

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2011

PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor	Marsha B. Merrick, Clerk/Treasurer
John Fox, Jr., Deputy Mayor	
Sandra F. Brennan, Trustee	
Margaret Duff, Trustee	
Thomas J. LaGrou, Trustee	

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Georgene Ehmann	Sue Richardson	Scott Evans
Ellis Baehr	Dr. Amy Sheldon	Howard Appell
Becky McKeown (Genesee Sun)		

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the meeting at 5:00PM. The minutes of the November 21, 2011 regular meeting were reviewed. Deputy Mayor Fox moved to approve the minutes as presented with second from Trustee Brennan. The vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

2. GEORGENE EHMANN – GENESEO GARDEN CLUB:

Georgene is chairperson of the Civic Beautification Committee that is in charge of twelve sites in the Village and Town. One site is the watering trough at the corner of Center Street and Temple Hill. Many folks have asked if anything can be done to improve the area. Day lilies are on one side of the trough and a bush on the other side. There are grants to help with the cost of any improvements and there is money in the Garden Club budget for this purpose as well. Georgene would like to research the site and see how it might have looked in the past. Generally the stonework is in good shape except for the stones at the top of the structure. The trough itself is usually full of water and leaves and is cleaned out periodically.

The Board was supportive of whatever can be done to improve the site that was turned over to the Village in 1888 from William A. Wadsworth who constructed the trough in 1885 to serve the new fountain on Main Street. Trustee LaGrou mentioned that a plaque might be in order to commemorate the site. Georgene will do some research and come back to the Board with a plan for improvement. She will check with the DPW department as far as the stonework repair and perhaps look into the possibility of enlisting the help of a scout who is looking for an Eagle Scout project. The Garden Club will examine possibilities and get back to the Board when a proposal has been developed.

Co-President of the Garden Club Sue Richardson mentioned that there are still some items in the Log Cabin that could be weeded out. There are tarps, bread trays, extra lights and miscellaneous other items. Trustee Brennan stated that one grill and the freezer that are in there were used during the summer concert series. Supt. Frazier will be asked to look in the cabin to see what is there and to communicate with the other groups, Rotary, etc. to see what can be disposed of.

3. HYDROLOGY CLASS STUDENTS:

Drains to Streams Project: a collaborative initiative between the Village and SUNY Genesee to increase awareness about the harmful effects of dumping contaminants into storm drains.

Following up on a presentation to the Board earlier in the fall, Ellis Baehr reported on the progress made by the water sampling group. Their short term goal is to establish a baseline chemistry

of the water flowing in the storm drains. Their long term goal is to continue sampling to determine what the storm sewer lines are transporting and to determine if the Drains to Streams Program improves the quality of water. The water quality entering the Genesee River through the Village's storm drains can then be monitored now and in the future. Testing has taken place in four locations in the Village: one on Park Street, two on Court Street and one on Seneca Avenue at Jaycox Creek. Grant funding was obtained for the laboratory analysis. Water samples were tested for the presence of pesticides, nitrates, and oil and grease. The results showed no significant detections other than for nitrates.

Scott Evans spoke about three other groups participating in the project including the public relations group which hopes to inform and educate the community. One thought is to distribute door tags designed to inform the public about the project and to increase awareness of efforts to keep storm waters clean. Samples were distributed to the Board members.

Another group is the school-based educational initiative with the intent of involving 9-12 grade school students about storm drain runoff and how their actions affect surface and groundwater. A "travelling lab experiment" includes a demonstration of the difficulty of removing pollutants from the groundwater once they appear. This is a transportable demonstration, and this unit on groundwater flow would fit into the State Earth Science curriculum.

A fourth group researched information on the variety of storm drain markers including a price list. Several options were included ranging from plastic markers to aluminum, stainless steel and brass. There are approximately 212 storm drains in the Village. The group consulted with Supt. Frazier to obtain a map indicating where the drains are located. Marking each drain is one option and marking only half the drains was also explored. Drains were designated as draining either to Jaycox Creek or directly to the Genesee River. Ultimately, all of the storm water in the Village drains to the Genesee.

Timeframe: this class will be finished this month and the next class begins with the fall, 2012 semester. The students in the current class are committed to working on the project even next spring if the markers can be obtained. Village funds would be needed for the markers as the grant funding supported only the laboratory analysis.

The Board thanked the students for their accomplishments thus far and for their willingness to see the project move forward.

Trustee Duff entered the meeting.

4. YOUTH RECREATION:

A letter from the County Youth Bureau reinforces the practice of needing to charge user fees for youth recreation programs, due to additional cuts in State funding.

Mayor Hatheway has written to YMCA summer recreation coordinator Erik Fix to review the 2011 experience and perhaps begin the discussion about the 2012 summer program. Hopefully that process will begin before the end of the calendar year.

5. LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORP:

Correspondence was received from Director Pat Rountree regarding Village implementation of the new downtown tax incentive program. Governor Cuomo signed into law the *legislation introduced by Senator Cathy Young and Assemblyman Dan Burling to authorize a 12 year tax abatement program to targeted downtown areas. This culminated a two year effort to get this passed.* Mayor Hatheway stated that the Town would need to adopt this as well because the Village is not an assessing unit. This abatement would not take away any taxable value currently in place, but offer abatement only on new improvements. Director Rountree will be invited to the next Board meeting to clarify.

