

JOINT TOWN/VILLAGE MEETING

March 9, 2009

VILLAGE PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor
Sandra F. Brennan, Deputy Mayor
Bradley R. Hill, Trustee
Thomas LaGrou, Trustee
John Fox Jr., Trustee

TOWN PRESENT:

Will Wadsworth, Supervisor
Daniel Dimpfl, Council Member
Michael Tenalio, Council Member

PUBLIC PRESENT:

David A. Parish, Northern Livingston County American Red Cross
Howard Appell, Livingston County News
Julie Matthews

1. MEETING OPEN:

Mayor Hatheway called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. The main agenda item was to discuss the Village Summer Recreation Program with the Town Council, and any other matters that may come before them.

2. SUMMER RECREATION:

The Village has been in deliberation the past two months regarding the summer recreation program. In an email Monday, March 2, 2009 Supervisor Wadsworth requested an opportunity for the members of the Town and Village Boards to meet to discuss the summer recreation program before the Village Board made its final decision.

At this time, the Village Board is favoring maintaining a "Y" run program in the morning (9am-1pm), with no participant fees charged. No decision has as yet been made on the swim component of the program, whether it will be held in the morning concurrent with the recreation program or as an add-on after the morning program has finished, and whether it be a "Y" program or a Red Cross program.

The Village Board sees three options on the table:

1. "Y" based half-day program with no swimming component.
2. "Y" based half-day program with a swimming component.
3. American Red Cross swimming component in place of a "Y" swimming component.

The Board has asked the "Y" to develop a recreation program more tailored to Geneseo. The major complaint from last year was the rigidity of the program. Councilmen Tenalio asked for clarification of this. Based on what the Board has heard, Mayor Hatheway explained that last year's "Y" program seemed to be overly organized, which made the older children feel there was not the flexibility they had experienced in past years. Councilmen Tenalio wondered if this was brought to the attention of the "Y" staff members during last year's program. The Board stated that it had not been, but it has been since. By the end of the program, when surveys were taken, the ones still in the program were those that liked it. We were told after the fact that the older kids did not think it was as much fun as it had been before.

Councilmen Dimpfl sought clarification on the swimming piece, asking that if the swim instructors were "Y" instructors would they be "Y" certified, and if they were American Red Cross Instructors would they be Red Cross certified? The Boards agreed that this was correct. Councilmen Dimpfl asked in the past when the Village ran the program, were the instructors Red Cross certified? The Boards answered in the affirmative.

Councilmen Dimpfl asked if the "Y" program would employ people from somewhere outside the Geneseo area? Trustee Fox believed that the "Y" would be employing people from the Geneseo

area for both components of the program, based on what they did last year (~80% from Geneseo School District). Trustee Fox did not think it would be a problem for the past Red Cross certified employees to become “Y” certified, but that this is a question that the Village Board cannot answer at this time. The Board looked to Northern Livingston County Red Cross Executive Director David A. Parish for an answer. Mr. Parish stated that he did not know, but stated that becoming a certified Red Cross lifeguard or swim instructor is not an easy task and involves at least thirty hours of training.

Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that according to a “Y” swimming lessons pamphlet, “All YMCA swim instructors are required to have completed either the YMCA Lifeguard course or the YMCA Aquatic Safety Assistant course. In addition all instructors should be working towards obtaining certification as a YMCA Progressive Swim Instructor.” The Board agreed that they did not know exactly what those titles meant or how they would compare to the American Red Cross certifications. It was noted that perhaps there was a difference in relation to the type of body of water it is, a pool versus a lake, as the Town Board is aware that the lifeguards at Long Point Park are certified differently then they are if they were working inside at a pool.

Supervisor Wadsworth stated that he had asked for a joint meeting, noting that the Village has run the program in the past without interference from the Town Board, but as the issue became more public they thought it was best to meet. He feels very good about the compromise that was discussed at the Village Board meeting last Monday night (March 2nd) and feels the Town Council does not need to be involved with who administers the swim program, as long as there is a swim component. He complimented the Village, stating that he has learned that running a summer recreation program is a very involved process and he can see how much thought the Village Board has put into it.

Councilmen Dimpfl stated that it makes sense to have the swimming component in the morning concurrently with the “Y” program, because if the swimming were to be offered in the afternoon, we would create a whole day program. He noted that surrounding towns have morning swim programs that employ many of the Long Point Park lifeguards, as Long Point Park lifeguards do not go on duty until noon. It was noted that if the swimming component was offered in the morning at the same time as the park component, those wanting to attend the program in the park could also swim.

The Boards agreed that participants from the Town have different needs in regards to transportation than those from the Village. Those in the Village can walk or bike to and from the park or school for swimming lessons while many of the participants from the Town most likely cannot.

Mayor Hatheway asked if swimming lessons are offered at Long Point Park. Supervisor Wadsworth stated that they are not, but it is a long-range goal of the Town’s to provide such a program. Councilmen Dimpfl commented that such swimming lessons are offered at Camp Stella Maris, but they have an enclosed system of docks that allow for this. The key to offering swim lessons in a large body of water is to have a restricted space, which Long Point does not currently have. It was noted that Councilmen Manapol has long-term plans for a dock like this at Long Point.

Councilmen Tenalio stated that he would like to echo what Supervisor Wadsworth has said, the compromise of having a half day “Y” summer recreation is a good one, however he cannot comment on the swim component because he does not know enough about it. Councilmen Tenalio is an advocate of bringing the “Y” to Geneseo, and that the “Y” has other programs to offer including those for seniors and teens.

Trustee Fox stated that there is a willingness on the “Y’s” part to negotiate a price and if they offered both components (park and pool), there would be flexibility. He explained this with the following example: The program at the park would run from 9am-1pm, at noon those wanting to swim could be transported to the school for this. At 1pm the program at the park is over and the next session of swimming could start, therefore those wanting to attend the second session of

swimming in the afternoon could be transported to the school. Depending on the numbers of children enrolling for swim lessons, swim sessions could run from 12pm-1pm, 1pm-2pm, and 2pm-3pm. Trustee Fox felt that if the “Y” offered both programs there is more room for negotiation, which will result in a more favorable rate, and there would not be two groups handling the program.

Deputy Mayor Brennan asked if the “Y” was amenable to having the Red Cross run the swim component. Trustee Fox stated that they were, but then the Village would lose the negotiation factor. Trustee LaGrou suggested that if there were two groups involved in the program it would not run as smoothly as in the past. The Boards agreed that no matter what route they decide, they must get feedback from participants/parents not only during the program but also directly after, in hopes of discussing the program prior to January 2010.

Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that personally she is in favor of the Red Cross approach to swimming, but understands the issue of economics, therefore would not be opposed to the “Y” administering the swimming component. She believes that the Village has had confidence in the Red Cross program therefore should continue with that program. She added that she is in favor of the “Y” offering senior and other programs in Geneseo. Supervisor Wadsworth concurred with Deputy Mayor Brennan, except that if financial hardship would be felt if two groups were involved, he believes it is our duty to make sure we are being fiscally prudent.

Trustee LaGrou stated that he believes that both entities would run a good program, but if the “Y” is running the program at the park they should also run the swim program.

Councilmen Dimpfl asked if the swim instructors have been hired directly by the Village or Red Cross in the past? In the past, the Village or Recreation Director did the hiring and employees were paid directly by the Village. Mr. Parish stated that in past years, the Recreation Director would ask the Red Cross for a list of certified instructors and lifeguards. Councilmen Dimpfl asked what would happen this year? If the American Red Cross was to be the provider, it would be hiring and paying the instructors/lifeguards, with the Village contracting at a set price.

Mr. Parish stated that the American Red Cross Lifeguards are just that, lifeguards that would not be in the water instructing participants, as it appears per the “Y” Swimming Lessons pamphlet that Deputy Mayor Brennan read from earlier. Councilmen Tenalio stated that the Board’s should not speculate, but that a clarification is needed. Julie Matthews, an advocate to bring the “Y” to Geneseo believed that the “Y” officials could answer these questions to the Board’s satisfaction if asked.

Mayor Hatheway suggested there would be an efficiency in one group handling both components compared to two and that in order to resolve the issue the Village Board has to make a decision on a contract now, based on the program having at least 120 participants. Mayor Hatheway asked if the Town Board members present are satisfied with the direction we seem to be taking. Supervisor Wadsworth said that they were.

Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to revisit the motion made at the March 2, 2009 meeting which read: *“After further discussion, Deputy Mayor Brennan moved pending discussion with the Town that the Village Board give preliminary approval to contract with the “Y” for a half day recreation program based on the model they submitted, with the stipulation that greater flexibility in programming needs to be incorporated; also, that the Red Cross provide a swimming program to be offered in the afternoons after the “Y” component of the recreation program has ended”* Trustee Hill seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to rephrase the motion and put it into two motions as follows: Contract with the “Y” for a half day recreation program based on the model they submitted, with the stipulation that greater flexibility in programming needs to be incorporated. Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion. The motion passed with ayes from all.

Deputy Mayor Brennan advocated contracting with the American Red Cross for the swim component of summer recreation. Discussion followed on whether the Board wanted to move

forward with awarding the contract to the American Red Cross or “Y” for the swim component tonight.

What each agency would charge and what was included in the proposed fee was discussed. The “Y” Summer Recreation program in the park is proposed at \$30,500, with an additional estimated cost for an afternoon swim program, including transportation, from the “Y” for \$10,500. Trustee Fox believed that after conversing with representatives from the “Y” via the telephone this afternoon, they could offer a swim program with transportation for an additional cost of \$8,000, with a savings of \$2,500 from what was first quoted. The American Red Cross has stated that their cost for a swim program with no transportation is \$11,800. Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that she believed that the Red Cross price could be negotiated.

Trustee Hill asked for the thoughts of the Town Board. Supervisor Wadsworth stated that he believes that the transportation factor is very important. Mrs. Matthews stated that she did not believe transportation from the “Y” would be an option if the American Red Cross were awarded the contract. All present agreed that transporting the participants from the park to the school for swimming lessons was a key component.

Mr. Parish stated that the transportation factor was not included in the Red Cross quote, but that he could go back and take a look to see what numbers he could come up with. It was mentioned that perhaps the “Y” and the Red Cross could share the cost of the transportation component. It was also mentioned that there might be more room for negotiation if it is one provider versus two.

After further discussion, Trustee Fox moved to award the full contract to the “Y”, which includes the swimming component along with the transportation component, noting that the question as to when the swimming component would be offered, (morning or afternoon) could be worked out along with any other details. Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion. The vote was as follows,

Mayor Hatheway – Aye, Deputy Mayor Brennan – Nay, Trustee Hill – Nay, Trustee Fox – Aye and Trustee LaGrou – Aye. The motion passed.

3. Geneseo Tourism:

Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that she had spoken with Councilman Manapol regarding the Geneseo Tourism program. Councilman Tenalio stated that he also received a phone call from him. Councilman Manapol would like both the Village and Town Boards to increase the funds to the Tourism committee. Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that she did not know how much Councilman Manapol would like it increased.

Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that she has heard that they have not been able to advertise their events (such as the Art Stroll scheduled for June 19th) as widely as they would like to because of limited funds. Supervisor Wadsworth stated that if more hotels are built within the Village, that would help. The Town decreased the allotted funds to the Tourism Committee in the 2009 budget, because they had approximately half of their funds left over at the end of the year. Unfortunately Tourism funds are used on a project-to-project basis depending on what is planned, therefore the funds allocated are looked at yearly and either decreased (like this year) or increased.

Councilman Tenalio stated that the amount allocated to Tourism was higher a year ago because of start up costs, including funds allocated for creating a web site, but he would like to see the funds restored to their original level. Councilman Tenalio believes that Councilman Manapol has some ideas as to how the funds could be used, but believes that further details need to be presented prior to increasing their funding.

4. Village Signs:

Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that Councilman Manapol has noticed that the hand carved wooden entry signs into the Village are in need of repair or replacement. He also stated that there

are several signs placed adjacent to one another on 20A, which gives a cramped appearance. Councilman Manapol would like the two Boards to rethink how they want the signs, so they can be organized and placed at strategic locations. Deputy Mayor Brennan stated that Councilman Manapol has received one request to help with this from the company the Town used for the sign at the intersection of Volunteer Road and Route 20A.

Councilman Dimpfl mentioned that the hand carved wooden signs started as an Eagle Scout project some years ago, and that it makes sense now to review signage as a whole. Supervisor Wadsworth stated that the signs were installed prior to annexation of lands to the east, and that they had to be in place quickly because of the Eagle Scout time constraints, and agrees that the two Boards should look at this together.

5. Geneseo Building and Town/Village Court:

Supervisor Wadsworth and Mayor Hatheway have been meeting on a somewhat regular basis. However, the Boards agreed that they should make it a priority to meet more often. Councilman Manapol has stated to a couple Board members that he is very much in favor of this, but has a prior commitment on the second Monday of each month. Supervisor Wadsworth stated that he would like to make it a priority of each Board to meet more frequently to discuss joint issues.

Trustee Hill asked about the Town/Village Court discussions relating to relocating the Court. Trustee Fox stated that a meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday evening to discuss this matter further. Councilman Tenalio stated that the committee, Trustee Fox, Supervisor Wadsworth, Mayor Hatheway and himself have talked with the Judges and Court Clerks and have gotten their feedback. At this point the committee is planning to make a recommendation on what it feels would be the best option for the Court, and bring that option to the 4 justices and the Boards with the understanding that there are other options, but the committee feels one would be best. The options are keeping the Court in the Geneseo Building, relocating it on a temporary basis while the Geneseo Building is remodeled; relocating it permanently to the County Court House; and relocating it permanently to a vacant section of the Millennium Drive Complex (former skilled nursing facility). There are pros and cons of each option, but the committee wants to get down to one.

The goal is to make a decision on the Court then the Boards can proceed with plans for renovating the Geneseo Building. Mayor Hatheway stated that he and Deputy Mayor Brennan recently met with grant writer Bernie Thoma from Thoma Development Consultants regarding possible grants that might be available to help with renovations. Mayor Hatheway stated that Jon Norris, Architect from Clark Patterson and Associates has been asked to complete an engineering report for the building. Trustee Fox asked if Mr. Norris would be completing this report based on the original plan. Mayor Hatheway stated that the report would include the significance and integrity of the building, not future plans. The structural integrity of the current building and potential use of the building would be included in this report.

6. Meeting Close:

With no further business to discuss Trustee Hill moved with second from Trustee Fox to adjourn at 8:36pm. The motion passed with ayes from all.

Aprile S. Mack, Deputy Village Clerk