

Village of Gowanda  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2025

The Village of Gowanda Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Mayor Nephew at 6:00 PM.

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

Employees: Treasurer Traci Hopkins, Attorney Deb Chadsey (*via phone*), Highway Supervisor Adam Reid, Water Supervisor Kirk Trumppore, OIC Ross Olszewski, Code Jason Pickering, George Poff

Absent: Clerk Danielle Wagner, WWTP Supervisor Andy Carriero

Public: Jack Broyles, Theresa Girome, Jen Garnett, Gerald Emborski

#### **Agenda & Minutes**

**Motion 7-21**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve the agenda for the July 8, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

**Motion 7-22**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

#### **Public Participation**

Jen Garnett-abandoned properties in the Village-snack shack site-would like the property cleaned up. Would like an update on the abandoned properties.

Gerry Emborski-submitted a response to the concerns with the property on Memorial Dr.

Don Girome-neighborhood watch had a Village picnic on June 21. Update on the Village cross walk by St. Johns Park.

Phil Palen-49 Caroline Rd was demolished.

#### **Correspondence**

- Town of Collins adoption of Zoning law Revisions for allowed businesses in the residential agricultural district written comments due July 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Official Business**

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

**Motion 7-23**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve the Gowanda Chamber request for Music in the Park sponsorship. Motion carried.

**Motion 7-24**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve to hire Crystal Sargent as part time cleaner for the Village Hall and WWTP. Motion carried.

The Village Board is in favor of sending a letter of support to not close the prison.

GARC is seeking a letter of support for their grant application to seek improvements and amenities at Gateway Park. As discussed in work session-electric, water service, solar lighting, finish grading athletic field, play structure expansion, delivery and placement of 6,000 yd soil and engineering services.

**Motion 7-25**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sisti to submit a letter of support for GARC EPF grant application. Motion carried.

GARC would like support for prison site reuse in terms of what gets done with them. The push needs to be done with the State so they do not just sit there. A letter will be drafted.

Bradley Tree Service gave an estimate at \$4,200 for some tree work to be done at Chang Hu Park.

**Motion 7-26**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve Bradley Tree Service. Motion carried.

A resolution for the GARC grant application support was provided to the board for approval.

**Motion 7-27**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Koch to approve a resolution to support GARC's efforts to apply for funding for Gateway Park Improvements. Motion carried.

#### **Code Enforcement-George Poff, Jacon Pickering**

Building Permits 3, Complaints filed 4, Violations on patrol 6, notices sent 9, compliance notices 5, inspection requests 3, inspections 3.

A conditional business permit was had been requested for 6<sup>th</sup> cents to open a can redemption at 1 W. Main St. with the conditions they get their approved licenses from the DEC prior to issuing. The board has some concerns-that building was approved for the NY Forward grant money which was not for a can redemption center. Also, where would the cans be stored, how often will they be picked up and how will people access. The board has tabled this for next month.

**Motion 7-28**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to table until next months board meeting. Motion carried.

Information was forwarded to Mayor Nephew on how to acquire on vacant properties. A work session will be scheduled for further discussion.

A work session will also be scheduled for the multi dwelling code.

#### **Highway-Adam Reid**

Due to staffing shortage, a request was made to hire a summer laborer.

**Motion 7-29**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve to hire Christopher Burger as a seasonal laborer at \$16.00 per hr. Motion carried.

A response letter was drafted to the complainant of tire damage done by pot hole on East Hill St.

Road got dug up a little on Johnson St for a sewer problem that was there. The contractor has not fixed the road yet.

Jean Bartlett spoke to Mayor Nephew about the ditch behind her property on Eat Hill. D & H will look at it when they come through. It floods back there; it used to be dredged regularly years ago.

Trustee Sisti went to Hidi Park to look at the broken piece of equipment. It needs to be removed for now while it is looked to see if it can be fixed.

***Sewer-Andy Carrier***

**Motion 7-30**-Motion by Trustee Zimmermann, seconded by Trustee Sisti to approve BECC Electric change order transformer install at \$14,400.76. Motion carried.

***Water-Krik Trumppore***

The Village needs to seek a qualified engineer so when they are funded with capital funds for the water project the engineering with the proper process, the Village will be reimbursed. A request for qualified engineers will go out.

**Motion 7-31**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the request for qualifications for water engineering services. Motion carried.

A bond resolution is needed to be in place to fund the preliminary engineering for the project.

**Motion 7-32**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the bond resolution to finance the preparation of engineering plans and documents for the water infrastructure improvement project. Motion carried.

***Police-Ross Olszewski***

**Motion 7-33**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to accept the resignation of John Dowd effective June 5, 2025. Motion carried.

***Joint Activity-Carol Sheibley***

The Village received some youth development funding.

**Motion 7-34**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Carol Sheibley to accept the 2025 Youth Development Funding Award at \$18,800. Motion carried.

**Motion 7-35**-Motion by Trustee Sheibley, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve Josh Zubler Blue by You program coach at \$25 per night. Motion carried.

**Motion 7-36**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve Shannon Chimielewski Blue by You program coach at \$25 per night. Motion carried.

***Treasurer-Traci Hopkins***

**Motion 7-37**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve WWTP pay app #13 to STC Construction through 5/31/25 at \$86551.18. Motion carried.

The Persia Water Sewer district agreement has finally been ready for approval from the Town of Persia.

**Motion 7-38**-Motion by Trustee Sisti, seconded by Trustee Sheibley to approve the Town of Persia Water Sewer Agreement. Motion carried.

BOA predevelopment activities contract update-it is a 5-year contract, \$200,000.00 project. \$180,000 has been awarded, the Village has a 20% match that will come from the Community Development Special Project fund. Out of the 38 Brownfield sites that have been identified in the nomination study, a team will be put together to identify 5 Brownfield sites that they want for reuse including Phase I environmental studies if needed, building infrastructure, surveys, assessments, marketing plan development. On the original list was the Armes Building and the vacant bank.

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

**Motion 7-39**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Zimmermann to approve the abstract bills to pay for General \$77,100.95, Water \$1,794.91, Sewer \$49,983.68, and Capital Projects \$87,359.68. Motion carried.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on August 12, 2025 at 6 PM with a work session to discuss the Fire Code and the Multi Dwelling Code at 5 PM.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion 7-40**-Motion by Trustee Koch, seconded by Trustee Sisti to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM . Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted  
Danielle Wagner  
Clerk