

Village of Gowanda  
Minutes  
February 9, 2021

Due to the scheduled work session ending early Mayor David Smith called the regular board meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Present: Mayor David Smith, Trustee Paul Zimmermann, Trustee Carol Sheibley, Trustee Aaron Markham, Trustee Wanda Koch

Employees: Clerk Danielle Wagner, Attorney Deb Chadsey-*via telephone*

Public: Representing Dollar General, Melissa Ballard, Marc Romanski, Frank Armento  
*arrived via phone conference at 6:00 PM, left at 6:16 PM*

### Mayor Updates

- Covid Update- 299 active cases in Catt County, 3,963 positive cases total, 81 deaths and 98,162 total tests given. Village employees are still actively working on a rotating schedule.
- 2021 2022 Draft Budget Update-the work session at today's meeting was a discussion on the draft budget, a public hearing will be scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5PM details for the public's attendance will announce later.
- Gowanda Medical Center Level 3- Gowanda Medical Center on Commercial Street has been labeled a Level 3 Patient Center Medical Home (PCMH), an honor that is given out to very few medical facilities across the state. They have customer satisfaction rating above 90%.
- Gowanda Happenings Update-Unfortunatly due to Covid and the time it takes in planning for the happenings, it will be cancelled for 2021.
- **Motion 2-134**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the agenda for the February 9th board meeting. Motion carried.
- **Motion 2-135**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes from the January 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Motion carried.
- Thatcher Brook Update-There was a conference call on 2/1/21, we are currently entering into the design phase and working on the funding aspects. Next conference call will be 3/8/21.
- Times Herald Article-The Mayor was reached out to by Rick Miller editor and chief at the Olean Times Herald to do a series of feature articles on the Village's continued progress with the varies projects that are in the works. The first one was on the Thatcher Brook Flood Mitigation Plan on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The articles will be featuring once a month.
- Rental Property Code Discussion- Trustee Koch and Code Enforcement Gary Brecker had a discussion with 2 property owners in the Village on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a productive meeting with another to be scheduled to try and improve rental properties throughout the Village.
- PBS Interview-PBS out of Syracuse will be coming on February 10<sup>th</sup> to interview Mayor Smith and Kristen Lay from Capozzis about the Gowanda Correctional Facility Closure and the impact it has on Gowanda.

## **Correspondence**

- Resident questions regarding budget and status-Treasurer Hopkins responded.
- Erie County CDBG Funding Denial Letter for the Sidewalk Infrastructure.
- Erie County Notification-NYS reducing sales tax payment to the Village.

## **Official Business**

### **Mayor/Board of Trustees**

A pandemic operations plan needed to be created per the Governors requirement. The plan has been provided to the board for approval.

**Motion 2-136** Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the Village's Pandemic Operations Plan. Motion carried.

**Legal-** *Due to scheduling this agenda item was moved up.*

The board needs to accept the DEIS from the Dollar General and open a 30 days public comment period. A site plan review will be scheduled. The Village will not be having a public hearing on this due to the pandemic and one was already held.

**Motion 2-137**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to accept the draft DEIS for the Broadway Group and Dollar General. Motion carried.

**Motion 2-138**-Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Koch to open the 30-day public comment period for the Dollar General starting on February 16, 2021. Motion carried.

### **Water-Liaison Carol Sheibley**

A water hearing was held and a recommendation was provided to the board for approval.

**Motion 2-139**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the water hearing recommendations. Motion carried.

### **Clerk-Danielle Wagner**

Cattaraugus County Legislation has asked for our support by passing a resolution to oppose the Gowanda Correctional Facility closure.

**Motion 2-140**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the Opposing Closure of Gowanda Correctional Facility Resolution. Motion carried.

Village Elections are taking place March 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-9 in the Village Hall.

A recommendation was made to the board to allow a separate water billing book to be created for the 30 accounts that are outside of the Village and get billed directly by the Village in the same billing as Village residents. Those residents pay a higher rate for water/sewer and they don't pay Village Taxes. It

would helpful to have them separated into their own billing book. A letter will be sent to those affected letting them know their account numbers will change from A to O.

**Motion 2-141**-Motion by Trustee Markham, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the creation of a separate water billing book for those outside the Village as stated. Motion carried.

**Police-Liaison Wanda Koch**

**Motion 2-142**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the resignation of Ryan Grey. Motion carried.

**Legal-Deb Chadsey**

The Draft Police Reform Policy was prepared by Officer in Charge Dennis Feldmann as a required by The Governor of New York State. A 30-day public comment period will be open for public review and comments to be made on the Policy.

**Motion 2-143**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the Draft of the Police Reform Policy and open up the 30-day public comment period stating February 12, 2021. Motion carried.

**Treasurer-Carol Sheibley, Traci Hopkins not in attendance**

A budget modification request has been provided to the board. A typing error was made on the modification request to move funds from the Water Fund but it should be General Fund.

**Motion 2-144**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve budget modification request #5. Motion carried.

**Motion 2-146**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the abstract bills to pay for General Fund \$38,340.48, Water Fund \$17,154.20, Sewer Fund \$31,855.74 and Capital Projects \$84,458.18. Motion carried

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on March 9, 2021 at 6 PM.

**Adjournment**

**Motion 2-147**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the board meeting at 6:40 PM. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted  
Danielle Wagner  
Clerk