

PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor	Debra Lund, Secretary Pro Tem
Sandra F. Brennan, Deputy Mayor	
Margaret Duff, Trustee	
Benjamin W. Gajewski, Trustee	
Robert Wilcox, Trustee	Public Present: none

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. The minutes of November 18, 2013 regular meeting were reviewed. Trustee Wilcox moved to approve the minutes as amended with a second from Trustee Gajewski. The vote was as follows: Mayor Hatheway – aye, Trustee Duff – aye, Trustee Gajewski – aye and Trustee Wilcox – aye. Deputy Mayor Brennan had not yet arrived. The motion carried.

2. GENESEO BUILDING:

Mayor Hatheway stated that window replacement started today in the Court Room and Court Offices with the Court Clerk’s office windows already in. The work on the Court Room should be finished by Wednesday and the Police Department windows should be mostly finished as well. The windows look sharp and the room should stay much warmer. The Department of Public Works (DPW) assisted with the prep work taking down blinds, moving furniture, etc. Even though there was a public arraignment in the mist of all this activity, everyone adjusted well with little disruption.

The next meeting with Jon Norris, Clark Patterson Lee, and the contractors is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th to review the building renovation’s progress so far. Trustee Gajewski asked if J. Norris had been out and it was noted he has been out to check on progress several times.

3. SAVE THE WALL:

SUNY-Geneseo Professor Mary Mohan’s class has been brainstorming ideas for fundraisers for the wall project. One proposal supported by the Steering Committee was a fundraiser that could be held at the Village Park. Suggestions included a “Wing Fest” perhaps scheduled for April, 2014 when the weather is better. This would be done before the students leave. Trustee Wilcox noted these types of events usually go over well with the student body and bring people together.

The second idea was trying for a World’s Largest Dessert party, but this is harder to put together as it requires an enormous amount of effort and a large population.

The third suggestion was a “Buy a Rock” campaign. One would ‘purchase’ a rock with the name engraved or pay for a section of wall – maybe one foot or a yard and other similar ideas.

Kurt Cylke leads a very active group spearheading the project. The cost for the mason and supplies is approximately ten thousand dollars per year. A general mailing raised about nine thousand dollars last year.

4. ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES:

Mayor Hatheway stated Joe Pukos, Director of the Livingston County Real Property Tax Service provided the Village with a spreadsheet containing calculations for refundable monies on overcharged taxes for assessments contested in court for 2010, 2011, and 2013 with the property owner being awarded a lower assessment. There was approximately \$13,000.00 to be refunded, with interest, effective December 1, 2013. The Mayor authorized the check to be dispersed by December 1 in order to avoid additional interest charges. Clerk –Treasurer Merrick mailed the check last week to Wolf & Shaheen. Upon receiving it they questioned how the Village arrived at that amount and asked to see the worksheet the County put together. The worksheet was faxed to them.

Trustee Wilcox asked if the Town, County and School district are also liable for refunds to the property owner; yes, they are. He wondered if they used the same spreadsheet. Mayor Hatheway replied we had worked only with Director Pukos on the Village's spread sheet and he has been of great assistance. We are not aware how or if the Town or School District responded. As a matter of note, Wal*Mart and Valley View Apartments are currently likewise protesting their assessments. Wal*Mart Corporate headquarters consistently fights their assessments all over the country; this does not involve the local management.

5. IBM STOCK:

Mayor Hatheway stated he and Clerk-Treasurer Merrick have signed and sent the requested copy of stock certificate and information authorizing sale of the stock. It is currently being processed and the fee cost will be approximately \$15.00.

6. OAK VALLEY EVENT CENTER:

A renewal advisory for a Liquor License was received from the Valley Oak Event Center located in the Quality Inn at 4242 Lakeville Road. They are requesting a letter stating the notice has been received.

7. HARMONY STATION INC.:

Mayor Hatheway attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the day care located at 4624 Millennium Drive. They currently have approximately thirty children in three rooms with expansion space for one-hundred. They have looked for a location for approximately fourteen years. The day care hopes to expand now that they have room and be able to take older children as well. They will keep the after school program at Geneseo Central School for now. Trustee Wilcox asked what the current age range was – currently it is infants to pre-kindergarten. The walkways in the outside area are being used for tricycles and other outdoor recreation activities. The facility is superb, he added.

Trustee Brennan entered the meeting.

There is a renewed possibility of tying Millennium Drive into Volunteer Road. The Medical Center is in the process of being sold and the new owner has stated a willingness to work with the County in their effort to acquire access for a roadway. This would alleviate the necessity of making a left-hand turn from Millennium onto Lakeville Road.

8. CAMPUS COALITION:

Trustee Wilcox said it appears more drinking is being done in residence halls this semester. The students are “pre-gaming” – drinking to excess before moving on to private off-campus parties. On the positive side things do seem to be moving in the right direction as there are not as many private house parties, and there is less debris in the Village.

9. LIVINGSTON COUNTY CONNECTIVITY MEETING:

Mayor Hatheway and Deputy Mayor Brennan attended the wrap-up session on November 19th. Deputy Mayor Brennan felt the information was well presented. The Mayor stated the Village of Geneseo was selected for the county-wide study to serve as the pilot project. The study looked at traffic connections within the Village with emphasis on traffic flow including pedestrians and bicycles as well as vehicles. Sustainable traffic patterns were being sought.

Eight to ten specific goals were identified and strategies were considered. Suggestions included more crosswalks, new sidewalks and bike routes where none currently exist – Avon Road, Millennium Drive, south side of Route 20A and Court Street; more bike racks throughout the village, more pedestrian signs and “bump outs”. If all were installed, it would be about eighteen thousand feet of additional sidewalks for the Village to maintain.

Other strategies were for more trail access and better river boat access. Trustee Gajewski noted the current river access can be challenging; the river silt is very slippery underfoot. However, the access works fairly well considering the river conditions in general. Trustee Brennan commented the river classification limits improvements that might be made to the dock and slope area. Mayor Hatheway remarked the river changes elevation significantly throughout the year.

In order to implement the proposals several of the infrastructure strategies should be enacted before a developer comes by. Funding through grants is being looked into for some of the proposals. Funding is being looked into for residential and business access improvements as well. Several Planning Board and professional planning personnel bounced many fine ideas around. All in all an excellent meeting with a good core group of people.

The final report will include six identified strategies: encourage alternative modes of travel; safety for all modes of users; preserving and enhancing truck and train traffic; preserve and enhance public transportation; “do less with more” in terms of funding, staffing and materials; and protecting historical, recreational and cultural resources. A spreadsheet of various strategies has been compiled, as well as a map of LATS modal connectivity.

This has been a \$100,000 project funded by the Genesee Transportation Council United Planning Work Program. Geneseo became the Pilot Project due to our location as a central hub for County wide transportation connectivity improvements, and due to the several traffic-related studies undertaken previously. Trustee Wilcox spoke to the need for connected walk ways in several parts of the village such as Lima Road connecting to Westview Crescent. Trustee Duff noted it would be nice if an easement could be achieved to get connections from dead end streets such as Northview Drive, Livingston Street and Melody Lane. Mayor Hatheway stated there has been discussion of zoning out cul-de-sacs in the future as it is difficult to connect pathways between them if they are owned by different developers. He commented Ivy Lane and Heritage Drive are an example. The new development cannot gain access through the older development. Deputy Mayor Brennan noted not many more eligible places exist within the Village so did not feel it would be advisable to change the zoning code at this time.

10. ATHLETICA BUSINESS LOAN:

Trustee Wilcox stated he did not see any reason not to loan the monies from the Business Development Loan Program as Athletica has repaid other loans in a timely fashion. Deputy Mayor Brennan said the monies were originally for new businesses just starting up but was also in favor of the loan given the company's past history of loan repayment. Trustee Duff was in favor of granting the loan in the asked for amount of \$50,000 but wondered if the loan really needed to be for seven years. Deputy Mayor Brennan suggested the repayment time be reduced to five years. It is understood Athletica will be creating 4 new positions in Geneseo, in order to justify the loan of \$50,000.

Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to *approve the loan under the BDLP in the amount of \$50,000 for a term of up to five (5) years, plus interest only payments for the first six months of the loan term. The interest rate would be approximately 1.2 percent, or the average rate for one year Certificates of Deposit plus one percent, consistent with program guidelines. Security for the loan would be provided by a security lien on the equipment, furniture and fixtures purchased and installed as part of this project and personal guarantees from the principals of the firm. This approval shall also be contingent upon submission of the following additional information: third party documentation of the project costs, and evidence that the firm will be able to contribute other resources to complete the project.* Trustee Wilcox seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Mayor Hatheway, aye, Deputy Mayor Brennan, aye, Trustee Duff, aye, Trustee Gajewski, aye, and Trustee Wilcox, aye. The motion carried.

Kathy Dear will be contacted to draft the official letter and schedule the closing date.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Chief Osganian's report was received by Board members. Boulevard Parking violation letters have been sent to property owners at 4 Main Street and 37 North Street.

The Fire Department would like approval to add Alp Bilenler to the membership and accept the resignation of Jennifer Boody. Trustee Wilcox so moved, Trustee Gajewski seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Mayor Hatheway, aye, Deputy Mayor Brennan, aye, Trustee Duff, aye, Trustee Gajewski, aye, and Trustee Wilcox, aye. The motion carried.

Trustee Wilcox commented the Fire Department had a good turn out for the Turkey Raffle. There were door prizes as well as the turkeys given away and a good time was had by all.

12. PUBLIC WORKS:

Trustee Duff said the DPW was busy stringing lights and putting up holiday decorations. Leaf collection was completed and the brush collection was under way. They were also picking up downed limbs from last week's storm and had been busy with snow removal. She had heard several favorable comments regarding the snowflake lights and the wreaths on Main Street. However, she had been asked why more lights had not been put up – some spots looked a little bare. If the lights on Main Street look too bad, they could be eliminated next year.

Trustee Wilcox stated only five strings can be put on a circuit at one time limiting how many lights could go up. He also had heard several favorable comments. Deputy Mayor Brennan commented GMA had put a lot of effort and funds into decorations and window lighting.

13. TEMPLE HILL CEMETERY:

Mayor Hatheway participated in the Cemetery's money raising event at Halloween time. It was noted several of the individual plot fences were down or in a sad state. He proposed the DPW might do some of the repair work in their "down time" as a public service. The Board was supportive. Trustee Wilcox remarked the Temple Hill Cemetery Association has done a yeoman's service raising funds and improving the cemetery.

14. WATER/WASTEWATER:

The department repaired a water main break on Temple Hill Acres, has been assisting in snowplowing, and Supt. McTarnaghan is working on the year end report. The Civil Service test for the Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee is December 18th with application to be in no later than December 4th. Supt. McTarnaghan would like to schedule interviews for December 26th, 27th, and 28th. Trustees Duff and Gajewski will join him for the interview process.

15. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

"Christmas in the Village" will take place Saturday, December 7th from 3-6 p.m. Christmas Caroling will start at the Village Park after the tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. and continue to the Bear Fountain.

Trustee Wilcox said there are changes to the new Tourism Brochure. The community group has been meeting bi-monthly. They are looking to point out the positive things the SUNY Geneseo students do and have formed a sub-committee made up mostly of students to work on this.

The Village offices will be closed at noon on December 24 and 31st and all day on December 25th, 2013 and January 1st, 2014 in observance of the holidays. Parking meters will be covered from December 18th to December 31st.

16. MEETING CLOSED:

The next Village Board meeting will be December 16th at 3:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, Deputy Mayor Brennan moved and Trustee Duff seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. The vote was as follows: Mayor Hatheway, aye, Deputy Mayor Brennan, aye, Trustee Duff, aye, Trustee Gajewski, aye, and Trustee Wilcox, aye. The motion carried.

Debra Lund, Secretary Pro Tem