

Village Board Meeting
March 4, 2024, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Trustees Dean Hyatt, Dan Brown, and Denise Davies; absent Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith Jr.

Village Key Staff: Fire Chief Mike Zinn, Deputy Chief Keith Seebode, Sup't 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, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Doug LaRocque, NYVT Media, Julie Fedler NYVT Media

Others: Mrs. Karin Rozell, Mrs. Jackie Williams, Mr. Matt Rollwagen, Mr. John & Mrs. Linda Freed, Ms. Ann McGarry, Mr. Matthew Aldous, Mr. Erik Pekar, Mr. Rick Vladyka, Mr. Dan Williams, Mr. Peter Kischak, Ms. Lauren Bucciero, and Mr. William Kuban

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and called the Meeting to Order at 7:00pm.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hyatt moved the ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 5th and Budget Workshop of February 22nd as posted to the Village website. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Fire Dept., Police Dept., Local Ordinance Officer and Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory). Trustee Davies 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:	\$28,716.04
Water Fund:	\$7,204.49
Sewer Fund:	\$12,385.78
Senior Shuttle:	\$961.36
Unaudited	
Claims:	<u>\$190.41</u>

Total Claims: \$49,458.08

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

Present 2024-25 Tentative Budget: Mayor Labas presented the 2024-25 Tentative Budget. He advised that this was the product of meetings between the Budget Officer and Dept. Heads, and a review by the Village Board at the Budget Workshop of February 22. The Mayor advised that the Tentative Budget provided for a 2.97% levy increase, as well as increases of \$15/household for Water Rents, and \$10/Household in Sewer Rents. The Mayor cited increases in Health Insurance rates, retirement rates,

utility costs, and overall inflation as the primary drivers of the increases proposed. He emphasized that all Village services will be maintained through the Tentative Budget and that the document will now remain static through the Public Hearing concerning the same to be scheduled for April 1st. He closed by advising that copies of the Tentative Budget were available at the back of the room and that the Tentative Budget had also been posted to the Village website as well.

Presentation—RERC Website: Mayor Labas recognized Mrs. Karin Rozell, chairperson of the Committee for Branding & Promotional Efforts formed after the Workshop from the RERC Workshop last spring. Mrs. Rozell thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to update the Village Board relating to the Committee's efforts to date. She advised that the Committee had been working on three objectives taken from the Community Action Plan as adopted by the Village Board following the RERC Workshop. First, they have created a brand to aid in the promotion of the recreational and cultural assets available locally. This branding concept involves a symbol/tag line for Granville, formatted in three colors. In addition, the group published an RPF for a website that will provide a single resource to connect locals and visitors to the central calendar for Village/Town events, lodging opportunities, dining, and cultural/recreational opportunities. Lastly, the Committee seeks to increase utilization of our outdoor assets through highlighting and promotion of the same.

Mrs. Rozell advised that the RFP had produced three proposals for the website design and maintenance. These pricing associated with these proposals ranged from \$6K to \$30K, with the low bidder being from a local firm called Thoughts Left On. Mrs. Rozell indicated that this proposal had been reviewed by the Committee and that they were seeking acceptance of the same. She advised that the proposed funding for the same would include \$3,000 from the Village, \$3,000 from the Town for ongoing maintenance of the website, and that they would seek \$3,000 from the Granville Community Foundation. A period of discussion ensued between the Village Board and Mrs. Rozell and several members of the Committee who were also in attendance. Following the discussion period, the Mayor inquired as to the Board's preference with the proposal. Trustee Hyatt moved the appropriation of \$3,000 from ARPA funds towards the engagement of the low bidder for this project. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A. State of the Village Address: The Mayor advised that he had recently completed his annual "State of the Village" address and that it had been disseminated to NYVT Media and the Village website. He advised that the address provides updates regarding ongoing projects, as well as a summary of accomplishments seen during 2023 for the Village.
- B. The Mayor reviewed three requests for use of Veterans Park in the coming month:
 - *Captured Creations provided a written request to conduct an Easter Egg hunt for local children in Veterans Park from Noon-1:00pm on Saturday, March 16th. Trustee Brown moved approval of this request as submitted. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - *Mr. Paul Leonard requested use of the Park/Bandstand for a potluck luncheon and Easter Egg hunt on March 23rd from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Davies moved approval of the request as submitted. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

*The Granville Ecumenical Council submitted a written request to use the Park for a sunrise service on Easter Sunday at 7:00am. This would be an inter-denominational service with all local parishes being welcome. Trustee Hyatt noted that this request has been honored for many years and moved approval of the same in keeping with past practice. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Mayor then opened the Meeting to public comment at 7:15pm.

Mr. Rick Vladyka advised that he was supportive of the Village's initiatives through the RERC Grant. As President of the Washington County Sportsman's Federation representing some 7,000 sportsmen, he advised that he will be seeking to improve access to the Mettowee River as a local trout habitat. He is seeking increased access on public property to allow for greater stocking of the river for Region 5. Such access is being sought below the former NYSEG dam on Water Street and would include an area suitable for launching a canoe or flat-bottom boat via a boat slide. He advised that he has spoken to the DPW Superintendents for both the Village and the Town of Granville concerning this, and is optimistic that increased access is possible, which should present opportunities for greater numbers of fish and/or larger fish being stocked. He is also hopeful that the limits for numbers of fish/size of fish that can be kept will increase. Commensurate with these efforts, Mr. Vladyka also advised that he is seeking partnerships with GCS through student-centered organizations like the National Honor Society, FFA, etc. He also hopes to work with the DEC, local Municipalities and the Washington County Probation Dept. to keep any access areas free of trash/debris, and properly maintained. He advised that he will return to the Board with a formal proposal regarding this at a future date after firming up some details. The Mayor and Board thanked Mr. Vladyka for his efforts with this project and wished him all the best with his ongoing efforts.

There was no further public comment.

The Mayor then closed the public comment period and requested that the Board convene an Executive Session regarding several potential matters involving employee appointments, resignations, and/or matters relating to contractual negotiations. Trustee Brown moved that the Board convene an Executive Session for these reasons at 7:25pm. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board in to the Executive Session for its entirety.*

At 7:40pm, Trustee Hyatt moved that the Board return to regular session. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Trustee Davies moved acceptance of the letter of resignation for Robert Sheridan from the Village Planning Board, with regret. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion, and noted Mr. Sheridan's many years of distinguished service to the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no other business, Trustee Brown moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45pm. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer