

**A Village Board Meeting
October 3, 2022, 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., Superintendent of Public Works Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Josh Hayes, Local Ordinance Officer Curtis Pedone, Fire Chief Ryan Pedone, Ass't Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, Police Officer Thomas Zovistoski, Village Attorney Michael Martin, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Douglas La Rocque, NYVT Media

Others: Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, Mr. George Demas, Mr. Dwayne Daigle, Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Felecia Dougherty, and Mr. Erik Pekar

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 September 12th as circulated. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board of Trustees: 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: \$55,758.71
Water Fund: \$10,774.21
Sewer Fund: \$12,624.78
Senior Shuttle: \$2,994.76
Unaudited
Claims: \$8,052.20

Total Claims: \$90,204.66

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: The Clerk-Treasurer circulated a memo outlining two proposed budget transfers recommended for the General Fund to appropriate ARPA monies as per the Board's prior direction:

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reason</u>
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General Fund

A4960 Federal Aid, ARPA	+\$28,000.00	Show Federal Aid, ARPA
A34104 Fire Dept., Cont. Expense	+\$25,000.00	Appropriation per Board Authorization
A95509 Capital Projects (Sidewalks)	+\$3,000.00	Appropriation per Board Authorization

Trustee Hyatt moved acceptance of the transfers as presented. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Resolution: Arts Initiative Grant: For many years, the Board has authorized the Mayor and/or Village Clerk to file a grant application with LARAC in support of the Summer Concert Series. A model resolution has been circulated to the Board to accomplish this purpose. The amount of the grant to be sought for 2023 is suggested at \$3,000. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Brown sponsored the Resolution by motion. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Authorize DPW Superintendent to Execute County Road Maintenance Agreement: The Mayor reviewed documentation transmitted by the Washington County DPW Superintendent concerning road maintenance for the upcoming winter season. In years past, the Board has authorized the Village DPW Sup't to execute this documentation, as it is the means by which the Village receives reimbursement for snow and ice removal on Main Street and near Veterans Park and Granville Central School. Trustee Hyatt moved that Superintendent Mackey be so authorized as per past practice. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A. Amazon Locating to Granville: The Mayor confirmed that Amazon is locating a packaging facility to the former Manchester Wood Building on North Street. This announcement was made following the Town Planning Board Meeting last Tuesday. It is expected that Amazon will bring some 200 good-paying jobs to Granville, and that the facility will open in May of 2023. Construction should commence in December per Mayor Labas.

The Mayor welcomed Amazon and wished them much success. He thanked the Town Planning Board for their thorough review of the project, and the Village Board for their foresight in establishing Water & Sewer utility service to the building. He noted that the water meter seen at the plant had been recently upgraded and that the Board will be working to assure that all commercial customers update their meters/service in the future.

- B. Update—Church Street Bridge: Mayor Labas advised that the replacement of the Church Street Bridge is nearly complete. The contractors have taken delivery of the last of the pipe that they needed to upgrade the utilities running under the bridge, the sidewalks have been poured, and the streetlights have now been connected. One more catch basin is to be installed, and then the top coat of asphalt should be applied in the next 10 days. The Mayor thanked the work crew on site and the Village DPW for their dedication in buttoning up this project following delays caused by supply chain issues. He feels that it will be good to see things wrapped up there soon.
- C. Sidewalk/Footbridge Update: The Mayor congratulated the Village DPW for their work in support of sidewalk replacements seen on Quaker Street. He advised that additional work was

planned near the Elementary School as well. Mayor Labas also reported that the DPW had also done an excellent job repainting the Footbridge between the Pember Library and Slate Valley Museum. This project turned out great and was handled “in house” as opposed to contracting the job out—the Mayor expressed his appreciation to all who participated in this project.

- D. Police Dept. Staffing: Mayor Labas read a statement concerning the Granville Police Dept. He emphasized that the only ways for officers to be added to the Department under Civil Service Rules were a) thru a lateral transfer of a currently Certified Officer or b) by hiring from the current list of eligible candidates on the County Civil Service list. Hires from the Civil Service list would require 6 months of training through the Academy, followed by a certain number of hours under the supervision of a certified officer before being able to work on their own. The Mayor noted that while the Village continues to canvas both of these channels, there are very few—if any—lateral candidates available due to shortness in staffing seen at the State and County levels, as well as other local departments. He also reviewed the Civil Service process and advised that of 35 applicants who took the most recent Civil Service Exam, only 10 passed both the written and physical components. While the entire list (10) was canvassed, only 5 candidates expressed interest in joining the Granville Department. And while Chief Bassett reached out to all five interested candidates, one has since been hired by Washington County, another has accepted an offer from a City in Warren County, and another is unable to attend Academy training at present due to a temporary disability. This leaves just two candidates through the Civil Service listing, and while the Chief continues to engage with them, there are no guarantees. Mayor Labas emphasized that he, the Board, and the Police Chief all desire to have a fully staffed department, and that the present budget maintains a roster of five full time officers as well as 8-12 part-time staff. This problem is not particular to Granville per the Mayor, or even to Washington County, but rather is a regional concern. He noted that the Board of Trustees for the Village of Fort Edward was meeting as he spoke to discuss the fate of their local Police Department. The Mayor feels that the present bail reform laws, in combination with the general environment in the Country towards Police Officers, are making it very difficult to find qualified, local candidates that want to serve. The Mayor closed by expressing his appreciation to the staff in the Department for their dedicated efforts in maintaining coverage and staffing levels. Officers are working overtime, pulling extra shifts, etc. in hopes of providing the best service to the community under the circumstances. The Mayor closed by reiterating that maintaining law & order is a substantial priority for him and his administration, and that he will continue to work with County Civil Service, Higher Elected Officials, and through the Police Community in hopes of returning the Department to full staffing levels.

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

Mr. Erik Pekar questioned the Board concerning signage indicating the presence of crosswalks on Main Street. The Mayor advised that Main Street is part of NYS Route 149, a State Highway. He referred Mr. Pekar to the Village DPW Superintendent in this matter.

There was no further public comment.

At 7:15pm, Trustee Brown moved that the Board convene an Executive Session regarding a matter relating to a certain person or persons being considered for appointment within the Police Department. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session.*

At 7:30pm, Trustee Hyatt moved that the Board return to regular session. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Mayor advised that no decisions had been made during the Executive Session.

There being no other business, Trustee Ackert moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30pm. Brown seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer