

Village Board Meeting and Public Hearings (2)
December 6, 2021, 7pm
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: Superintendent of Public Works Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Josh Hayes, Police Chief Ernie Bassett Jr., Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Fire Chief Ryan Pedone, Deputy Chief Michael Zinn, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Village Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Austin Crosier, *The Granville Sentinel*

Others: Town Supervisor Matt Hicks, Washington County Real Property Director Laura Chadwick, Mr. David and Mrs. Kathy Juckett, Mrs. Mary King, Mr. Alexander Gilmore, Mr. Erik Pekar, Mr. Tyler Williams, Hon. Philip Burke, Mr. Christopher Kostyun, Mr. Peter Beyer, Mr. George Demas, and Mr. Michael Angiolillo

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

The Mayor then called the Public Hearing to Order concerning proposed Local Law #2 of 2021. He reviewed the sign in sheet and advised that no one wished to be recognized to speak. The Mayor then inquired of those in attendance if anyone wished to be heard. There was no public input.

Based upon the lack of public input, Trustee Hyatt moved that the Public Hearing be closed at 7:02pm.

Following the closure of the Public Hearing, Trustee Hyatt stated that he feels that the language seen in the proposed legislation is fair.

Consider Action-- Proposed Local Law #2 of 2021: Trustee Hyatt moved the adoption of proposed Local Law #2 of 2021 as written. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas then called the Public Hearing to Order concerning Proposed Local Law #3 of 2021 at 7:05pm. He reviewed the sign in sheet and then recognized Mr. Peter Beyer.

Mr. Beyer spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. He stated that he had been a resident of Granville since 2008 and that he was a former educator of students from the seventh grade through Freshman year in college. He provided various statistics that illustrated the negative cognitive effects associated with prolonged use of marijuana, including difficulties with problem solving, memory, attention, athletic performance, etc. He does not feel that consumption of cannabis is in the best interests of teens or young adults.

Hon. Philip Burke also spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. As a former Justice of the Peace, Washington County District Attorney, Washington County Justice, and State Judicial Officer, he feels that he has a basis to form an opinion concerning the consumption of marijuana. He feels that it is a gateway drug to other illegal substances and noted that New York State still classifies Marijuana as a controlled substance. Judge Burke also commented that possession more than 3 ounces of marijuana is

classified as a misdemeanor, while possession of more than eight ounces is a felony. He stated that the consumption of Marijuana may be a choice—but it is not everyone’s choice—it is an addictive, gateway-type drug for some and this can be a recipe for trouble. Having lived here all his life with the exception of college, Judge Burke does not feel that it is in Granville’s best interests to allow for retail sales. He noted that the Village has accepted public comment for three months on this subject, and that this was viewed positively. However, the Judge feels that New York State has only allowed this as another means to collect revenues and he does not trust the State. He closed by urging the Village Board to pass this legislation and opt out of the retail sale of marijuana within the Village limits.

There was no further public comment.

Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the Public Hearing be closed at 7:15pm. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas called the regular session to Order at 7:15pm.

Consider Action—Proposed Local Law #3 of 2021: Mayor Labas advised that he would like to hear input from the Trustees concerning the proposed legislation. He began by stating that he understands that this is a controversial issue for some, and that he could certainly see merit on both sides of the issue. However, the Mayor feels that the legislation passed by the State restricts personal possession or consumption of marijuana to persons under age 21, so some of the concerns mentioned regarding high school students seem somewhat unfounded. No actions taken by the Village this evening will affect the State regulations—the consumption of marijuana by persons under age 21 is illegal. He feels that the NYS liquor authority closely regulates liquor sales and consumption and feels that they will be similar in their oversight of cannabis. In his view, it may be safer to manage the sale and consumption of marijuana on a regulated basis, rather than unregulated and/or distribution through illegal means. He feels that many dealers “cut” different strains of marijuana with fentanyl and other substances in search of more powerful effects—this can lead to more frequent overdoses and deaths.

Trustee Hyatt advised that in his conversations with constituents and thru listening to public comment over the past several months, he feels that the majority of constituents view the sale of marijuana positively. He sees some potential benefits to allowing sales—it would put another vacant building in use on the Main St., build local employment, and he sees some possible benefits to persons with arthritis, chronic pain, etc. He feels that if persons want to get cannabis, they will be able to do so. He feels that legislation needs to evolve and stated that he is in favor of setting the legislation aside and allowing local sales.

Deputy Mayor Smith stated that he feels that people can get drugs if they want them in Granville. He feels that licensed, monitored distribution of marijuana may be better than sales “in a back alley.” Deputy Mayor Smith states that he feels that certain drugs will be used by some, bypassed by others, and abused by a few—it is just life. Regulated use is better for safety reasons. The Deputy Mayor also cited the increase in revenues that would be seen by the Village—in past years, most non-tax revenue sources have abated, so a new revenue source is something that is welcomed. For these reasons, his is in favor of allowing retail sales and setting the proposed legislation aside.

Trustee Brown stated that he was not completely certain of his stance. The “old school” part of him wants to say no to retail sales, but he also has listened to the input received from the younger generation advocating for acceptance. Trustee Brown feels that the only reason that marijuana has

been legalized is that Albany has decided how to regulate it and make money by capturing part of the sales. He feels that the legalization of cannabis will make things more difficult for local Law Enforcement. He does not favor the concept of making things more difficult or taking tools away from Law Enforcement. This said, he sees both sides of the issue and is trying to approach things with an open mind.

Trustee Ackert commented that NYS has legalized the possession and consumption of cannabis—no action taken by the Village Board prohibit those over age 21 from participating in this activity—persons can now smoke marijuana in almost any place that they can consume cigarettes. Trustee Ackert advised that her feelings concerning the proposed legislation were similar to those expressed by Trustee Brown. She sees merit on both sides of the issue, and unfortunately it is not possible to make everyone happy.

Following the Board's comments, the Mayor inquired as to the Board's pleasure concerning the proposed legislation. The Board advised that they were prepared to consider the matter. Mayor Labas then sponsored a motion to set aside Proposed Local Law #3 of 2021. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. As a result, the Village will be opting into the legislation passed by the State, and retail dispensaries will be permitted within the Village limits.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Brown moved the approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 1st as circulated. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The following reports were reviewed by the Mayor with the Board: Police Dept., Fire Dept., Local Ordinance Officer, Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory), and Village Court. 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:	\$160,857.58
Water Fund:	\$23,746.00
Sewer Fund:	\$53,232.00
Senior Shuttle:	\$955.30
Unaudited	
Vouchers:	<u>\$4,295.00</u>

Total Claims: \$243,086.56

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

Budget Transfers: In conjunction with the Board's previous authorization to purchase certain equipment for the DPW and to provide premium pay for workers who have provided essential services through the pandemic, the following budget transfers were offered by the Village Clerk-Treasurer as a means to appropriate the Federal monies distributed through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA):

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reason</u>
<u>General Fund</u>			
A4960	Federal Aid, ARPA	+\$13,500.00	Show Federal Aid, ARPA
A31201	Police Salaries	+\$5,500.00	Premium Pay, Police Dept.
A14101	P/S—Deputy Clerk	+\$2,000.00	Premium Pay, Deputy Clerk
A13251	P/S—Village Clerk	+\$2,000.00	Premium Pay, Village Clerk
A51101	P/S—DPW	+\$2,000.00	Premium Pay, DPW
A11101	P/S—Village Court	+\$750.00	Premium Pay, Village Court
A14201	P/S—Village Attorney	+\$250.00	Premium Pay, Village Attorney
A36201	P/S—Local Ordinance Officer	+\$500.00	Premium Pay, Local Ord. Off.
A67724	Senior Shuttle C/E	+\$500.00	Premium Pay, Senior Shuttle
A4960	Federal Aid, ARPA	+\$30,707.00	Show Federal Aid, ARPA
A51102	DPW Equipment	+\$30,707.00	Purchase of 1-Ton Trk, Skid Str, LM

Water Fund

F4960	Federal Aid, ARPA	+\$4,000.00	Show Federal Aid, ARPA
F83401	Water Salaries	+\$4,000.00	Premium Pay, Water Dept. (DPW)

Sewer Fund

G4960	Federal Aid, ARPA	+\$6,000.00	Show Federal Aid, ARPA
G81101	Sewer Salaries	+\$6,000.00	Premium Pay, Sewer Dept. (DPW)

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

Report—911 Address Changes (Pine Street)—Wash. Co. RP Director: Mayor Labas introduced the Director of Washington County Real Property & Tax Service, Laura Chadwick, to brief the Board concerning a change in 911 property addresses for Pine Street residents. Mrs. Chadwick provided the Board with maps and a summary of the forthcoming changes based upon a request for a new 911 address near the Village boundary. As a result of the lack of availability of a new 911 address for the subject parcel, Real Property will be changing the addresses for most, if not all, residences on Pine St. Homes will be renumbered, with every fifty' of road frontage considered a new 911 address. This represents the industry standard and will provide consistency, which is helpful to first responders. Upon the renumbering, Real Property will advise all constituents in writing and transfer the new addresses to County Emergency Services and 911. They will also advise the United States Postal Service, UPS, and Federal Express. It is anticipated that the address changes will be completed in January of 2022, and the purpose of their visit tonight was to advise the Board, public, and staff in the Village Clerk's Office if constituents ask questions or express concerns. A period of discussion ensued between Mrs. Chadwick and the Board, and she also took several questions from constituents. At the conclusion of her presentation, the Mayor thanked the Director for her time and the information provided and wished her and her staff the best for the upcoming Holiday Season.

Resolution—NYS DOT—Paving Work, NYS Route 149: Mayor Labas briefly reviewed a Resolution provided by the NYS DOT that would allow them to complete any necessary upgrades/repairs to Village infrastructure in conjunction with the paving of NYS Route 149 (Main Street) next Spring. These upgrades would be coordinated with the Village DPW Superintendent. Trustee Hyatt sponsored the Resolution by motion, and it was seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith. The Resolution passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Authorize Mayor to Execute Contract—South Granville Fire District: For many years, the Board has authorized the Mayor to Execute the contract with the Town of Granville and Granville Engine & Hose Company #1 in order to allow the provision of fire protection services to the South Granville Fire District. The Board generally authorizes the Mayor to review the contract with the Village Attorney if there are any changes proposed beyond dates and/or syntax. Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the Mayor be so authorized in continuation with past practice. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Update Village Workplace Violence Policy: The Mayor advised that the Village had recently completed an inspection thru PESH and representatives have asked that the Village update our Workplace Violence Policy. The Mayor reviewed a template provided by the inspectors that meets all of the required elements as dictated by the agency. Following a brief discussion, Trustee Hyatt moved adoption of the policy as written. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Tax Bill Correction—R. Craig Roberts: Mayor Labas reviewed correspondence received from the Washington County Real Property Tax Service regarding a tax overpayment for R. Craig Roberts. Mr. Roberts paid his 2020-21 tax bill, which contained relevies for Water & Sewer utilities that were doubled due to a clerical error. This error was not discovered by Mr. Roberts until the 2021-22 tax bills were processed. He has completed the proper applications through the Washington County Real Property Tax Service and the Director has recommended a refund of \$5,859.60. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Brown moved approval of the refund as requested. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A. Holiday Tree Lighting: The Mayor advised that the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony jointly sponsored by the Village and Chamber of Commerce last Friday was a success. There was a nice turnout, and while certain activities were curtailed due to the ongoing pandemic, many enjoyed the opportunity to participate in person. The crowd was estimated at 1,000-1,250 by the Mayor. He thanked Trustee Dean Hyatt for his efforts throughout the decorating season and noted that Mr. Hyatt was recognized with an award for his dedicated service. The Mayor also thanked the Holiday Decorating Committee for their efforts, as well as the Village DPW. He reminded those in attendance that the nightly light shows will be conducted thru January 18th on the hour from 5pm thru 10pm—constituents can pull up street-side and tune to 89.3FM and enjoy the show in the comfort of their vehicles. The Mayor acknowledged the Holiday spirit and cheer seen in Granville and noted the decorations on people's homes on the side streets, etc. He closed by thanking Dunkin Donuts, Cider Valley Donuts, the Pine Grove, and everyone who donated hats, mittens, and scarves for the youth of the community. This is always a special night, and the Mayor feels that it was a wonderful way to kick off the Holiday Season.

- B. Tractor Parade Update: Mayor Labas advised that plans for the 4th Annual Tractor Parade were progressing well, noting that there were 45+ vehicles signed up to participate thru this evening. The Mayor advised that while the Church Street bridge will not be completed in time, an alternate route has been approved by the Committee. Tractors and floats will proceed from Telescope Casual Furniture north to Potter Avenue, and up Quaker/Main St. before turning onto North Street and finishing at the former Manchester Wood plant. He thanked organizers Paul Garrone and Krystle Morey for their efforts in coordinating this event and advised that the weather forecast looks promising—the Mayor feels that this will be another great night for the Granville community.
- C. Update—Church Street Bridge: The Mayor advised that the latest updates concerning the Church Street Bridge were that paving was expected to commence on Thursday, and that the hopes were that the bridge would be opened to traffic on December 14th or shortly thereafter. He noted that work crews have been busy on site all weekend and that everyone's efforts to complete the job in challenging weather conditions are most appreciated.

The Mayor opened the meeting to public comment at 7:55pm.

Mrs. Kathy Juckett inquired as to the status of the present staffing in the Police Dept. The Mayor indicated that he was working with the Police Chief in this matter, and that recruiting efforts to date have produced several part time candidates and/or potential lateral transfers. Mrs. Juckett commented that she felt strongly that the Board should have done more in an effort to keep the officers that had previously resigned from the Department.

Mr. Michael Angiolillo asked Fire Chief Pedone if money was the sole issue in his decision to leave the Police Department. Mayor Labas advised Mr. Angiolillo that he should direct any input that he wished to express to the Board, rather than to Village officials and/or employees.

There was no further public comment.

At 8:00pm, Trustee Brown moved that the Board convene an Executive Session concerning a matter relating to the ongoing 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. The Mayor asked Chief Bassett to join the Executive Session at 8:02pm, and he remained in the Executive Session through 8:20pm.*

At 8:25pm, Trustee Hyatt moved that the Board return to regular session. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Trustee Brown moved the hiring of Christopher Kyne to the position of Police Officer p/t at a salary of \$20.71/hr. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Smith moved the hire of Raymond Boyea to the position of Court Security Attendant at a rate of \$15.50/Hour. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas offered Christmas and Holiday greetings to the Board, Village employees, and those remaining in attendance. He expressed that he hoped all would have a safe and joyous holiday season and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated to combat the ongoing spread of the pandemic.

There being no other business, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25pm. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer