

Special Meeting to consider YMCA proposal for summer recreation program

PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor	Marsha B. Merrick, Clerk/Treasurer
Sandra F. Brennan, Deputy Mayor	J. Thomas Reynolds, Attorney
John Fox Jr., Trustee	
Bradley R. Hill, Trustee	
Thomas LaGrou, Trustee	

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Erik Fix (YMCA) Julie Matthews Howard Appell

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the meeting at 3:00PM and stated that the news media was notified of the meeting, and notification was posted on the bulletin board. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the YMCA proposal. Genesee/Wyoming YMCA representative Erik Fix stated that there are three models on the table: one to leave the existing summer recreation program the same; the second is a full-day, six-week program costing the Village \$30,000 plus \$30 per week for each participant; the third is a half-day, six week program costing the Village \$39,000 plus \$5 per week for each participant. Swimming is included in both Y proposals. It would be held at Camp Hough in Perry with additional activities planned if we opt for the full day, but just swimming if we opt for the half-day proposal. Field trips would be handled as in the past with the camper funding his or her own admission fees etc.

One factor to consider is whether or not State Youth Bureau funding (amounting to approximately \$9,400 this fiscal year) would be received if there were a fee charged to the camper for the program. Livingston County Youth Bureau Director Keith Mitchell has stated in a letter to the Village that the funding would not be available in that case. Dick wonders if the Village were to pick up the \$5 fee charged by the Y if the youth bureau money would remain. Erik said that the \$5 charged is not worth losing the youth bureau funding. A quick computation based on 120 kids times \$5 times six weeks amounts to \$3,600. Gaining \$3,600 but losing \$9,400 does not make sense.

Trustee Hill stated that his feeling was that the program in the past was all-inclusive; and he feels that it should stay that way. On the other hand, there are folks that are eager for the Y to come into the community. Based on that, he is in favor of option 2, the half-day program. He feels that it is a good time to try that. Trustee LaGrou concurred with Brad and would be in favor of not charging any fee for the program. Brad questioned Erik about scholarship opportunities for children and he said the option is there, but he doesn't think those eligible would bother with the paperwork for a \$5 fee. If the health department certifies the recreation program, folks would be eligible to apply for funding through the Department of Social Services.

Deputy Mayor Brennan wondered if there were an average number of kids that have attended the program in the past. John responded that it ranged from 120-192 (192 were registered for the swim program last year). There has been a registration program, but not a sign-in, sign-out system, so we don't know the exact number that participated each day. Sandy confirmed that even though there was no fee paid, kids still participated.

John wondered how many people attended the information meeting (40 approximately) and wondered how many would not support a program that was going to cost them anything. The response was perhaps half of the people that attended the meeting were against the fee. John surveyed the responses emailed over the past few days and determined that most of the responses were in favor of either a full-day or a half-day program regardless of the fees charged.

Trustee LaGrou feels that the people that were opposed in the first place were the folks that didn't want a full day with full fees and added that since there have been options offered, this group is less adamant now about a change in the program.

John is in favor of a half-day program with no fees; it gives the community the Y program, a similar program to what they're used to, another hour for drop-off etc. and the possibility of still obtaining the State money and hopefully the Towns of Groveland and Geneseo will pay their share as in the past.

Dick stated that this would be a pilot program for this year--establishes the presence of the Y in the community. He would prefer a full day program, but is willing to accept the half-day program if it gets the process started.

Dick then asked Erik his thoughts if half of a bag of oranges is better than no bag at all. Erik, too, favors a full day program. But from a Y standpoint, they would relish the opportunity to come to Geneseo for a half-day program and offer this to the kids in the community. It will be difficult at this point no matter if it is a full day or half day in terms of timing/hiring/organizing etc. Dick wonders if there are swim folks on staff to help with that portion of the program and Erik said that they are on staff at a number of locations and can be utilized. He added that the Y is always in the market for lifeguards and swim instructors for their many locations.

Brad wondered if Geneseo Central School district residents will be utilized for employment and Erik said they would do their best to do that. In Perry the goal was 80%, and only one employee that was hired was not from Perry.

Howard asked if the \$5 fee per camper per week was coming from the Village or not; Dick said that was the idea. Dick stated the contract price to the village would be approximately \$42,000 with \$10,000 coming back from the state, plus contributions from the Towns of Geneseo and Groveland to help offset that amount. Brad stated that if the State funding doesn't come through, then fees would need to be charged. Dick also stated that the towns of Groveland and Geneseo have not yet been contacted regarding their level of participation, but they might not have much flexibility because their budgets have already been adopted for this year.

Dick stated that one of the ultimate goals is to get the Y here. Sandy stated that she felt also that it would be a great opportunity to get them established in the community. On the basis of Trustee statements, Trustee Fox moved that the Village contract with the Genesee/Wyoming YMCA to assume responsibility for the Village's summer recreation program for a half day (9AM – 1PM), with bussing and weekly swimming included; all terms of said contract to be put in writing for signature by the Mayor. Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion. Questions left unanswered are the availability of State funding and camper fees. Either a half-day, free program funded by State, Village and Town funds or some registration fee charged, perhaps \$5 per child per week if the State funding is not going to be available.

Dick confirmed that early drop off and late pickup will be charged for at a nominal fee to the specific users of that service. Erik clarified that the early drop off is not part of the program, but a service the Y is willing to provide; if we provide bussing, there probably would not be many takers for the early drop off. Mayor Hatheway asked for any further questions or comments from the Board members. Hearing none, the vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Fox-Aye, Trustee Hill-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion carried.

Brad stated that the public should be aware that a swimming program was possibly not an option with the regular program (due to the pool being closed this summer), but with the Y alternatives, it is a possibility. Erik stated that only if kids are registered in the program could they swim; the swimming will act like a field trip. Julie Matthews wants the public to know that the revised swim program is not because the Y is taking over summer recreation, but because the GCS pool will not be available this year. Erik stated that if the pool were to be available next year, the program would be revisited at that location.

Dick pointed out that we have just approved a new program, and that everyone needs to be flexible, as we might have to adjust here and there.

Howard Appell asked about the other youth recreation programs offered throughout the year. Dick said that these satellite programs are not affected at this point, but will be looked at in the near future.

2. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL PARK LANDS:

Attorney Reynolds has spoken with Frank Csapo (owner of 1.17 acres on Highland Road identified as tax map #81.9-2-1.11) and Tom has drafted a proposal for purchase of that property which is adjacent to Highland Park for \$37,000. The proposal is contingent upon the Village obtaining sufficient funding through a grant, and possibly contingent upon the Village obtaining adjacent parcels (simultaneous contracting). Frank came in last week and offered his appraisal of the property, Attorney Reynolds added. Closing would be within 30 days of obtaining the grant money.

One option is to buy the parcel outright and purchase it as a standalone, or wait for other parcels to be purchased together.

Dick said that today the Board could authorize a signature for the Csapo parcel for \$37,000 contingent upon getting a grant. Typically in these contracts there is some “earnest” money that changes hands, Attorney Reynolds stated; it could be a token amount to be placed in escrow to hold the deal open.

Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to submit a purchase offer for this particular property (1.17 acres at the northwest corner of the skating rink contiguous to Highland Park) for \$37,000, contingent upon receipt of a parks grant. Trustee Hill seconded the motion. Trustee Fox wondered if that price could be a benchmark for the other parcels; Attorney Reynolds explained that the Village has hired an appraiser to determine the value of the parcels. This parcel is the only one not landlocked. Tom believes that appraisals must be attached to the grant application, which is due by June 30. The Village has to make the offer (to purchase the property) and the offer has to be accepted to be included with the grant application as well. Dick said the deadline is actually mid-May to get the information to the grant writer, Stu Brown. The vote was unanimously in favor of submitting an offer to purchase the property from Frank Csapo with the contingencies listed.

Tom asked for some earnest money to be put up to “seal the deal”. Trustee Hill moved to place \$500 as earnest money in escrow for purchase of the Csapo property and for the offer to remain valid until May 5th at 4:30PM (close of business). Deputy Mayor Brennan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

3. GENESEO BUILDING ROOF PROJECT:

Mayor Hatheway mentioned that the electric service comes into the building via overhead wires at its SE corner. Code Officer O’Keefe wondered about the possibility of burying the electric cable underground. Supt. Welch said there is no problem digging the trench. Dick wondered how expensive it would be to get an electrician in to make the conversion and asked Trustee LaGrou for his advice. Tom asked if a new electric service was to be installed in the building and the response was, yes, but not until the building renovation takes place. Tom said he would take a look out back.

4. PERSONNEL ISSUES:

Trustee Fox moved to enter into executive session at 4:00PM to discuss personnel issues (medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person, or matters leading to said dismissal, removal, promotion, appointment, employment, discipline, demotion or suspension). Trustee Hill seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Trustee LaGrou moved to come out of executive session at 4:45PM with second from Deputy Mayor Brennan. All were in favor.

The Board agreed to begin the meeting on May 5 at 6PM instead of 7PM as regularly scheduled.

5. MEETING CLOSED:

With no other business to come before the Board, Trustee Hill moved and Trustee Fox seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:46PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk