

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 8, 2016

PRESENT:

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

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk/Treasurer
David Woods, Planning Board Chair

ALSO PRESENT:

Jim Gross – Livingston Health Services
Matt Leader – Livingston County News

Steve Burnette
Sarah Simon – Genesee Sun

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the meeting at 5PM. The minutes of the January 25, 2016 regular meeting were reviewed. Deputy Mayor Brennan moved to approve the minutes as presented with second from Trustee Gajewski. The vote was as follows: Deputy Mayor Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee Gajewski-Aye, Trustee Wilcox-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye.

2. STEVE BURNETTE - FEES:

Steve came before the Board to express his displeasure with the process of getting a building permit for rebuilding a building that once existed. The entire process is costing in excess of \$2,500. The response was that there is no building there now since it burned down last July. In order to build a new building the Code Office has to review the plans as does an engineer retained by the Village. The structure must comply with current State and local codes. Steve is also displeased with the fact that he applied for rebuilding in October and didn't get approved until January. The entire process has cost him money in terms of time involved and lost earnings from the business.

Mayor Hatheway explained that the Village must have professional help when building plans are submitted. Steve wondered if perhaps those fees shouldn't be just added to the building permit fee and feels that the entire process should be a bit friendlier for the person wanting to open a business in the Village.

Deputy Mayor Brennan added that she was on the planning board for many years and saw all kinds of plans submitted for new construction. It was very helpful that those could be sent on to an engineer for review. Steve responded that he has had to have his own engineer get things in order to present to the planning board and also complained about the planning board restrictions. He feels that it could have been taken care of through the code officer, not the entire planning department and is disturbed that it has taken three and a half months to get it approved. Planning Board chair David Woods noted that the Planning Board gave final approval November 18 and the plans were signed in January when everything was in order; he added that there has been less time put in for the Village engineer and attorney for this particular project than for many other projects. Trustee Wilcox estimated that if it costs \$200-300,000 to rebuild the building, 1% of that is not an unrealistic figure to be set aside for this process. In addition, the building will have greater value once it is completed. Steve countered that as much as he has gained from it, he has had to put back into it. He added that he lost a large portion of his planned retirement in the fire and then the Village process adds insult to injury by

charging this extra cost. Mayor Hatheway explained that the Village incurs that cost as a direct result of an applicant wanting to construct/reconstruct a building, and it is only right that the expense be reimbursed by the applicant not the rest of the taxpayers. The costs wouldn't be incurred if it were not for the builder or developer building something. Following further discussion Steve thanked the Board for allowing him to vent and left the meeting.

3. JIM GROSS – LIVINGSTON HEALTH SERVICES WATER BILL CONCERNS:

Jim Gross came before the Board on behalf of Noyes Hospital and the surgical center on South Street. Sometime beginning in September and ending in January, a sterilizer malfunctioned that caused a four-fold increase in the water consumption. The average consumption per quarter has been approximately 25,000 cubic feet. The reading for this past quarter was 97,200 cubic feet resulting in an additional charge of approximately \$1,700. After the leak was detected and repaired, the meter readings were back to normal. Mr. Gross asked to be on the agenda to see if the Board would consider lowering the bill for this quarter. The leak was an anomaly and it has been repaired. Jim extended his thanks to the Water Department personnel for reporting the large consumption immediately upon reading the meter, so that the leak could be detected.

Mayor Hatheway responded that the water fund is separate from other Village funds in that it is dependent on users paying fees based upon consumption. The water is priced at Village cost of producing it. Any water funding that is not recovered, is then absorbed by the fund itself. Even though the leak has been repaired, the water was produced by the Village and then consumed by the facility. It then went into the sanitary sewer system as Jim confirmed that it did not go anywhere else.

Jim stated that the Noyes Hospital budget was impacted and this was not an anticipated expense. The equipment is serviced regularly and governed by Federal standards in terms of the sterilization process. Trustee Wilcox wondered if the manufacturer had been approached about this malfunction. That was not explored Jim stated, but feels confident they would not accept responsibility.

Deputy Mayor Brennan asked if there would be any benefit to the hospital to pay the bill in increments rather than all at once; Jim stated that they will consider anything that will help them at this point. If the overage is spread out over twelve months, it would be easier to manage. The Board agreed with this proposal and also agreed not to charge any penalty for the amount remaining on account, and not to levy any unpaid balance to the property taxes in April, as is customary.

The question of whether or not the excessive water consumption would impact the sewer units for the facility next November was discussed. Since the facilities manager for the hospital came before the Board to explain the situation, that will be noted and the number of units assigned for the upcoming year will not be affected by this one time occurrence.

Mr. Gross thanked the Board for their consideration and thanked the water department personnel and billing clerk Mack for her assistance as well.

4. SUMMER RECREATION PLANS:

- YMCA proposal: Mayor Hatheway met with YMCA representatives last week; they are very pleased with last year's success in the recreation program. They are also very pleased with Recreation Supervisor Jeff Rose. They stated that he is very organized and excited about next summer's session. A new Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up for that purpose and is much the same as previous years.

The program will run from July 5 to August 12 at a cost of \$60 per camper (same as last year). Cost to the camper is \$5 per week. Registration forms are available in the Village Office and will be distributed to the children as well. Enrollment history was 773 kids through the past summer, with a weekly average of 130 children. YMCA reps stated that number is pretty much the maximum they can handle. On a normal day it is okay, but on a rainy day, space becomes a premium and it is hard to keep that

many kids occupied. They did mention that if by chance someone could donate a tent for use at Highland Park they would be set even on rainy days. Discussion followed and the Board agreed that the program is all upbeat and looking good and they are very pleased. Trustee Wilcox moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of Geneseo and GLOW YMCA for the 2016 Summer Recreation Program at a cost of \$10,500 for the swimming program and \$60 per camper per week for the recreation program running from July 5 to August 12, 2016. Trustee Duff seconded the motion and all were in favor. As in the past, the Towns of Geneseo and Groveland will also be helping with the cost of the program for participants from those two municipalities.

- Little League: Registration was held January 29-31 at Highland Park. Also there is a group that has come forth working within the Little League structure but would like to form girl's leagues. Mayor Hatheway thought that the Board would be supportive. Girls' softball is growing and the thought is to start them small and go from there.

5. MAIN STREET PROJECT UPDATE:

A letter was received from the Main Street contractor, Jim Nardozi, Mayor Hatheway reported. The bottom line is that the Village proposed to withhold \$21,000 from the retainage left on the contract and they countered by offering to withhold only \$11,000. Their request was forwarded to Bill Davis at MRB Group.

6. POTENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE:

A firm contacted Mayor Hatheway about any interest we might have in solar power. The firm is based in California but has done work in New York State. Through their research via Google maps etc., they proposed an initial step of researching the amount of electricity used at the wastewater treatment plant to see whether it would be feasible to get that energy from solar panels. Dick feels that it is certainly worth talking about. There are no up-front costs for this; the Village would then agree to pay for the power generated from the solar panels for a certain period of time. It is also possible that the electric use for the Geneseo Building could be subtracted from the power generated at the wastewater treatment plant. Trustee Duff wondered if there was any New York or local firms willing to explore the same process.

7. TOURISM COMMITTEE THOUGHTS:

A meeting was held last week with Jim Whitehead, Jerry Wrubel, Andrew Chanler, Bob Wilcox and Dick Hatheway to talk about formalizing the nature of the tourism committee so that the committee activities are covered as far as insurance. Bob reported that Insurance Agent Chanler explained the committee needs to outline the various tasks of the tourism committee and that becomes part of the record. Following the meeting to discuss the process (which included Town Councilman Jerry Wrubel because Tourism is a Town/Village committee) Bob stated that they will be pulling together a sub committee to draft the outline with Andrew's guidance. When the subject was brought up some time ago, the Tourism committee did not want to give up their autonomy and now it is understood that they won't have to. By going through the steps to become another arm of Village/Town government, they will be covered for insurance purposes.

8. 2016-17 BUDGET PROCESS:

A letter requesting budget estimates for the next fiscal year has been sent to the department heads, with the first workshop meeting scheduled for February 24. Mayor Hatheway, as Budget Officer, pointed out that the increase in tax base of \$2.5 million dollars this year amounts to only an additional \$17,000 to be raised by

tax using the same rate as last year, \$6.91 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That \$17,000 will, most likely, be eaten up by negotiated wage increases and the increased cost of employee benefits in the General Fund. The letter states that as a result of that and as a result of the flat tax cap (not 2% but rather **.12%**), *we might have to look closely at non-mandatory items, as we are already increasing our expenses by somewhere on the order of \$115,000 (debt service on the Main Street project, and 1/6 of a School Resource Officer). The big question is, where do we find \$115,000, (in the General Fund), either in additional revenues or decreased expenses?* The tentative budget will be presented to the Board on March 21.

9. BUILDING SAFETY INSPECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION:

According to information received from the NYS Department of State, Division of Building Standards and Codes, the title for the position is Building Safety Inspector. In addition to fire and rental housing inspections, the person would also be responsible for property maintenance compliance. Required training for the position includes three courses: Introduction to Code Enforcement Practices Parts 1 and 2, and Inspection Procedures for Existing Buildings. Each course is 21 hours in length. One course is being offered March 1-3 at Monroe Community College.

Discussion followed and there will need to be further discussion with Supervisor Wadsworth because the person would need to work within the rubric of the Code Office. Board members will review the draft job description and submit their suggestions to Mayor Hatheway.

10. MEETINGS:

- Association: the upcoming Association of Village Board's meeting will be held in Dansville on Thursday, February 18th.
- Village-College: the spring Village-College meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25th at 8AM in the Tower Room of the Doty Building.

11. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter of notification was received from the US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau, that they will be conducting the 2016 Government Units Survey in preparation for the 2017 Census of Governments. The survey gathers information on the basic characteristics of all local, general purpose, and special district governments. Copies of any correspondence from the Census Bureau are shared with Deputy Clerk Mack who has handled Census items for several years.

12. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Deputy Mayor Brennan noted that Chief Osganian's report was received providing activity during the past month including a presentation on DWI arrests and alcohol issues by Officer Lana to students at Geneseo Central School upon request of Health Educator Dana MacIntyre. Officer Piedmonte attended training to re-certify as a Child Safety Seat Technician and a safety seat event was held on January 14 at the Geneseo firehouse. Chief Osganian attended a Drug Task Force meeting as well as a Law Enforcement Council meeting. These items illustrate that Village officers are reaching out to the community and making a difference.

Trustee Gajewski noted that the Fire Department personnel put together a very nice annual banquet that was well attended. 45 year award recipients included Charlie Parent and Tom Linsner. They are both very active members and respond to calls both within and outside of the department activity.

The annual Haley award was given to member Matt Hutchinson posthumously for his outstanding service to the Fire Department. The coaching staff for the SUNY Geneseo Hockey team was there as well as some of the players in Matt's honor. The Board thanks all the volunteers in the FD.

Trustee Gajewski moved to approve new member Ashley Elliott. Trustee Wilcox seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Trustee Gajewski moved to accept the following resignations: Joe Teresi, Grace Johnson and Matt Hutchinson (deceased). Deputy Mayor Brennan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

13. PUBLIC WORKS:

No reports were given for either DPW or water/sewer.

14. TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Deputy Mayor Brennan: Sandy met recently with parking attendant Teresa. Teresa thanked Clerk Mack for helping get her organized and is very grateful for her help. As for other matters, Teresa is concerned with the condition of the municipal parking lot in terms of maintenance. The municipal lot needs to be swept of broken glass and other refuse. Supt. Frazier was contacted. With regard to the meters in disrepair, there are several options. One was to ask one of our mechanics to take a look at them to see if they can be fixed or not. Many times the meters are sent out for repair to the company and are returned in the same condition as they went out. Teresa has enlisted the help of DPW employee Tim Clymo to take a look at the meters.

Other options include replacing the meters all together or repair/replace etc. Teresa will be asked to put together a one page list of options and the costs involved. Perhaps there might be a lease program for parking meters similar to the ones used for the air packs and exhaust system at the firehouse.

All in all, Sandy concluded that Teresa is a go getter and will help in any way she can to improve the meters and anything else to do with parking.

Trustee Duff: Margaret agreed that Teresa does a good job but is in tears sometimes because people are so mean. The job itself is very frustrating and it is very hard to please both the merchants and the patrons and to keep traffic flowing. Margaret noted one situation where a customer and her two children patronized Calm Dental only to receive not one but two parking tickets. The second ticket was for parking more than 2 hours at a meter. She wonders if there are things that the Village Board can look at to alleviate that situation. Sometimes folks need or want to be at a meter for more than 2 hours.

Deputy Mayor Brennan left to attend another meeting

Trustee Gajewski: nothing further

Trustee Wilcox: Bob noted that the Tourism Committee benefits greatly from student interns. Caroline handles the newsletter distributed widely listing current events and points of interest. Other programs they help with are Adopt a Business, and marketing of Geneseo on Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter. These forms of marketing are tested and found to be very beneficial in terms of spreading the word about what Geneseo has to offer.

15. CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Clerk Merrick is working on the January end-of-month and preparing to work on the 2016-17 budget.

16. OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

School Resource Officer: Mayor Hatheway reported that the Central School has indicated it is willing to pick up 5/6 of the cost and we would pick up 1/6 of the cost of an officer in the school. That ratio was determined by the amount of the year a SRO was engaged in school responsibilities vs. village responsibilities. There might also be a possibility of the County funding a portion of the cost. An officer will be selected that will fit in with the school, although that must be done within the auspices of the Police Union (Council 82) and Civil Service requirements. There are still glitches to be worked out but the cost has been included in the Geneseo Central School budget for next year.

17. ADJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting with second from Trustee Gajewski. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:58PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk