

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 3, 2008

PRESENT:

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

Marsha B. Merrick, Clerk/Treasurer
J. Thomas Reynolds, Attorney

PUBLIC PRESENT:

None

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the meeting at 7PM following a workshop session that began at 6PM to review the zoning code revisions. The minutes of the October 20, 2008 regular meeting were reviewed. Deputy Mayor Brennan moved and Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion to adopt the minutes as presented. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Fox-Aye, Trustee Hill-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

2. OPPORTUNITIES - RECAP:

- Destination Downtown: Sandy and Dick attended and found the conference useful, valuable and interesting. Our Main Street is alive and well according to Mayor Hatheway. The many groups that work for Main Street (SMS, GUMA, Welcome Center, etc.) work very hard to see that it stays that way. Sandy has a summary of the conference for anyone who was not able to attend.
- Local Government Efficiency: John and Sandy went to the workshop in Syracuse and John reported that it is one of the most well attended conferences that he has seen. He reported that communities are already effectively able to get the money from the State and show a savings, the goal being to consolidate services wherever possible. Benefits can be realized outside of the things already being done locally (courts, code office, etc.). Councilman Manapol attended also and the three shared a good conversation on the way home about ways to make Town and Village operations more efficient. There is a packet of information available for anyone to review.
- Bernie Thoma, Inc: Information gleaned at the last Association meeting about grant possibilities.
- Department of State: soliciting grant applications to communities for participation in the Brownfields cleanup projects. That is a continuous application process.
- Tourism: Dick attended the dedication of the Chamber of Commerce garden in honor of George Traber.
- Museum: The Livingston County Historical Society has hired Anna Kowalchuk as a part-time administrator at the Center Street museum.

3. COUNTY NOTICES:

- ❖ Watershed Council: Mayor Hatheway received a proposed 2009 budget for the Watershed Management Program. The Village share is roughly the same as in the past, approximately \$30,000. Municipalities that take water from the lake are mainly responsible for funding the inspection program. Villages of Avon and Geneseo each

- pay 25% of the cost; other towns around the lake have responsibility for a much smaller percentage of the cost. Dick distributed a copy of the budget to the Board members.
- ❖ Board of Supervisors: A public hearing has been scheduled for additions to Livingston County Agricultural Districts pursuant to Section 202-b of the NYS Agricultural and Markets Law. Twenty petitions for inclusion have been filed with the Livingston County Board of Supervisors, including property within the Village of Geneseo (Temple Hill). The hearing is scheduled for November 12, 2008 at 1:35PM in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Government Center.
 - ❖ Health Department: Notification has been received from the Livingston County Department of Health that they have reviewed and approved the plans and specifications for the relocation of the water supply for the Livingston County Government Center (Livingston County Jail Addition Project). Approval of the plans *does not release the Village of Geneseo from complying with the requirements of other agencies*. Dick is not sure what the last statement means, and he asked Supt. Frazier to check with Supt. McTarnaghan on it.

4. TAX EXEMPTION CHANGES:

Notification has been received from Livingston County that they have adopted a local law allowing for a tax exemption for Cold War Veterans (defined as persons who served on active duty between September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991). The exemption would be a basic 15% not to exceed \$12,000 of assessed value on their primary residence for a limited time of 10 years. In addition, the law also provides an exemption to qualifying service-connected disabled veterans of an amount not to exceed \$40,000 with no time limit. The Town of Geneseo has also adopted this local law. In order that the assessments remain uniform for Town and Village of Geneseo residents, Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to consider a similar local law to coincide with the County and Town. Trustee Hill seconded the motion and the vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Fox-Aye, Trustee Hill-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion passed and the Board set a public hearing date for the local law on December 1st at 7:15PM.

In addition to the new Cold War exemption, the County and Town raised the income limits for the Senior Citizens Exemption (Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law), and for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes (Section 459-c RPTL). The 50% level will rise from \$18,500 to \$19,500 and with the sliding scale added, the upper limit was effectively raised from \$26,899.99 to \$27,899.99. With respect to the Senior Citizens Exemption, the Village of Geneseo passed Local Law #2 of 2006 stating: *The schedule of income limits and exemption percentages to be applied to real property owned by persons shall be the same schedule as that adopted each year by the County of Livingston by the Town Assessor, without public hearing.* With regard to the exemption schedule for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes, Local Law #2 of 2006 states: *To be eligible for the exemption authorized by Real Property Tax Law Section 459-c and implemented by this article, the maximum income of such person shall not exceed limits set by the County of Livingston. The Village Board of Trustees adopts the schedule of exemptions as that adopted by the County and the Town of Geneseo. The Town of Geneseo Assessor is hereby authorized to annually implement said exemption schedule, without further action by the Village Board, upon receiving notice of the adoption of the exemption schedule by the County of Livingston.*

5. LEGAL ITEMS:

Attorney Reynolds spoke with the buyer's attorney this afternoon with regard to 14 Center Street. The closing on the property should be scheduled soon.

Rental housing: Attorney Steve LaGrou has an amended order that he wants Attorney Reynolds to review. Nothing has been received from Judge Taddeo yet.

There will be minor amendments to the nuisance law and Tom will prepare the documents for those.

6. PUMPER PURCHASE:

The advertisement for bids was published the newspaper and the bid opening is scheduled for November 13 at 2PM. Dick commented that the charge now is to find financing for the purchase.

7. SRO-SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER:

GCS Superintendent Tim Hayes met with Mayor Hatheway and Chief Osganian today to discuss this. Dick told him that while the Board appears to be supportive of a SRO, it questions whether it would be appropriate for the Village to commit to funding the officer during the summer when he/she is not assigned to the school. Eric presented a thorough analysis of the costs of the position. Philosophically the board is in favor of the concept but they are reluctant to have Village taxpayers be responsible for the extra personnel needed for the school coverage. Complicating matters are associated with the requirements that the officer be a member of the Village PD, and thus covered by terms and conditions of the labor agreement between the Village and the PBA. The SRO position in other schools (York, Livonia, Avon) was discussed.

8. CORRIDOR STUDY:

The minutes from the last meeting are available from Mayor Hatheway. A count of vehicles and pedestrians has been conducted in the Court Street area as part of the study.

9. HEALTH INSURANCE:

Clerk Merrick and Mayor Hatheway met with Health Insurance Consultant Bryan Bond to discuss what the health insurance options might be at this point in time and to examine the cost of the various plans. There are some excellent programs available that make so much sense, Dick stated. He will be writing to the unions (Police and DPW) to ask if they might be willing to review some of these other plans and get the process of considering health insurance issues started before contract negotiations in early 2010.

10. PUBLIC SAFETY:

The Halloween parade went well as did the rest of the Friday night festivities. Chief Osganian was concerned but pleasantly surprised at the limited amount of issues during the holiday.

Officer Yasso is undergoing treatment after a needle stick incident recently, according to Trustee Hill.

Regarding the fire department, there were 23 fire calls and 133 ambulance calls during the month of October.

Trustee Hill moved to approve membership in the fire department for Darrell Knights, Jessica Ansel, Arman Partamian, Mark Simeone, Leo Fisher, Timothy Holley, and Johannes Haensch. Deputy Mayor Brennan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

11. PUBLIC WORKS:

GUMA has asked the DPW to put up the park lights and the trees for the holiday decorations. Parking "holidays" will start December 17 and Sandy will report that to the Supporters of Main Street group.

Parking on Second Street was discussed.

Deputy Mayor Brennan reported that Supt. McTarnaghan has been notified by the County Health Department that the Village water system failed the third quarter THM samples (a byproduct of chlorination). Clerk Merrick published the prescribed notice in the Genesee Valley Pennysaver. It was noted that the stringent testing of the water and the low maximum contaminant levels cause violations to occur periodically and because of this, the general public is quite used to seeing this sort of notice.

The new pickup truck has been delivered and the water/sewer generator work is nearly finished according to Sandy.

Trustee LaGrou reported that leaf pickup would be taking place through the Thanksgiving holiday and Ken's Tree Service has completed the annual tree trimming and pruning work. Clerk Merrick asked for permission to pay Ken's for the work done and Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to pay the contract price of \$8,876 as well as for the removal of trees at 27 and 39 South Street for an additional amount of \$752. Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion and all were in favor.

12. TRUSTEES:

The Mayor commended Deputy Mayor Brennan for the work she did in reviewing the zoning code comments and preparing for tonight's workshop session.

Arleen Somerville thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the Destination Downtown conference.

Trustee Fox provided the Board with an updated *Water Fund Billed Consumption and Costs* report through fiscal year ending May 31, 2008. Trustee Fox has been keeping track of the cost to provide water to the College and the other entities (Town/Village/York) versus the amounts paid for that service.

Trustee Fox reported on his recent conversations with Town Councilman Tenalio with regard to the courts, relocation of office functions and renovation of the Geneseo Building.

Ambulance Captain Karen Dewar called to say that the defibrillator for the Geneseo Building has arrived. Before it can be installed, however, the occupants of the building must undergo training.

Trustee Hill: reported that Kiwanis has agreed to pay \$150 for the use of the Doty building for the Youth Recreation basketball league supervised by Ted Saunders.

Brad also reported that SUNY VP for Student & Campus Life Bonfiglio is putting together the next Campus Coalition meeting.

Trustee LaGrou reported that he and John Fox met with GCS Supt. Tim Hayes with regard to sports programs in and outside Geneseo Central School. Effectively he gave a concise answer, Tom stated, if Geneseo Central is responsible for paying the supervisor, they are responsible for the insurance for the group. If they do not pay the supervisor, they are not responsible for the insurance. Trustee Fox said the Village should use the same procedure.

13. CLERK/TREASURER:

The September Treasurer's report was distributed to the Board members.

Clerk Merrick reported that she attended a Governmental Accounting School hosted by the Office of the State Comptroller in East Aurora last month. Topics covered during the three day session included Basic Accounting Principles, Revenues and Receivables, Expenditures, Expenses, Encumbrances and Liabilities, Interfund Transactions, Managing Cash Assets Effectively, Purchasing and Claims Processing, Reserve Funds, Accounting for Capital Projects, Capital Assets, Fiduciary Funds, and Financial Reporting Requirements.

The GFOA (Government Finance Officer's Association) hosted a *Webinar* last week entitled: "Weathering the Storm: Managing Government Finances in Today's Fiscal Climate". The one and a half hour presentation (via internet and phone connection) was informative and brought together

presenters from Onondaga County, HSBC Bank, City of Albany, Office of the State Comptroller and representatives from bond counsel and markets. Clerk Merrick attended the Webinar along with Deputy Clerk Mack and Asst. Clerk Lund. One of the most beneficial aspects of the training was that during the session, Clerk Merrick was able to expose Deb and Aprile to various financial accounting aspects of the Village that they have not seen firsthand.

14. MEETING CLOSE:

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Fox moved and Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion to adjourn. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Fox-Aye, Trustee Hill-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:43PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk