

**Village Board Meeting and Public Hearing
March 7, 2022, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center**

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith Jr. (via teleconference), 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., Fire Chief Ryan Pedone, Deputy Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Austin Crosier, *NYVT Media*

Others: Mr. Erik Pekar, Mr. Tyler Williams, Mr. John and Mrs. Carol Nowicki, Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, Mr. Dwayne Daigle, Mr. Michael Angiolillo, Mr. Jeffrey McMorris, Esq., Mr. George Demas, Mr. David and Mrs. Kathy Juckett, Mr. Stewart Dittmeier, Mr. John Griffith, Mr. Ken Duel, and Mr. Matthew Hicks, Town Supervisor

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and called the Public Hearing to Order regarding proposed changes to the Zoning Map at 7:00pm.

The Mayor briefly reviewed the rules for public comment at all Public Hearings and then requested the sign-in sheet for those wishing to be recognized.

Mr. Jeffrey McMorris, Esq., was listed first on the sign in sheet and first to speak. He advised that he was representing the Granville Masonic Lodge. He stated that the Lodge had no objection to the possible placement of a daycare center, but he indicated that the Masons have a barbeque pit on their property adjacent to the properties proposed for development. The Lodge feels that they are pre-established there and wanted it on record that this is a major source of fundraising, and vital to their support of local and regional programs. The Lodge would not want to receive future complaints from adjoining parcels regarding the smells/grease, etc. associated with the cooking process. Trustee Hyatt commented that if the zoning reclassification is passed tonight, the proposed facility would still have to go through the Planning Board to complete the process of site plan review prior to commencing operations.

Mr. Michael Angiolillo reiterated the concerns expressed by M. McMorris. He indicated that much of the revenue raised by the Masonic Lodge comes in through chicken barbeques.

Mr. John Griffith expressed concern that the Mayor had an ownership interest in some of the properties being considered for reclassification. He feels that the Mayor should divest himself of any interest in these properties before the Board considers the matter. The Village Attorney advised that the Mayor had disclosed his ownership interest at the February Meeting and that this had been published in the paper. The Mayor advised that he had recused himself from this matter and would not be taking part in any vote concerning the potential reclassification.

Mr. Stewart Dittmeier asked if the parcels in question would be converted to the same zoning classification as seen by the property owned by the Masons that houses their Lodge. The Board answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Dwayne Daigle was the final speaker to be recognized. He advised that if approved, the structure to be erected will conform to the 25' setback requirement seen in the Zoning Code. He noted that while it is not a concern to him, the barbeque pit utilized by the Masons is set back only 8' from the property line.

There was no further public comment.

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

Mayor Labas called the Regular Session to Order at 7:15pm.

Consider Action—Proposed Changes to Zoning Map: Mayor Labas asked the Board's pleasure concerning the matter considered at the Public Hearing. He reiterated that because he has an ownership interest in two of the parcels being considered, that he would not be participating in any debate or voting on the matter this evening. The Board discussed the proposed changes, and following the period of discussion, Trustee Hyatt moved that the Zoning Classification for the three parcels in question be changed from "Village Density Residential" to "Neighborhood Business". Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried, 4-0, with Mayor Labas abstaining.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Ackert moved ratification of the Meeting Minutes of February 7th and the Minutes of the Budget Workshop on February 17th as circulated. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Police Dept., Fire Dept., Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory), Local Ordinance Officer, 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 approval for payment:

General Fund:	\$41,686.46
Water Fund:	\$9,610.49
Sewer Fund:	\$24,879.28
Senior Shuttle:	\$1,435.32
Unaudited	
Vouchers:	<u>\$174.00</u>

Total Claims: \$77,785.55

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

Budget Transfers: The Village Clerk proposed the following Budget Transfer within the Water Fund to classify/appropriate a valve replacement on Potter Avenue through ARPA Funding as per the request of the DPW Superintendent:

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reason</u>
<u>Water Fund</u>			
F4960	Federal Aid, ARPA	+\$2,426.40	Show Federal Aid, ARPA
F83404	Water Contractual Expense	+\$2,426.40	Replace Water Valve

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

Present 2022-23 Tentative Budget: Mayor Labas presented the 2022-2023 Tentative Budget. He highlighted that the Budget contained no tax increase, nor any increase in Water or Sewer rents. The Mayor stated that this was the first time in at least 30 years that this had happened. All Village services are to be fully funded/maintained per the Mayor. He thanked the Village Board, Dept. Heads, and staff for working together to control costs, and promote efficiencies through the administration of Village services. The Board directed the Village Clerk to advertise for a Public Hearing concerning the Tentative Budget on Monday, April 4th at 7:00pm. Mayor Labas advised that the Tentative Budget would also be posted to the Village website.

Consider Permit—Placement of Mobile Home: Mayor Labas advised that Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone had forwarded an application for a manufactured home to the Board for review. The applicants, John & Carol Nowicki, are seeking to place the home on Granview Drive. The Board discussed this matter with LOO Pedone and Mr. & Mrs. Nowicki. It was noted that the applicants had requested premium skirting for the double wide manufactured home, and that two other similar structures are located on Granview Drive. All wheels, axels and the tongue will be removed, and the home will be anchored in an Alaskan slab. Following the period of discussion, the Board agreed that such structures were allowable under the Village Zoning Law. Trustee Brown moved approval of the application submitted by Mr. & Mrs. Nowicki, subject to proper setbacks and issuance of a building permit by County Code Enforcement. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried 4-0, with Trustee Hyatt abstaining.

Coin Drop Requests (2): The Mayor reviewed two coin drop requests with the Board:

- A. The Pember Library requested a coin drop to be held on July 30th. Trustee Brown moved approval of the request as submitted. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried 4-0, with Trustee Hyatt abstaining.
- B. The Haynes House of Hope requested a coin drop to be held on September 10th. Following a period of discussion, the Board noted that this date coincides with the proposed date for Telescope's 100th Anniversary celebration. Considering this, Trustee Ackert moved that the request be approved for Saturday, September 17th to avoid any potential excess traffic or conflict with Telescope's event. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor's Reports: The Mayor advised that he had just a single matter that he wished to discuss with the Board/public, concerning the Mettowee Park on Church Street. Mayor Labas has received several complaints of constituents not adhering to the posted rules in the Park—maintaining dogs on a leash, cleaning up after you dog, trash not being removed, etc. as well an act of vandalism involving one of the

picnic tables placed there. The Mayor advised that Village parks are meant for the public's enjoyment, but that rules/laws must be followed. Those found violating Park rules/Village Laws are subject to ticketing, removal from the Park, and/or being asked not to return. The Mayor asked that everyone do their part and be respectful, as the Village does not want to have to resort to the issuance of tickets and/or closure of the Park just to address a few bad actors.

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

Ass't Fire Chief Michael Zinn asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the Department's request for funding pertaining to their new training facility. Mayor Labas advised that the proposal had been circulated to the Board and that he anticipated that a decision would be announced after the Board returned from Executive Session.

Mrs. Kathy Juckett inquired about the status of the Police Dept. Chief Bassett advised that things remained "status quo" at present, with no new hires being brought on in the last 30 days. The Chief explained that the main issue that the Village is seeing is in the availability of qualified candidates. The County Civil Service list is nearly exhausted, and many other Departments/Agencies are in a similar position (short staffed), thus the availability of officers to complete a lateral transfer is relatively limited. The Mayor and Trustee Hyatt commented that the County had scheduled a new Civil Service Examination, but they were unaware of how many candidates had signed up to date. Each also referenced the NYS Bail Reform law as an issue. When Officers make arrests, often the Judge has no choice but to release them back into the general population, even when crimes of a serious nature are being committed. They feel that this is a disincentive to Police Departments and are also seem like a damper for recruits/candidates who might be considering a career in law enforcement. Salaries and benefits were also discussed.

Mr. Austin Crosier of NY-VT media inquired on the status of the Police Contract. The Mayor advised that the Department salaries had been adjusted to the terms contained in the MOA executed by the Village and PBA, but that the contract had yet to be finalized. The main issue with the contract is seen with the schedule—until officers can be recruited and placed, it seems a somewhat fruitless effort to craft a schedule. At present, the Department is being staffed by the Chief, full-time Officer Zovistoski, and 6-8 part-time officers.

There was no further public comment.

Trustee Brown moved that the Board convene an Executive Session at 7:50pm regarding ongoing contract negotiations with the DPW (CSEA). Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session.*

At 8:10pm, Trustee Ackert moved that the Board return to regular session. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Trustee Brown moved the appropriation of \$25,000 to the Granville Engine & Hose Company to aid in their construction of a new training facility. These monies are to be appropriated from funds received through the ARPA program. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no other business, Trustee Ackert moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15pm. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer