

**Village Board Meeting
November 1st, 2021, 6:30pm
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., DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Josh Hayes, Ass't Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Police Officer Jeffrey Daigle, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Austin Crosier, *The Granville Sentinel*

Others: Hon. Philip Burke, Mrs. Kathryn Juckett, Mr. George Demas, Mr. Tyler Williams, Mr. Alex Gilmore, Mrs. Molly Celani, Mr. Paul Garrone, Mr. Russel Bronson, Mr. Aron Rollwagen, Mr. John and Mrs. Linda Freed, Mr. Erik Pekar, Mr. Matt Hicks, Town Supervisor, Miss Emily Powers, Miss Alexa Weaver, and four other GCS students.

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30pm. He then called to Order the Public comment period concerning retail sales of cannabis within the Village Limits. The Mayor asked those who wish to be heard to limit their remarks to 5 minutes on this topic, and to be civil of differing opinions. He noted that this was a subject that some seemed to carry strong opinions for—he advised that the Village Board would be listening to comment, but not engaging in discussion or taking questions.

Hon. Philip Burke reiterated his objections to permitting retail sales of cannabis within the Village boundaries. He stated that this is a new law passed in March, and that the State had not yet formulated, reviewed, or ratified the regulations for dispensaries. While he understands that the State has included provisions for distribution of taxes/revenue based on sales, in his experience as Village Attorney (that spanned some 21 years) he does not feel that the State can be trusted. He also feels that local sales through a Dispensary would represent another source of work and attention for the local Police Department.

Mrs. Molly Celani renewed her support for the concept of a local dispensary. She feels that the prohibition of local sales would represent a missed opportunity for the Village if we were to opt out. Mrs. Celani advised that her review of local dispensaries indicated that seven (7) such facilities were in operation within 150 miles of Granville. She acknowledged that there are some potential negatives associated with a dispensary, but that this was the case with any business. In her view, there are also positives/opportunities also. Those positives include the establishment of a new business in a vacant building, increased revenue to the municipality, and the provision of a legal service to those who choose to be consumers. Mrs. Celani closed by stating that she feels that the consumption of cannabis has now been legalized by the State—and that it is a choice that everyone must make for themselves, just as the consumption of alcohol is. She indicated that she hopes that the Village Board will see things in a similar manner.

Mrs. Kathy Juckett spoke in favor of the Village opting into the legislation passed by the State. She feels that the consumption of cannabis is like the consumption of alcohol—it is everyone's personal choice. She does not see that a retail Dispensary would increase consumption of Cannabis any more than a

Liquor Store increases the consumption of alcohol. The consumption/possession of Cannabis has been legalized by NYS, and it is a fallacy to think that people will not participate if there is not a local place to purchase it. While this is a controversial subject now, Mrs. Juckett does not see a high probability that it will remain controversial five years from now. She feels that we would be remiss if we think it will not be here in Granville. She cited New Hampshire as a model—they have legalized the sale and possession of Cannabis, collect taxes on the sales of same, and has a strict chain of custody for their products. In many cases, communities who receive revenues associated with the sale of Cannabis have been able to reinvest a portion of those revenues into various means to make their communities better. Given that retail sales have now been legalized by the State, she feels that it would represent a missed opportunity for the Village if they chose to opt out.

Miss Alexa Weaver advised that as a high school student, she was not yet of age to possess/consume cannabis, but that she knows many people who are. She feels that it is better for people who make the choice to be consumers that they purchase their product through sources that are traceable. The possessions and/or sale of Cannabis has been legalized in both Vermont and Massachusetts and individuals can obtain product legally there. Miss Weaver reiterated that other localities in NYS will also be able to permit sales soon, so she did not see the concern with Cannabis being made available locally.

Miss Emily Powers also spoke in favor of permitting retail sales. She feels that Cannabis purchased through verified, traceable sources is preferable to the illegal means by which possession and consumption that are already occurring. She also feels that this would be a good way to relieve some of the vacancy seen on Main Street and feels that it is possible that this revenue source may help to make Granville more successful.

The Mayor then asked if anyone else wished to be heard. There was no further public input. As a result, Trustee Hyatt moved that the public comment period on this subject be closed. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas called the Public comment period to order concerning Proposed Local Law #2 of 2021 at 6:50pm.

Mrs. Kathy Juckett inquired if the wood/pulp/wood byproducts that they burned at Telescope would be considered garbage within the language associated with the proposed legislation. The Local Ordinance Officer and Mayor advised that they did not feel that the material that Telescope was burning as a source of heat/fuel for Telescope would be an issue.

Trustee Hyatt inquired of the Village Attorney if language could be included in the proposed legislation to address items left curbside that were "Free" or to be given away would be included. While this practice would not be prohibited outright, a time limit of 24-48 hours was suggested in order that household items like furniture, mattresses, etc. not be exposed to the weather for excessive periods. The Village Attorney advised that he would edit the proposed Local Law accordingly.

There was no further public comment regarding the proposed legislation. Mayor Labas advised that the edits requested by the Board would be included in the updated draft, and that it would be published to the Village website and available at the Village Clerk's Office for review. The same will hold true for proposed Local Law #3, regarding retail sales of Cannabis.

Mayor Labas called the regular session of the Meeting to Order at 7:00pm.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Deputy Mayor Smith moved the ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 4th as circulated. Trustee Ackert 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), and Village Court. Trustee Brown moved acceptance of the reports as submitted. Trustee Hyatt 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: \$169,718.58
Water Fund: \$8,213.89
Sewer Fund: \$30,575.17
Senior Shuttle: \$1,394.34
Unaudited
Vouchers: \$292.76

Total Claims: \$210,194.74

The Board audited the claims and Deputy Mayor Smith moved their approval for payment. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Budget Transfers: The Mayor asked the Clerk-Treasurer to review two proposed budget transfers for the General Fund to allow for the funding of this evening's appropriations:

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reason</u>
<u>General Fund</u>			
A5730	Bond Anticipation Note	+\$95,000.00	Show receipt of BAN Proceeds
A51102	DPW Equipment	+\$95,000.00	Purchase of DPW Equipment per BOT
A73104	C/E—Youth Programs	+\$500.00	Small Over-run, Bus trans., Swim Program
A95509	Capital Projects	-\$500.00	Cure above shortfall

Deputy Mayor Smith moved approval of the budget transfers as recommended. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Declaration of Surplus Equipment: The Mayor reviewed correspondence from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding two potential pieces of surplus equipment. With the delivery of the One-Ton Truck and purchase of the Used Bucket Truck, these two pieces of equipment have been replaced, and the existing equipment can be deemed as surplus. The representative from Auctions International has advised that the Village could see upwards of \$6,000-\$10,000 for this equipment. The Board discussed this matter. Trustee Hyatt expressed some concerns relating to the safety of the bucket truck. The Mayor inquired of the Village Attorney regarding any potential liability. The Village Attorney advised that the Village should not see any liability concerns, provided that the vehicle was sold "as is" with any mechanical

issues noted. Following the discussion period, Deputy Mayor moved the declaration of the 1999 International Dump Truck and 1997 Ford F-450 Bucket Truck as surplus equipment. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried 3-2, with Trustees Hyatt and Brown voting against.

Coin Drop Request: The Mayor read a request from Meghan Steves, Secretary of the Granville PTO. The PTO is requesting a coin drop for Saturday, November 20th in support of "Backpacks for Hunger". Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Brown moved approval of the request, weather permitting. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Request for Use of Veterans Park—Food/Bottle Drive: Mayor Labas reviewed a request for use of Veterans Park from Cub Scout Pack #6044. They propose to have a food and bottle drive on November 7th from 10am-3pm to benefit the Granville Area food pantry. Trustee Brown moved that the request be approved as submitted. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A) Updated bid to repair Quaker St. Pump Station: The Mayor circulated an updated bid from Laplante Electric to complete repairs to the Quaker St. Pump Station. Bids had been previously received for this work almost a year ago, but the work was not completed due to the ongoing pandemic. Laplante Electric had been the previous low bidder. The updated price to complete the work totaled \$5,800.00 per Superintendent Mackey. This remains the low bid in comparison to the previous quotes obtained. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Hyatt moved that the job be awarded to Laplante Electric for \$5,800.00 and the repairs completed. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- B) Holiday Committee Report: Mayor Labas asked the Village Clerk to report on the Holiday Committee's progress to date. The Clerk-Treasurer advised that the Holiday Committee had met and selected a theme—Frosty & Friends Visit Granville. The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Monday, December 3rd at 6:00pm. The Committee hopes to present as much of the program in person as possible this year. The recent session to service the decorations was well attended and the Clerk thanked all who participated. Approximately 25% of the decorations have been installed and serviced as the Committee tried to take advantage of the favorable weather. Mayor Labas thanked the Clerk and the Committee for their efforts to date and stated that he felt that many will be looking forward to this event.
- C) Election Reminder: Mayor Labas reminded those in attendance that tomorrow was Election Day. The Village Hall will serve as a polling site for districts 1, 2 & 3 and be open from 6am – 9pm. The only elections to be contested are for District Attorney, Town Supervisor, and Town Councilman, all of whom are running unopposed. The Mayor advised that there were also five propositions to be evaluated by the voters. He closed by wishing all candidates the best of luck.
- D) Tractor Parade Request: Mayor Labas recognized Paul Garrone, Co-Chairman of the Granville Tractor Parade. Mr. Garrone advised that he was working with Arthur Moyer and Krystle Morey to bring back the Granville Lighted Tractor Parade. He requested permission to conduct the parade on Friday, December 10th at 6:00pm. The proposed route for the parade may have to be altered if the work on the Church Street bridge is not completed prior to 12/10. Mr. Garrone requested that the Board formally approve the Committee's request and allow him to work with the DPW, Police Dept., Fire Dept. etc. to coordinate logistics, etc. Following a brief period of

discussion, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the event be approved per Mr. Garrone's request. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Mayor thanked Mr. Garrone for his efforts to bring this event back after it had been cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic last year and stated that he felt that it would be a big event that drew many to the Village.

- E) Defensive Driving Course: The Mayor reminded those in attendance that the Village would be hosting a defensive driving class here at the Municipal Center on November 6th for anyone who had interest. The cost of the class is \$45, with \$10 from each registration going to the Granville Area Food Pantry.
- F) Update—Church Street Bridge Repair: The Mayor advised that the arch had been set for the Church Street Bridge, and that he was hopeful that the project would finish sometime between December 1-10, based upon progress seen to date. The Mayor thanked the contractors on the job, who have been working extra hours on the project in hopes of finishing before winter settles in.

Mayor Labas opened the meeting to public comment at 7:15pm.

Mr. Erik Pekar thanked the Village DPW and Charlie King for their efforts in re-installing the Veterans banners throughout the community.

Mr. Austin Crosier advised that he had received a call at the paper earlier in the day regarding the posting for tonight's meeting on the Village website. The time of the meeting was posted incorrectly on the meeting calendar. The Mayor advised that he was unaware of any issues on the website and apologized. He also commented that as the meeting was well-attended and no one had seemingly arrived late, apparently Village constituents were clear on the date and time of the meeting. The Mayor closed by advising that the Village was considering an update to the website sometime in the future.

There was no further public comment.

At 7:20, Trustee Brown moved that the Board convene an Executive Session concerning pending contract negotiation items within the Police Dept. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session. The Police Chief also participated in the Executive Session from 7:20-7:50pm.*

At 8:05pm, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the Board return to regular session. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Trustee Ackert moved the acceptance of the resignations of Officers Ronald Taylor, Keith Seebode, and Jeffrey Daigle, with regret. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no other business, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05pm. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,



Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer