

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 17, 2014

PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor
Sandra F. Brennan, Deputy Mayor
Margaret Duff, Trustee
Benjamin W. Gajewski, Trustee
Bob Wilcox, Trustee

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk/Treasurer
Eric Osganian, Police Chief
Andrew Chanler, Fire Chief
Jason Frazier, Street Supt.

ALSO PRESENT:

Bryan Rollins (Boy Scouts)

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the meeting at 5:00PM. The minutes of the March 3, 2014 regular meeting were reviewed. Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to approve the minutes as presented with second from Trustee Wilcox. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Gajewski-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee Wilcox-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

2. PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET:

Budget Officer Hatheway presented the tentative budget for 2014-2015 to the Board of Trustees. He noted that each department submitted budgets that were well in line with what has been submitted in the past and have done a nice job keeping expenses down.

He then invited Chief Osganian to go through his budget proposal with the Board. The Board thanked Eric for his work this past weekend in the search for a missing person from the Highlands. The search began on Wednesday. The press releases were very good and kudos also to Officer Jeff Szczesniak for his presentation on television and in coordinating the search parties.

Chief Osganian noted that the wage line is tentative as negotiations with the Police Union are ongoing. Also increased was the car reserve line so that vehicles can be replaced on a rotating basis. All of the other budget lines remain flat. The Board discussed perhaps changing the Dare/K-9 account to "community outreach" now that the K-9 has retired. The Board reviewed the various lines in the police budget. Eric said that the vehicles are his biggest concern. There are six vehicles in the fleet. The new Ford Taurus is a front wheel drive vehicle allowing much more traction in the winter weather. However, the vehicle is smaller and does not retrofit easily from the prior model, the Ford Crown Victoria. In hindsight, perhaps the SUV version would have been a better choice. The cost would be approximately \$1,700 more for the Ford Explorer.

Chief Chanler then presented the fire and ambulance budget to the Board. He has allocated a little more money in repairs and maintenance for the fire budget. The bottom line is \$161,000 including equipment/capital outlay and contractual expenses. As far as equipment, the rescue pumper was new in 2009 with the next pumper tanker being 24 years old. The ladder truck 25 years old and the Mack pumper was repowered in 2012. Department personnel are looking to replace two major pieces of equipment (the pumper, at a cost of \$250,000-\$500,000 and ladder truck for much more). Also, in 2015 they plan to replace the air packs which will cost on the order of \$70-100,000. There is a fifteen year life on the air packs and they were last replaced in 2000. All of the air packs will be replaced at once. Funds are being set aside in reserve for equipment replacement but Andrew would like to see additional funds set aside.

Ambulance funds have been used whenever justifiable to support the department as a whole. For example, Andrew has been able to use some ambulance reserve to help pay the debt service on the fire/ambulance hall renovations.

In terms of the ambulance budget, Chief Chanler stated that expenses are paid for with ambulance funding from actual calls that are reimbursed. A new budget line (A4540.452) has been inserted for ALS/EMS payments back to the entity supplying those services. Two ambulance rigs were delivered in 2009 and the best parts will be used by placing the existing box on a new chassis with a significant saving and delivered in a shorter timeframe. In closing, Chief Chanler advised the Board that he will not be running for chief in the next election (April). He plans to attend the April 7th Village Board meeting to present the annual report of the Department and then step away from the leadership role. During the past 14 years, he has been chief for 11 of them. The Board commended Andrew for a job well done.

Supt. Frazier discussed the DPW budget with the Board. CHIPS (State funding for street projects) will be rolled over for a couple of years to be used for the 2015 Main Street project. Everything else in the budget remains flat. With this year's unusually severe winter season, \$24,000 has been spent on road salt alone. The usual budget amount for that is \$19,000 with leftover funds used for other purposes. Not true this year! The personal service lines have been increased based on projections for the remainder of this year plus a modest increase. Street lighting costs were projected and remained at last year's amount. Parks and recreation budget lines were bumped up a bit. Jason stated that there are approximately 14 miles of streets (measured at the center line), and approximately 26 miles of sidewalks in the Village. Future projects would include the Main Street project next, then Second Street, and Oak Street or perhaps a combined Oak/Second Street Project if funding was possible, although everyone agreed that the project would be very expensive. As for street surface material, Jason noted that the nova chip used recently on North Street seems to be holding up very well and will be used again in the future.

Jason stated that if any extra funds were found, he would like them to be placed into the street maintenance and equipment reserve fund for future purchases. (Each Department manager was asked the same question.) As for personnel, Jason has been rotating the guys through the nights for snow removal. The procedure has worked well and the water/sewer guys have been helping out as well.

Mayor Hatheway spoke about the water/sewer side budgets and it appears that a rate increase in either fund won't be necessary. The sewer fund is in good shape and the water less so but the budget will be able to accommodate the difference.

The tax rate currently is projected to be \$6.93 per thousand, an increase of nine cents over last year's rate. Retirement costs have leveled off and there may be some cost savings in the health insurance benefit lines. Employee contributions toward the health insurance premiums may increase as well. The tax levy increase is 1.67%, within the Governor's tax cap guidelines.

Mayor Hatheway thanked Eric, Andrew and Jason (and Steve) for the super work they did putting their budget estimates together. The Department managers will be back on April 7th for the public hearing on the budget.

3. MAIN STREET PROGRAM COMPLETION:

A Project closing letter has been received from Chrystal Loffler including the certificate of completion. They do have a couple of suggestions (one deals with procurement of professional services pertaining to the lack of a request for proposal prior to the selection of the County as administrator and the other regarding contractor selection) included in the letter that will be complied with should there be another grant award in the future.

Liz Porter will be working with Trustee Gajewski on the County sign and façade program. The next meeting will be April 1st.

4. PROPOSED ASSESSMENT CHANGES:

Proposed changes for the Village properties were received. Mayor Hatheway did a quick survey of the changes and the assessments given and discovered a varying amount per acre depending on where the parcel was located. For example: the value is \$20,500 per acre for the Village Park, \$90,000 per acre for the small parcel at the corner of Haley Avenue and Reservoir Road, Highland Park is assessed at \$22,000 per acre, Kelsey Field is assessed at \$16,000 per acre, and the Civil War Monument parcel is \$82,000 per acre. It seems the values are quite variable; one possibility is that possibly a large factor in determining value would be where the parcel is located with the 20A corridor being “prime real estate”.

The tentative assessments for the water works actually were lowered, so it seems there will be a reduction in those tax bills.

5. LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS:

On behalf of the Board, Mayor Hatheway wrote a letter to the Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, regarding the proposed property tax freeze. The three page letter outlined many reasons why the tax freeze should be re-thought. Many steps have already been taken to reduce the property tax burden in the Village and those measures should be taken into account when proposing tax saving ideas. Copies of the letter were also sent to State officials in leadership positions and to NYCOM as well as the local newspaper. The Board concurred.

6. PARK REQUEST:

A request was received from the Alzheimer’s Association to use the Village Park on October 25 for their annual fundraiser walk. The Board had no objections.

7. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

Clement Chung, MRB Group, shared a copy of a power point presentation of the tank reconstruction project last summer, Mayor Hatheway reported. He will be presenting it to a Rural Water Works conference in Canandaigua in April

8. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Deputy Mayor Brennan reported that Christopher Matteson continues his probation period in his new full-time position as Police Officer. All of the Civil Service requirements have been satisfied.

Chief Osganian’s report was distributed. The force has been doing a good job with the search for the missing woman along with their other duties as well as doing a nice job keeping the Board informed.

Part-time officer Brandan Flickner has resigned from the Police Department.

Chief Chanler will be presenting the APOG program, “The History of the Geneseo Fire Department” this Wednesday at 7:30PM at the Fire Hall.

9. PUBLIC WORKS:

Supt. Frazier sent the following report:

1. We repaired a leaking water valve, near the Palace on Main St last week.
2. Crews had to deal with another snow storm 10-12” of snow, I’ve been rotating a 3 man crew during the night time (2Dpw-1Stp/Wtp) 4pm-8pm then 8pm-12am, then we all come in at 4am. This seemed to work out very well all year when we had to plow all night.
3. Crews have been busy servicing equipment in the shop.

4. Charlie rebuilt the Bay Window area at the Depot. The exterior panels and trim were replaced and a bench seat with storage underneath built inside. This work was needed due to water infiltration in this area of the Depot. Charlie also built new planter boxes for under all the windows.
5. Crews are stripping the floors and waxing floors at the Depot and DPW complex.
6. Crews are out in force COLD patching pot holes in the streets.
7. We have used up almost all of our Salt, again, I still can get 100 tons more if I need it at the increased rate they quoted me.
8. The ice rink has been used a lot this year. The ice has been thick enough to allow us to put the skid steer with a broom on it to remove the snow. The ice has been resurfaced many times by us and the help of Derek Hicks.

Trustee Gajewski reported that Supt. McTarnaghan continues to recover from surgery. The Annual Water Quality Report has been completed and is at the Department of Health for review. Steve has been working with Clem and Bill from MRB on the various projects. The new hire, Chris Dermody starts tomorrow.

10. TRUSTEES:

Deputy Mayor Brennan: nothing further

Trustee Duff: Margaret mentioned the donation list for Highland Park and suggested that the current Board members donate a tree at a cost of \$325 or \$65 per member. Discussion followed and it was decided that the Board of Trustees as of March 17, 2014 donate a tree to Highland Park in the amount of \$325. The Board will discuss ways to market the donation availability and accounting of the funds donated, perhaps similar to the K-9 Fund.

Trustee Gajewski: nothing further

Trustee Wilcox: The Healthy Campus Community Coalition is planning a brunch with the area barkeeps in early April at the Big Tree Inn. Hopefully that will encourage their participation in the HCCC.

Trustee Wilcox also reported that the sale of “ads” (bold type for the establishment and an icon) for the tourism map has garnered \$3,000 this year, up \$500 from last year.

11. CLERK/TREASURER:

Following review by Deputy Mayor Brennan, voucher numbers 857-926 (for general, water, and sewer funds) were presented for approval. After discussion, Deputy Mayor Brennan moved and Trustee Gajewski seconded the motion to approve general fund vouchers for \$75,403.42. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee Gajewski-Aye, Trustee Wilcox-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

After discussion, Trustee Wilcox moved and Deputy Mayor Brennan seconded the motion to approve water fund vouchers for \$52,024.88. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee Gajewski-Aye, Trustee Wilcox-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

After discussion, Trustee Duff moved and Deputy Mayor Brennan seconded the motion to approve sewer fund vouchers for \$14,681.51. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee Gajewski-Aye, Trustee Wilcox-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

12. MEETING CLOSE:

With no further business to discuss, Deputy Mayor Brennan moved and Trustee Wilcox seconded the motion to adjourn. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee Gajewski-Aye, Trustee Wilcox-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:01PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk