

**Village Board Meeting**  
**June 7, 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: DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey, Asst Superintendent Josh Hayes, Police Chief Ernie Bassett Jr., Fire Chief Ryan Pedone, Deputy Fire Chief Michael Zinn, 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: Mr. Jason Preisner, PE--Lamont Engineers, Mr. Matt Hicks--Town Supervisor, Mr. John and Mrs. Linda Freed, Mr. Charlie and Mrs. Mary King, Ms. Stephanie Munger, Mr. David and Mrs. Kathy Juckett, Mr. George Demas, Mr. John Norton, Mr. Eric Pekar, and Mrs. Molly Celani

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 May 3<sup>rd</sup> as circulated. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following reports with the Board of Trustees: Police Dept., Fire Dept., Water Dept. (3 Samples, all satisfactory), Local Ordinance Officer, and Village Court. Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the reports be accepted as presented. 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:	\$123,063.60
Water Fund:	\$12,425.14
Sewer Fund:	\$24,363.77
Senior Shuttle:	\$851.32
Unaudited	
Claims:	<u>\$300.00</u>

Total Claims: \$161,004.63

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

Announce Engineering Grant: Mayor Labas advised that the Village had recently been approved for a \$30,000.00 Engineering/Planning grant to address concerns relating to infiltration/inflows into the Village Sewer System. He then introduced PE Jason Preisner of Lamont Engineers and asked that he brief the Board concerning the grant. Mr. Preisner advised that this grant application had been

submitted in February and approved in mid-May. The grant provides funding to allow for the assessment of causes of infiltration of ground water into the Sanitary Sewer system in the area of North/Pine Streets, where flows have been observed to increase greatly in times of heavy rain/substantial runoff. Smoke testing will be performed in this area, allowing the causes of inflows to be observed, and the possibility of diverting/managing these high flow events will be studied. While the grant does have a 20% local match, Mr. Preisner noted that the DPW would aid with the testing and their labor counted toward the offset, in addition to any materials that are consumed.

Following a brief period of discussion between members of the Board and Mr. Preisner, Trustee Hyatt sponsored a Resolution by motion to accept the grant as awarded and any responsibility for a local match. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Request for Use of Veterans Park: Mayor Labas renewed a written request from the Slate Valley Garden Club to utilize Veterans Park for a bake sale/fund raiser on June 12<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of June 19<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Mayor Smith moved approval of the request as submitted. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Update—Utility Termination Moratorium Law: Mayor Labas asked the Village Clerk to provide an update to the Board concerning the Utility Termination Moratorium legislation recently signed into Law by Governor Cuomo. The Clerk advised that this legislation had been crafted with the intent of protecting those who have experienced negative consequences as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation prohibits utilities (including municipalities) from discontinuing service for reasons of non-payment and/or the relevy of any outstanding balances onto tax bills until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Somewhat strangely, the law also does not classify Sewer Service as a Utility—only Water balances are regulated. So, for constituents who routinely allow their water/sewer rents to roll onto their Village Tax bills, they will only see a Sewer Relevy for 2021-22. Utilities and Municipalities will be required to accept partial payments and provide notice to their constituents/customers as to their rights. As the outstanding Water Rents remain unpaid, the Village will need to re-bill their constituents and explain the circumstances associated with this legislation. It is hoped that thru education and follow-up, most of the outstanding balances can be paid to avoid a double relevy for Water Service in 2022-23. The Village Clerk advised that he would be sending a letter and a new invoice out to approximately 200 constituents later in the month, with a letter outlining constituents' rights and options. He recommended the suspension of additional late fees/interest charges through July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for his report and remarked that while he was sympathetic to those who had been financially impacted by the pandemic, that this legislation seemed a little late in coming, and that it will impose an additional workload on the Village Clerk's Office.

Coin Drop Request—VFW Auxiliary: Mayor Labas reviewed a coin drop request received from the VFW Auxiliary for June 26<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the coin drop would be used to sponsor an Independence Day parade. Trustee Brown moved that the request be approved as submitted. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Report—Pember Library and Museum: Mayor Labas asked Pember Library President Mary King to present a report concerning the Library & Museum's operations. Mrs. King provided a report highlighting upcoming activities at the Library, Museum, and Nature Preserve and a summary of attendance and program activity seen through May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board briefly discussed an issue concerning a leak in proximity to the chimney located on the eastern side of the building. Mrs. King advised that the leak had been present for some time and requested that the Village Board provide

assistance in affecting repairs. She stated that the library had applied for a grant to offset some or all of the costs associated, but the Pember had not yet heard back as to the status of the application. Mayor Labas advised that he would request that a drone be flown up to take pictures of the areas of concern, and that the Village would then assess the potential costs and solicit quotes and/or bid out the project.

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

- A. Update--Church Street Bridge Replacement: The Mayor advised that the former Knotty Pine Bar had been demolished today following training drills conducted by the Granville Engine & Hose Company over the past 6-7 days. This structure directly adjoins the Church Street Bridge, which is scheduled to be closed for replacement from June 16<sup>th</sup> through early October per the Mayor. Signage indicating detours is to be placed over the next 2-3 weeks in compliance with mapping approved by the NYS DOT.
- B. Eagle Scout Project—Theo Mara: The Mayor highlighted the usage of the Mettowee River Park during the heat wave over the past few days. He noted many patrons swimming, fishing, walking their dogs, etc. He also recognized Theo Mara, a 17-year-old Senior at Granville High who constructed four heavy-duty picnic tables for public use at the Park. The DPW has poured concrete pads for each of the tables, and they look just great. The Mayor and DPW Superintendent both praised Mr. Mara for the quality of his workmanship. The tables are a welcomed addition and are already being used by patrons.
- C. Website Design: The Mayor advised that he and Trustee Brown have been working with the Technology Department at GHS to see if they could provide assistance in upgrading the Village's website. They will be looking into this further. The Mayor advised that he also hopes to upgrade the Village's technology to allow for meetings to be broadcast monthly. Those watching remotely could observe all proceedings, but not participate/ask questions. If this can be accomplished, remote access would be permitted to all parties, while those wishing to provide input/interact with the Board would have the option of writing, calling, emailing, or attending the meeting in person per the Mayor.
- D. Paving Update: The Mayor advised that he has been working with the NYS DOT in an effort to remedy some drainage issues seen with several driveways/entryways on East Main Street. These issues were not addressed with the recent resurfacing of the road performed under the supervision of the NYS DOT. The Board commented that they would like to see this area addressed, as well as the property adjoining the High School below the grade of the road. The Mayor advised that he would contact the NYS DOT to follow up in this matter.
- E. Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA): Mayor Labas advised that there was a present vacancy in the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Mayor nominated Duane Gebo for a five-year term to expire in April, 2026. Trustee Ackert moved the approval of the Mayor's nominee as presented. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- F. Appointment to the Planning Board: The Mayor advised that there was a present vacancy on the Village Planning Board. He nominated Heather Ayers to a 5-year term to expire in April of 2026. Trustee Brown moved approval of the nomination as presented.
- G. NYS Marijuana Legislation: Mayor Labas briefly reviewed legislation at the State level that has been signed into Law legalizing the use, possession, and distribution of Marijuana. Up to 3 ounces of marijuana can now be possessed for personal consumption, and NYS will establish/publish rules and regulations relating to the sale/dispensary of cannabis, and the cultivation/processing of the same. The Mayor advised that the Village had the option of opting out of the legislation in terms of permitting a dispensary and or establishments for consumption from operating within the Village limits. This decision must be reached by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If the Village does not opt out of this legislation by that time, dispensaries and establishments providing consumption would be permitted on a permanent basis. If the Village were to opt out of this legislation, it could opt back in at a later date. Finally, the Mayor advised that the Village would receive between 1 ½% and 3% of the sale of cannabis within the Village borders if a dispensary located to Granville. The Mayor stated that the Board would be discussing this matter with constituents in an effort to get a feel for our constituents' preferences. He advised that this matter would be brought back up for discussion in the Fall.

Mayor Labas then opened the meeting to public comment at 8:10pm.

Trustee Hyatt and Mayor Labas thanked Mrs. Molly Celani for her service to the Zoning Board of Appeals over many years.

Mrs. Kathy Juckett asked in Board members' individual emails and/or contact information could be posted to the website. Some Board members expressed concerns relating to FOIL when posting their personal email addresses, while others were comfortable with this information being posted. The Mayor advised that he would leave this decision to individual Board members, but that he had made his cell phone information and email available in the past.

Mr. Erik Pekar raised a question concerning a manhole in proximity to the intersection of E. Main Street and Court Street and signage pertaining to speed limits on Mettowee Street and to define where the Village begins where Mettowee Street intersects Route 22. The Mayor asked DPW Superintendent Mackey to investigate these matters.

Mr. John Norton complimented Charlie King concerning the banner project honoring Veterans and those in service in Granville. This project was recently completed, and Mr. Norton feels that it is a great source of community pride. Mr. King thanked the Village DPW and NYSEG for their efforts in fashioning the hardware to hang the banners and for providing labor/manpower/equipment in support of the project.

Mrs. Molly Celani echoed Mr. Norton's sentiments concerning the banner project. She mentioned a recent speaker at the Slate Valley Museum—Kevin Wilson—who had returned to Granville after many years away, and that he had expressed that the banners were a great testament to Granville, and the service rendered by its constituents.

Pember Library Board President Mary King asked if Mayor Labas or Trustee Hyatt would comment on the meetings that they have had with her and Pember Board Member Jerry McKinney. Trustee Hyatt commented that he felt the tone of the meetings was positive, and that his review of the paperwork associated with the DASNY Grant and Elevator Project indicated that all appeared to be in order. Mayor Labas concurred that the tone of the meetings was positive and while he did indicate some concerns pertaining to the grout work seen on the addition, that he hoped these meetings would continue in an effort to improve communication and to foster a better relationship between the Village and Pember.

There being no further public comment, Deputy Mayor Smith sponsored a motion to convene an executive session at 8:25pm concerning a matter pertaining to the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation within the Dept. of Public Works. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session.*

Ms. Ackert moved that the Board return to regular session at 8:35pm. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Mayor advised that no decisions had been made or matters voted upon during the Executive Session.

There being no other business, Trustee Brown moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35pm. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts  
Village Clerk-Treasurer