

Village of Gowanda  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2024

Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Interim Mayor Peter Sisti.

Present: Interim Mayor Peter Sisti, Trustee Paul Zimmermann, Trustee Mark Nephew, Trustee Wanda Koch, Trustee Carol Sheibley

Employees: Clerk Danielle Wagner, Treasurer Traci Hopkins, Attorney Deb Chadsey(arrived @6:05), Highway Supervisor Adam Reid, Water Supervisor Kirk Trumppore, Code Georgeo Poff & Jason Pickering,

Absent: WWTP Supervisor Andy Carriero, OIC Ben Shields

Public: Jack Broyles, April Powell, Don Girome, Theresa Girome, Margaret Moritz, Phil Palen, Brad Mohawk

#### **Agenda & Minutes**

**Motion 10-64**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the agenda for the October 8, 2024 meeting.

**Motion 10-65**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the minutes From the September 10, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

#### **Public Hearing**

**Motion 10-66**-Motion by Trustee Koh, seconded by Trustee Nephew to recess into the CDBG public hearing at 6:03 PM. Motion carried.

The purpose of this hearing is for public comment the 2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant the Village will be applying for. The Village is applying park improvements at St Johns Park to include the installation of a splash pad, resurfacing the basketball court, new playground surface and having an ADA handicapped door installed at the Village Hall. The village will also support Rural Transit Service.

Phil Palen-asked if the Village Hall building repairs can be included into the CDBG (Treasurer Hopkins-no it is not eligible)

Jack Broyles-Can NY Forward be applied?(Treasurer Hopkins-only if projects submitted are chosen.)

**Motion10-67**-Motion by Trustee Sheilbey, seconded by Trustee Nephew to close the public hearing at 6:09 pm. Motion carried

#### **Public Participation**

Jack Broyles-has problems with the proposed landlord law.

April Powell-on behalf of neighborhood watch-can Village declare state of emergency on homeless and Immigrants, Creekside Park has some lights out and can Village enforce landlord inspections.

Don Girome-thanked for action on some of the drug houses, Allen, Caroline, and Aldrich has speeders-can Village changed speed limit, no crosswalk at St Johns Park.

Margaret Moritz-has issues with the selection of projects by the LPC.

Phil Palen-Can Village put in speed bumps on Aldrich, historical society annual donation from Village and tree planting for fall.

Brad Mohawk-Community Engagement Team-attended neighborhood watch, had 9 narcotic arrests in the past 10 to 12 days.

### **Official Business**

Mayor/Board of Trustees

Halloween trick or treating in the Village will be October 31 from 6pm-8pm.

**Code-George Poff & Jason Pickering**

Building permits-4, Business Permits 1, complaints filed 6, violations on patrol 3, notices sent 5.

**Highway-Adam Reid**

Street Maintenance is complete.

NYS DOL Notice of PESH Violation is abated and officially closed-most complaints were unfounded.

Interviews were conducted for the Highway position. A recommendation was made to the board.

**Motion 10-68**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the recommendation to hire Travis Moore as Class B Driver MEO for the highway department effective November 4, 2024. Motion carried.

**Water-Kirk Trumppore**

A water hearing was held on September 26, 2024 for a payment plan request.

**Motion 10-69**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sheilbey to approve the water payment plan request. Motion carried.

### **Police**

With OIC Ben Shields not in attendance, approval of the revised/updated policy and procedure manual is tabled until next month.

**Joint Activity-Carol Sheibley**

The Recreation Department received some grant funding.

**Motion 10-70**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded Trustee Koch to accept the Youth Sports Infrastructure Grant award for \$10,344.00 for a shed at Gateway Park. Motion carried.

**Motion 10-71**-Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the Sports Education Grant award for \$2,000 for some recreation supplies. Motion carried.

**Motion 10-72**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the 2024 Youth Development Funding from Cattaraugus County of \$3,900. Motion carried.

**Motion 10-73**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to accept the American Legion Donation for \$1,200. Motion carried.

***Legal-Deb Chadsey***

A proposed landlord law is being provided to the board. The attorney's recommendation is for the board to form a working committee of at least the 2 code enforcers, herself, a board member and at least 1 or 2 community members to review the landlord and zoning code.

The Charter Communications Franchise agreement needs renewal in 2 years. The board needs to set a Public hearing where the community can bring their issues with Charter and those can be brought to Charter as part of the renewal process.

**Motion 10-74**-Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to set the Charter Communications public hearing for December 10, 2024 at 5:30pm. Motion carried.

Thatcher Brook Diversion Channel Update-With the escalated cost estimates from the Army Corp the Village must navigate their options.

Option 1 is to accept the 30 million prices, which leaves the Village approx. 22 million short and construction could start in 2026.

Option 2 is to proceed with a new channel location (North of the railroad) with redesign cost at \$100,000 and Village cost approx. 9 million with construction potentially starting in 2027.

Option 3 would be to terminate the current project and seek funding from a general grant thru congress, the cost to the Village is unknown and it could take 3-5 years for federal appropriation.

***Treasurer-Traci Hopkins***

The Annual Financial Report was reviewed during the work session and provided to the board.

**Motion 10-75**-Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Koch to accept the Annual Financial Report for period ending May 31, 2024. Motion carried.

The Village is applying for 2025-2026 CDBG funds for St John Park improvements as number 1 and rural transit service as number 2.

**Motion 10-76**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve the Community Development Block Grant 2025-2026 authorizing resolution. Motion carried.

Ban borrowing renewal.

**Motion 10-77**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Nephew to approve the BAN Borrowing renewal authorization at \$2,865,000. Motion carried

Budget Amendment #3 for the General fund was provided to the board for approval.

**Motion 10-78**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve budget amendment #3 to accept youth bureau grant awards at \$12,344.00. Motion carried.

Abstract bills to pay #5 was provided to the board for approval.

**Motion 10-79**-Motion by Trustee Nephew, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve abstract bills to pay # 5 for General \$249,861.09, water \$8,625.19, sewer \$11,030.71 and Capital Projects \$670,673.75. Motion carried.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be November 12, 2024 at 6 PM.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion 10-80**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Wagner

Clerk