

**Village Board Meeting
August 2, 2021, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center**

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith Jr., Trustees Dean Hyatt, Dan Brown, and Lisa Ackert

Village Key Staff: Fire Chief Ryan Pedone, Deputy Chief Michael Zinn, Police Chief Ernest Bassett Jr., DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Josh Hayes, Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Diana Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Austin Crosier, *The Granville Sentinel*

Others: Ms. Angela Ackert, Ms. Krystle Morey, Mr. John and Mrs. Linda Freed, Ms. Stephanie Munger, Mr. George Demas, and Mrs. Mary King

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the Meeting to Order at 7:00pm.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hyatt moved ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 5th as circulated. The motion carried 4-0; Trustee Brown abstained.

Trustee Ackert read a proposed amendment to the Minutes of the June 7th Meeting. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Hyatt moved approval of the amendment as read. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried 4-1, Trustee Brown voting against. The Mayor asked that the amended text be added to the Minutes by the Village Clerk and that they be posted to the website upon completion.

Monthly Reports: Mayor Labas reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Police Dept., Fire Dept., Village Court, Local Ordinance Officer, and Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory). Deputy Mayor Smith moved acceptance of the reports as submitted. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Appropriations: The following claims were submitted to the Board for review and in consideration of payment:

General Fund:	\$43,783.46
Water Fund:	\$11,790.76
Sewer Fund:	\$14,216.87
Senior Shuttle:	\$1,053.21
Unaudited	
Claims:	\$5,095.00
 Total Claims:	 \$75,939.30

Trustee Brown moved that the claims be paid as submitted. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Budget Transfers: The Clerk-Treasurer requested several budget transfers to close the 2020-21 fiscal year following the final accruals for payroll and NYS Retirement:

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reason</u>
<u>General Fund</u>			
A33101	Crossing Guard, Pers. Serv.	+\$5.00	Final P/R Accrual
A90158	NYS Retirement (Police/Fire)	+\$5,045.00	Final Accrual of Police Salaries
A31202	Equipment Exp, Police Dept.	+\$5,950.00	Reclassify Reserves used to fund lease
A31201	Pers. Service, Police Dept.	-\$11,000.00	Cure above shortfalls

Trustee Hyatt moved approval of the transfers as requested. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Financial Results—2020-21 AUD: The Mayor asked the Clerk-Treasurer if he would review the results associated with the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Village Clerk reviewed the following information:

General Fund: 2020-21 Surplus: \$50,493; Reserves: \$206,735
Water Fund: 2020-21 Surplus: \$40,699; Reserves: \$227,593
Sewer Fund: 2020-21 Surplus: \$35,174; Reserves: \$168,451

Given the pandemic, the Clerk indicated that these results could be viewed quite favorably.

The Clerk also advised that based upon these results, the Village's fiscal stress score would likely fall from 20.4 to 14.2. At the end of the current fiscal year, it is anticipated that the fiscal stress score will fall to 7.9 or less.

The Clerk reported that the Village had received the first of two payments relating to the American Rescue Plan, and of an increase in Sales Tax distribution through Washington County. These events are viewed positively and should allow for low, stable tax increases over the next few years.

Following the Clerk's report, Trustee Brown moved approval of the submission of the Annual Financial Report (AUD) to the Office of the State Comptroller. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Request for Use of Veterans Park: Mayor Labas read a letter received from Phil Hoyt requesting use of Veterans Park on Sunday, September 12th from 10am to 4pm in connection with his efforts to support Operation Adopt a Soldier. Trustee Brown moved approval of the request as submitted. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor's Reports: The Mayor briefed the Board in the following matters:

- A. Open Burning: The Mayor advised that a fair number of calls had been received in the office this summer regarding Open Burning. The main basis of concerns expressed from constituents was the burning of leaves/yard debris in wet conditions. Often this produces low-hanging smoke that can cause issues for people with compromised breathing. After a brief period of discussion, the Board asked the Village Attorney if he could craft potential local legislation to address these

concerns. The Village Attorney advised that he would do so and bring the proposed local law to the Board for review at a future Village Board Meeting.

- B. Ratify Fire Department Members: Mayor Labas reviewed correspondence from Fire Chief Pedone requesting ratification of two new members into the Department following the membership's approval of their applications:

Adrienna Printy
Lauren Taylor

Trustee Hyatt moved ratification of the members as submitted. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- C. Review Public Comment Rules: Mayor Labas advised that it had been brought to his attention that a constituent who attended last month's Village Board Meeting made the decision to follow a Village Official home after the meeting in order to continue a conversation concerning a contentious matter. He stated that he feels that in today's age, the idea of following someone home, after hours, near or after dark, to continue a discussion cannot be considered good practice. He advised that this type of behavior would not be tolerated or accepted in the future, and if there was a recurrence, complaints with the appropriate authorities will be filed. The Mayor acknowledged that this was a time of political conflict and civil discord throughout the nation. However, if one wants to continue a conversation after a contentious Board meeting, they should consider visiting the office the next day during normal business hours, sending an email, calling, etc.

The Mayor also expressed that he feels that it is important that the public have a means to air their grievances during the public comment portion of the meeting. He supports the continuation of this practice. This said, public comment is a privilege, and not a right. Under the rules for public comment approved by the Board, speakers must limit their remarks to 5 minutes, and direct their comments to the Board—not individual members, other Village officials, or the audience. No interruption of the speaker from the public is permitted. While the Board has an obligation to listen to public input, public input is just that—input from constituents. The Mayor stated that while questions may be answered by the Board during public comment, thoughtful answers often require time to consider what has been offered, and/or to conduct research. So, it is not possible for all questions to be answered immediately by himself or the Board. The Mayor concluded by stating that he feels that both he and the Board are quite accessible in the event a problem or substantial concern arises. If something requires immediate attention, constituents have the option of contacting the Village Offices directly, and then following up with the Mayor and/or the Board if the concern is not addressed to the satisfaction of the concerned party.

Mayor Labas opened the Meeting to public comment at 7:20pm.

Mr. Eric Pekar thanked the DPW for installing signage on Mettowee Street as had been requested.

Trustee Hyatt expressed some concerns with the paving work seen on Berkowitz Drive. He stated that he feels that the monies for this paving should not be appropriated until the concerns are resolved.

Trustee Brown thanked DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey and the NYS DOT for resolving several concerns seen on East Main St. following the repaving work completed earlier this summer. His understanding is that there is just one driveway left to address, and that this will be handled sometime in the future.

The Mayor commented that he had been advised by the DPW Superintendent that the Water Main running under the Church Street bridge would have to be serviced tomorrow morning in connection with the bridge's replacement, and that residents in this area might see some changes in pressure and/or discoloration during this time. The repair is expected to take 2 hours or less and running the water for a few minutes after the repair should resolve any issues with water clarity.


There being no further public comment, the Mayor asked for a motion to convene to Executive Session. Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the Board convene an Executive Session at 7:25pm to discuss matters pertaining to the ongoing PBA Contract negotiations. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session.*

Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the Board return to regular session at 7:35pm. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Trustee Brown moved the appointment of Krystle Morey to the Village Planning Board. Krystle will fill the unexpired term of Christina Haldt. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no other business, Trustee Brown moved that the Meeting be adjourned at 7:35pm. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard H. Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer