

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 19, 2011

PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor
Sandra F. Brennan, Trustee
Margaret Duff, Trustee
John Fox, Deputy Mayor
Thomas J. LaGrou, Trustee

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Howard Appell Patrick Rountree, Livingston County Economic Development Director

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the meeting at 3:00PM. The minutes of the December 5, 2011 regular meeting were reviewed. Deputy Mayor Fox moved to approve the minutes as presented with second from Trustee Duff. The vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion carried.

2. TAX ABATEMENT LEGISLATION:

Mr. Rountree congratulated the Village on being awarded a Main Street grant (see below). Trustee Brennan thanked Deputy County Economic Development Director Julie Marshall as well as Louise Wadsworth and grant writer Thoma Development for their major assistance.

The County Office of Economic Development has embraced several thrusts in the downtown areas, Mr. Rountree continued, including entrepreneurship and community revitalization. Other goals are to provide some funding for signs and facades and provide for some tax abatements for those business improvements.

Section 485-a of the Real Property Tax Law granted a partial exemption from increased taxation for certain real property in the Village that was converted to mixed use (commercial and residential). That was enacted by Local Law #2, 2011. Mayor Hatheway stated that Assessor Carol LaVigne had indicated that enactment of that Local Law had no bearing, because the Village is not an assessing unit.

Mr. Rountree explained that another section of Real Property Tax Law has recently been enacted by the State, Section 485-N. According to Senator Cathy Young's justification, *The County of Livingston has requested to have legislation enacted that will benefit the County of Livingston and all Towns, Villages and School Districts within the county, by allowing them to grant real property tax abatement in defined redevelopment areas.* This new section of the law defines *residential-commercial exemption programs, applicants, benefit areas, commercial construction work, commercial purpose or use, commercial property, mixed-use property, municipality and residential construction work.* Since March 1 is taxable status date, the law must be enacted locally before that date. It affords a 12-year (on a sliding scale) tax abatement to any commercial business for any mixed-use improvement. The significance of March 1st is a result of the Village of Geneseo obtaining the Main Street grant, and there could be some business owners remodeling their businesses this next year. If the upstairs is vacant or if they would like to convert the building all to business or office, the statute would apply. The Village must take the first action, even though it is not an assessing entity. The County has already indicated it will introduce the local law for any village that has gone through the process of enacting it first. Any improvements that occur in 2012 would then be eligible for abatement in 2013 if the local law is adopted.

Pat distributed a sample local law for the Board's consideration. The Main Street grant application to the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal defined a downtown area that could be used to set the boundaries for the tax abatements (*the Downtown Revitalization District*). Also needed is to appoint a *Commercial Mixed Use Incentive Board (selection of the members would be at the sole discretion of the Municipal legislative body)*. Mayor Hatheway and the Board suggested that the Planning Board could fill that role.

Following further discussion, the Board stated that they would review the sample legislation, pass it along to Attorney Reynolds to review and consider scheduling a public hearing for the local law at their January 9th meeting. The Board thanked Mr. Rountree for his assistance.

3. MAIN STREET GRANT:

The grant application was for \$410,000, which is the amount that was awarded. Within the award are funds for administration (\$30,500) and streetscape improvements (\$45,000) leaving \$330,500 of grant funds for business building improvements (to be augmented by private funds). In addition, \$4,000 is earmarked for architecture/design, engineering and other professional fees. According to the application, *The Geneseo Downtown Revitalization Program will use \$410,000 in NYMS (New York Main Street) funds to renovate 9 buildings in its designated National Landmark Downtown, including the vacant and historic Riviera Theater. Interior renovations will be made to 10 commercial and 11 residential units. \$130,000 in private funds will be leveraged. Streetscape improvements will include new historic lighting and brick crosswalks. Several merchants had expressed interest in obtaining the grant funding including Dawn Aprile, Mr. Sullivan, the proprietors of the Not Dot Shop, the Homestead, the proprietors of 53 Main Street (Muddy Waters), and the proprietors of the Campus House. They will now be given the opportunity of formally applying for that funding.*

Mayor Hatheway talked briefly with RG&E representatives and was informed that replacing the existing street lamps with more decorative fixtures would be on the order of \$10,000 including conduit and poles. RG&E can provide the style of lights that are at the Center Street entrance to the parking lot. If the Village were to own the lights, any style would be available to use. RG&E will send more information and a proposal. Trustee LaGrou wondered if the Board members would want to look at other styles of light fixtures; the response was yes along with consideration of the different methods of installing the brick crosswalks. Another item that might be investigated would be the possibility of replacing parking meters.

Paperwork will be forthcoming to start the wheels in motion for the grant program. Julie Marshall, Deputy Director of the County Economic Development Office will be going over the paperwork with Mayor Hatheway.

This is a great opportunity for the Village, Mayor Hatheway concluded, and a great honor to be selected as one of the communities in New York State that received funding. Thanks go to Trustee Brennan, Louise Wadsworth, Julie Marshall and Thoma Development.

4. PARK REQUESTS:

A request has been received from the Residence Director of Jones Hall at the College to hold a Crop Walk Sunday April 1st with start/finish in the Village Park. The Board was supportive of the event and Clerk Merrick will forward the park use reservation form to them for completion.

A request was received from ARC to hold the annual Ramon Rocha 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, October 6, 2012. The Board was supportive and a reservation form will be sent to Jeff Thomas, Public Relations Director at ARC.

5. TOURISM:

Arleen Somerville provided an update to her report of website visits to geneseony.com. In July there were 660 visits per day, 683 in September, 691 in October and a record number through the first week of December. Deputy Mayor Fox noted that perhaps businesses should contribute to the tourism budget as they are benefitting from the advertising. The Town and Village contribute 90% of the tourism budget.

6. TOWN FIRE CONTRACT:

Mayor Hatheway asked Deputy Mayor Fox if there has been any discussion with Chief Chanler about the renewal. Since there was not, John will take the draft contract to the Chief to make sure all is in order and then it will be delivered to the Town.

7. ZBA:

ABVI Goodwill: there will be a hearing on January 3rd dealing with their request for expanded signage for the donation center.

8. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Hatheway noted that a report has been received from the Livingston County Planning Department regarding training hours for the zoning and planning board members. Everyone is up to date on the required training except for two members. If they have not fulfilled their training obligations, they are ineligible to be re-appointed. They have received notification of this.

A note of appreciation was received from the Garden Club for the assistance given with moving the dried flower arrangements from the log cabin to the Armory in October.

Mayor Hatheway reported that he and Clerk Merrick met today with Erik Fix from the YMCA and talked about the past year's summer recreation program. Erik will put together a proposal for next year hopefully by the end of this week. He was pleased with the programmatic portion of the program but does not have firm reasons as to why the numbers of participants were down. Several theories were discussed. In terms of satisfaction of folks at the end of the program, there were high marks given by those who had attended. Mayor Hatheway advised Erik that there has been interest expressed by another individual for a program, but a proposal has not yet been received. Also discussed was a possible refund due to the lower attendance than was anticipated in the contract; Erik promised to look into that.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Deputy Mayor Fox moved to approve the following new members of the Fire Department: Dan Kawaguchi, Ben Lieberman, Sanghyup Kwok, Nicholyn Sykes, Brandon Witenzen, Tanner Harvey, and Julie Jo, and to accept the following resignations: Jimmy Huynh, William McLean, and Kristen Laird. Trustee Brennan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Chief Osganian's report was reviewed. There will be an increased awareness on drunk driving in this community as well as others by local law enforcement over the next couple of weeks. According to the National Traffic Safety Institute, there is a fatal crash every 39 minutes that involves alcohol. The slogan for the holidays is: *Drive sober, or get pulled over*. A website addressing the topic is www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

10. PUBLIC WORKS:

Responding to a request, Supt. Frazier has estimated the cost to install a sidewalk in place of the stone path on the west side along Route 39 from Westview Crescent to the Central School. The Village owns the pathway along the State highway. The cost would be approximately \$25,000 for an

8' concrete walk, and \$14,000 for an asphalt walk, using DPW labor. Other suggestions were to determine costs for just improving the drainage on the pathway and perhaps adding gravel in the low spots.

Items submitted by Supt. McTarnaghan include:

- Routine maintenance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- There is a pump issue at the Water Treatment Plant that is being worked on.
- There was an issue with a clogged catch basin in the Reservoir Road area.
- There have been water meter replacements.
- Continuing computer issues plague the Water Treatment Plant.

Mayor Hatheway reported that Village and Town of Geneseo and York water operators, along with Ryan Colvin, are meeting tomorrow to discuss issues of mutual interest. Also noted was that Ryan Colvin is now the President of MRB and Jim Oberst is the Chief Operating Officer.

11. TRUSTEES:

Trustee Brennan: Sandy showed the Board new parking meter covers that will be used during the next couple of weeks.

12. CLERK/TREASURER:

Following review by Trustee LaGrou voucher numbers 568-651 (for general, water, and sewer funds) were presented for approval. After discussion, Deputy Mayor Fox moved and Trustee Duff seconded the motion to approve general fund vouchers in the amount of \$120,982.73. The vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

After discussion Deputy Mayor Fox moved and Trustee Brennan seconded the motion to approve water fund vouchers in the amount of \$120,802.84. The vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

After discussion, Trustee Brennan moved and Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion to approve sewer fund vouchers in the amount of \$10,696.03. The vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

After discussion, Deputy Mayor Fox moved to approve Infrastructure Improvements Project vouchers in the amount of \$239,834.35. Trustee Brennan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

13. LOCAL LAW #5, 2011:

Trustee Brennan moved to adopt Local Law #5, 2011 amending Chapter 123-71 of the Code of the Village of Geneseo. Such amendment increases permit parking on University Drive from Main Street west to Wadsworth Street. Trustee Duff seconded the motion and the vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Duff moved to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Deputy Mayor Fox seconded the motion and following a unanimous vote the session began at 4:33PM.

Trustee Brennan moved to come out of executive session at 4:44PM. Deputy Mayor Fox seconded the motion and all were in favor. No formal action was taken during the session.

15. MEETING CLOSE:

With no further business to discuss, Trustee LaGrou moved and Trustee Duff seconded the motion to adjourn. The vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Deputy Mayor Fox-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 4:45PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk