

Village Board Meeting
September 13, 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: Police Chief Ernie Bassett Jr., Fire Chief Ryan Pedone, Deputy Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Local Ordinance Officer Curtis Pedone, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Diana Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Austin Crosier, *The Granville Sentinel*

Others: Mr. Jason Preisner, P.E., Lamont Engineers, Mrs. Nancy Labate Bixby, Mr. Murray McHugh, Mr. Russel Bronson, Mr. Erik Pekar, Mr. George Demas, Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, and Ms. Stephanie Munger

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 August 2nd as circulated. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: Mayor Labas reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Police Dept., Fire Dept., Local Ordinance Officer, Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory), Village Court (2 reports); Trustee Ackert also provided a brief report concerning the Pember Library & Museum as the Board's liaison. 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 approval:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| General Fund: | \$141,418.97 |
| Water Fund: | \$20,828.62 |
| Sewer Fund: | \$18,883.05 |
| Senior Shuttle: | \$1,868.87 |
| Unaudited | |
| Vouchers: | \$50,438.00 |

Total Claims: \$233,437.51

The Board discussed the claim from Peckham Materials Corp. Following the period of discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the claim would be authorized for payment, but the check withheld until certain adjustments/repairs were completed on Berkowitz Drive. Said check will be released upon authorization of the Mayor. Trustee Ackert moved approval of the appropriations with this qualification. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Budget Transfers: The Clerk-Treasurer recommended a single budget transfer withing the General Fund in order to avoid overdrawing any individual line items in the funding of this evening's appropriations:

| <u>Acct #</u> | <u>Account Title</u> | <u>Change</u> | <u>Reason</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|

General Fund

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| A3501 | State Aid, CHIPS | +\$35,000.00 | Increase in CHIPS Funding |
| A51122 | Perm. Improvement, CHIPS | +\$35,000.00 | Additional Paving -- CHIPS Increase |

Trustee Hyatt moved the approval of the budget transfer as recommended. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Review Proposed Agreement, I&I Planning/Engineering Grant: The Mayor introduced Jason Preisner, P.E., Lamont Engineers. He asked Jason if he would provide the Board with an update concerning the Planning grant that was recently received by the Village. Mr. Preisner reviewed the plan of work with this grant, which will include smoke testing on approximately 5,900 LF of sewer mains/lateral lines, and flow monitoring to study areas where ground water is entering/leaking into the system. He reviewed the project budget, bidding process, and overall scope of work. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in the Fall. A period of discussion ensued between the Board and Mr. Preisner. Several Board members commented that it could be advantageous to have a project that is "shovel ready" given the recent stimulus and infrastructure funding that will become available soon. Following the discussion period, Trustee Hyatt moved the approval of the letter form of agreement and estimate for services as provided by Kenyon Pipeline Services. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Bid Results, Pember Library & Museum: Mayor Labas advised that the bids for the Pember Chimney/Roof repair were due on August 26th, but that no bids had been received. Following a brief period of discussion, the Board authorized the Clerk-Treasurer to re-bid this project in the official Village newspaper. The Mayor inquired if Jason Preisner from Lamont Engineers could reach out to any local contractors that they felt might be a good fit for the job.

BAN Results—UV Disinfection Project, WWTP: Given that the final grant for the UV Disinfection Project has not yet been appropriated through DASNY, the Mayor advised that it was necessary to renew the BAN used to fund the project. The original BAN was in the amount of \$500K, and the grant monies received to date were used to pay down the balance to \$90K. Bids were solicited to renew the remaining balance, and the following rates were received:

Greene County National Bank: 0.99%
 Glens Falls National Bank: Callable—0.45% Non-callable: 0.33%

Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the lowest bid be accepted. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the BAN had matured on August 26th, and that the action requested by the Board had been taken.

Consider Bond Resolution, DPW Equipment: Mayor Labas advised that the existing BANs for DPW equipment will be paid in this fiscal year (November) and that he had been discussing the needs of the department with the Superintendent. The Superintendent of Public Works has recommended the purchase of a new 1-Ton Plow Truck with a sander to be utilized on the narrower/dead end streets, a new skid steer, and a new John Deere Zero-turn lawn mower. The Village will look to trade in the existing Trackless sidewalk plow, sell the 1999 International Dump (green in color), and maintain the current Zero-turn lawn mower as a back-up. All of these pieces of equipment would be purchased on

NYS Contract and come with full factory warranties. The sum total for these three pieces of equipment is \$125,707 after trade allowances. It is proposed that the Village would then put down cash in the amount of \$30,707 and borrow the remainder (\$95K) through a BAN. This size BAN would result in a decrease in the appropriation required for this line item in the 2022-23 budget cycle. The Board discussed this matter with the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer, and upon conclusion of the discussion Trustee Brown sponsored consideration of the Bond Resolution presented by Bond Council by motion. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith and carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Authorize Attendance at NYCOM Conference: The Mayor reviewed a request received from the Village Clerk to authorize his attendance at the NYCOM conference to be held in Saratoga Sept. 20-24. The Mayor advised that he would also like to attend the conference. In years past, many helpful and cost-saving ideas have been received through the NYCOM conferences, as well as valuable networking opportunities with the Office of the State Comptroller, other NYS Agencies, and peer group. Deputy Mayor Smith made a motion that the Mayor and Village Clerk be authorized to attend the conference. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Set Fall Leaf & Brush Collection Schedule: Mayor Labas reviewed the proposed schedule for leaf & brush removal this Fall. The schedule would include Monday pick-up of leaves and yard debris from October 4th thru November 22nd (apart from the Columbus Day Holiday). Leaves can be raked curbside or placed in clear or paper bags. Brush is to be bundled in lengths not exceeding 4'. The Board unanimously agreed to the schedule as proposed, and the Mayor directed the Village Clerk to advertise the same in the official Village Newspaper.

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

- A. Consider Proposed Legislation—Open Burning: The Mayor advised that the proposed legislation pertaining to open burning had been crafted by the Village Attorney and circulated. He thanked the Village Attorney and Local Ordinance Officer for researching other local legislation and providing a sound working draft. The Mayor encouraged the Board to review the legislation and advise with any edits, corrections, etc. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Hyatt advised that he saw the draft as complete and sponsored a motion that the Village Clerk be authorized to advertise for a Public Hearing to accept input concerning proposed Local Law #1 of 2021 on October 4th at 7:00pm at the Village Municipal Center. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried 4-0, with Trustee Brown abstaining.
- B. Update—Property Adjoining Village Well Field: Mayor Labas advised the Board that things were proceeding with the proposed purchase of the 3 +/- acre parcel adjoining the Village Well Field. The property is owned by the Byzantine Catholic Church, and they have agreed to sell it to the Village for \$5,000. The Village Attorney is working to craft a Purchase & Sales Contract and to update the Title Search for the property. The Mayor advised that he would provide future updates to the Board as this transaction progresses.
- C. Consider Amendment to Village Property Maintenance Law: The Mayor advised that he had spoken with LOO Curtis Pedone regarding the Property Maintenance Law. LOO Pedone is trying to enforce the timely placement and removal of trash receptacles in residential neighborhoods but notes that the present Village code only speaks to the placement and removal of receptacles in business/commercial districts. The Mayor asked if the Village Attorney could provide updated

language to address this matter. The Village Attorney agreed to do so and will present this at a subsequent Village Board Meeting to be considered as Local Law #2 of 2021.

- D. COVID Infections—Masks Required: Mayor Labas reviewed the most recent data received from Washington County concerning coronavirus cases and hospitalizations. Unfortunately, the numbers are not trending in the right direction. Following a period of brief discussion by the Board, Trustee Ackert made a motion that all constituents entering the Municipal Center wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, until further notice. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Mayor asked the Village Clerk to post signage on the front doors indicating the mask requirement policy.

Mayor Labas opened the meeting to public comment at 7:45pm.

Mr. George Demas inquired if the policy regarding masks also pertained to individuals who were vaccinated. The Mayor indicated that the requirement applied to all constituents.

Mr. Austin Crosier inquired as to when the present designation (mask requirement) might be removed. Specifically, he inquired to what degree the numbers would need to improve to in order that the mask mandate might be relaxed/removed. The Mayor advised that the policy will be in effect until further notice.

Mr. Erik Pekar thanked the Village DPW for their assistance in correcting a vandalism issue seen on the Rail Trail. He also encouraged Village residents to attend the Autumn Car Show sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on Sunday, September 26th.

Mayor Labas advised that there had been another incident involving vandalism in the Village (at the Granville Little League Field Warming Hut) just prior to the meeting. The DPW Superintendent and Ass't Superintendent are presently on scene, along with the Police Dept. The Mayor advised that these incidents were a concern, and that the perpetrators would be pursued and brought to justice. He indicated that if the perpetrators were juveniles that restitution would be sought from their parents/guardians. The Village will also be checking into a camera system for use in various locations in an effort to aid in the prosecution of vandals in the future per the Mayor.

There was no further public comment.

Trustee Brown made a motion to convene an Executive Session at 7:55pm regarding a matter pertaining to contract negotiations within the Police Dept. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session.*

Deputy Mayor Smith made a motion that the Board return to regular session at 8:20pm. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas advised that no decisions were made during the Executive Session.

There being no other business, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20pm. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer