money.

Motion 219-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to authorize Zoladz Construction to clear and grub the Peter Cooper site for \$38,500, to be paid with GARC funds. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson reported that \$1,558,149.63 of project worksheets have been done for the flooding. The mud is cleaned out of the reservoir. The work on the headworks to the reservoir should begin this week. A contract for the pumphouse restoration should be coming next week. A wall for the dam spillway will be poured tomorrow. The road work is done. At the wastewater treatment plant, the pump heads and the grinder will be replaced. There may be some insurance coverage for that and FEMA will pick up the difference. FEMA is looking at the attorney bills to consider whether they might be eligible for reimbursement.

Trustee Sheibley stated that it was agreed during the work session to place GARC funds in a trust and agency account and that dual signatures will be required to access the funds.

Motion 220-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to place \$234,864 in a trust and agency fund for GARC for the Peter Cooper project. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion 221-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to authorize the Village Treasurer to be the signator for the Village for access to Peter Cooper funds, along with a resolution from GARC. Motion carried 3-0.

ADMINISTRATION

Village Clerk Mohawk presented information about the Small Cities 2010 funding and the New York Main Street Program 2010 funding.

Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter from Belmont Housing Resources:

“This is to announce start up of the Erie County Housing Options (ECHO) Program. Monies made available through the Federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act are being used to implement ECHO within the Erie County Community Development Block Grant Consortium. Federal ECHO funds may be of benefit to residents of your community.

. . . The funds can be used to assist low income individuals and families with their rent and rent arrears, utilities and utility arrears, security deposits, short motel stays, housing search assistance and moving expenses. Some of the monies will also provide program participants with case management and legal services (eviction prevention . . . Although funds may be committed to homeowners under certain circumstances . . . this is not a mortgage assistance program.

Eligible households are those who are homeless or in imminent danger of becoming homeless, and lack sufficient support to access and sustain standard housing. Households must also have incomes 50% or less of the areas’ s median income.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that the 2010 January Rabies Clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets is set for Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Cattaraugus County DPW Garage from 9: 00 a.m. until noon.

Village Clerk Mohawk read a letter from the Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging:

“During the next few months we may experience a serious health crisis in our communities. The H1N1 virus and the seasonal virus have already proven to be of great concern in the United States and right here in Cattaraugus County.

The Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging is currently providing nutrition services to senior citizens in your community with the help of many generous volunteers. We also have one paid staff person working at the nutrition site in your community. We are going to make every effort to keep nutrition services operating as normal throughout any health crisis that we may encounter.”

Public Works Superintendent Hutchinson advised that a homeowner on Route 62 has asked to hook into the water and sewer lines. He indicated that permission will be granted if the Town of Persia agrees to create a special district to cover it.

Village Clerk Mohawk reported that Legislator John Mills announced he will be sponsoring a Concord, Home Energy Assistance Program on Tuesday, December 1st, at the Concord Town Hall, located at 86 Franklin Street, Springville. Interviews will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 pm. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. All applicants will be interviewed.

HEAP is a federally funded program to assist Erie County residents with their heating bills. The HEAP outreach will be administered by the Erie County Department of Social and Senior Services and is open to all income-eligible households.

Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board extended an invitation to a retirement party for Donald Rychnowski, Executive Director, on Thursday, December 10, at the Premier Banquet Center in Olean. A cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. The evening will include entertainment, buffet dinner, and remarks and presentations. Reservations are due by December 1st.

Village Clerk Mohawk requested approval to close the Village office on Friday after Thanksgiving.

Motion 222-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to approve the office closing on Friday, November 27th. Motion carried 3-0.

Deputy Mayor Sheibley asked about the status of the tax payments from Time Warner. Village Clerk Mohawk advised that Village Attorney Chadsey has all the information to review their non-payment.

Motion 223-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss personnel and Animal Control. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion 224-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to come out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion 225-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to post internally only the Motor Equipment Operator position for Highway Department with a date of December 8, 2009 as the last date to apply. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion 226-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to accept reimbursement from David Orth to pay his outstanding water bill from proceeds of the value of his sick and vacation time. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion 227-09. Motion by Trustee Certis, seconded by Trustee DeCarlo to pay Mary Dankert, Animal Control Officer, \$1,000 salary for the remainder of the fiscal year ending May 31, 2010, effective immediately. Motion carried 3-0.

Deputy Mayor Sheibley called Mayor Klancer on her cell phone to get his opinion and recommendation. Mayor Klancer agreed to the \$1,000 salary.

Motion 228-09. Motion by Trustee DeCarlo, seconded by Trustee Certis to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

The next Village of Gowanda Board meeting is December 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen V. Mohawk
Village Clerk