6. RECEPTIONS:

LaBella Associates has sent an invitation to their reception being held on December 8th.

MRB Group is hosting a holiday open house on the same evening.

ESL Bank-Geneseo held a reception in recognition of their one-year anniversary this past week.

The Village Board will be hosting the annual holiday reception on December 19th from 5-7PM.

7. HIGHLAND PARK PLAQUE:

A draft of the wording for the plaque has been circulated for Board and Mrs Simms' approval. Jason Frazier is planning to mount it on an appropriate-sized boulder. It will be ordered today.

8. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

Roger Smith has stated that he will be removing the items from the boulevard as he uses them up, as was requested through Attorney Reynolds.

A public hearing has been scheduled for the next meeting to amend the vehicle and traffic code to include more permit parking spaces on University Drive.

The holiday events over the past weekend including the Sing seemed to be fairly well attended.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Chief Osganian submitted his monthly report to the Board members.

Deputy Mayor Fox reported that it was an interesting weekend as far as ambulance calls etc. At the Campus Coalition meeting today it was the topic of discussion. Reportedly there were 24 ambulance calls and 3 fire calls including 17 SUNY calls with 10 transports. Four of the transports were from campus and six were from off campus locations.

10. PUBLIC WORKS:

Supt. McTarnaghan reported that the crew is performing routine maintenance.

Items submitted by Supt. Frazier are:

1. Crews have completed leaf collection this season. All seemed to go well.
2. Rubbish day today, usually takes two days to get around the Village.
3. All testing on the manholes has been completed by Babcock and all passed the vacuum tests.
4. Christmas decorations have been hung on Main St, lights in the trees, trunks wrapped with lights, trees in the fountain, and lighted wreaths at each end of Main Street.
5. Plow trucks and one salt truck are ready for winter and one sidewalk plow is ready. One large truck is out getting a new salt body installed and should be placed in service next week.
6. Asphlund Tree Company has been contracted by RG&E to trim the trees around the high power lines in the Village.
7. Members of the crew are using up their vacation time but all will be called in if plowing and/or salting needs to be done.

11. TRUSTEES:

Trustee Brennan: One) the next meeting of the committee working on code revisions is this Friday. Two) Sandy has discussed with Louise Wadsworth and Julie Marshall the importance of coordinating Development Corporation grant awards with the local review process (i.e. the Planning Board) for the sign and façade program.

Trustee Duff: Cate Concannon contacted Margaret stating that a farmer's market wrap up meeting will be held tomorrow. Cate plans to contact the Village Office to arrange when she can present the final report on this year's market to the Board.

Deputy Mayor Fox: Attended the Healthy Campus Coalition meeting and the coalition is looking at an awards program. One award would be given to a citizen that is 'doing the right thing' and another would be a Spirit of Geneseo award for businesses or groups that are doing the right thing. They have gotten assistance and support from the Chamber of Commerce. More information will be coming in February.

Trustee LaGrou: Insurance Agent Andrew Chanler spoke to Tom about the findings of the loss prevention inspection that occurred earlier in the fall. The major concern was the wooden fort structure ('Fort DeBadts') at Highland Park. The structure was constructed several years ago using pressure treated lumber, which is now unacceptable from an environmental standpoint; NYMIR feels the structure is chemically and structurally unsound and has outlived its usefulness. The fort is considered a liability from an insurance standpoint according to NYMIR's insurance inspector. Board members were in agreement that it does not make sense to neglect a liability such as this, but they hate to see the fort go from a historical standpoint. Before reaching a final decision the subject will be discussed further with Supt. Frazier.

12. CLERK/TREASURER:

Trustee Brennan moved to adopt the following resolution to use reserve funds for an equipment purchase: RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Geneseo hereby authorizes the expenditure of up to \$38,000 towards the purchase of a salt box for the new dump truck from the General Fund equipment reserve. Trustee Duff seconded the motion and all were in favor. Supt. Frazier had planned to use these funds for the purchase.

NYCOM is sponsoring a seminar entitled *NY's New Property Tax Cap: Issues and Implications* on December 20 at Alfred State College. Mayor Hatheway plans to attend. Mayor Hatheway also looked up the local law to override the tax cap and would like the Board to consider adopting the local law. Since the budget process is looming on the horizon, it would be beneficial to have the override provision in place in case it is needed. Even though the legislation can be enacted by the municipality, it does not need to be used, if the 2% cap in the tax levy is not exceeded.

13. PERSONNEL ISSUES:

Deputy Mayor Fox moved to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Trustee Brennan seconded the motion and following a unanimous vote the session began at 6:00PM.

Trustee Brennan moved to come out of executive session at 6:49PM. Deputy Mayor Fox seconded the motion and all were in favor. No formal action was taken during the session.

14. MEETING CLOSE:

With no further business to discuss, Deputy Mayor Fox moved and Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion to adjourn. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk