

**Village Board Meeting
November 4th, 2024, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center**

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith, Trustees Dean Hyatt, Denise Davies and Heather Leaman

Village Key Staff: Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey, Ass't DPW Sup't Josh Hayes, Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Erik Pekar, *NYVT Media*

Others: Mr. Daniel Williams, Mr. Steven and Mrs. Felicia Dougherty, Mr. Peter Kishak, Ms. Coral Pardy, Mr. Paul Felice, Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, and Mrs. Robin Anderson

At 7:00pm, Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called the Meeting to Order.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hyatt moved ratification of the draft Meeting Minutes of October 7th as posted to the Village website. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following monthly reports with the Village Board: Local Ordinance Officer, Village Court (Justice and Associate Justice), Fire Dept., and Water Dept. (3 samples taken, all satisfactory). Deputy Mayor Smith moved acceptance of the reports as read. Trustee Leaman 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:	\$30,088.03
Water Fund:	\$9,347.12
Sewer Fund:	\$22,487.77
Senior Shuttle:	\$1,336.63
Unaudited Vouchers:	<u>\$21,549.66</u>
Total Claims:	\$84,809.21

The Board audited the claims and Trustee Leaman moved their authorization for payment. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A. Election Reminder: The Mayor reminded those in attendance that the National Election would be conducted tomorrow from 6:00am to 9:00pm. He noted that the polling location for Village residents had been changed from the Village Municipal Center to the Town

Offices. He encouraged all in attendance to exercise their right to vote in this important election.

- B. Vacancies (ZBA/Planning Board): Mayor Labas advised that there was a present vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and that another position was expected to become available soon. In addition, he noted that there was a need for an alternate member of the Planning Board. If anyone is interested in serving, he advised that they can contact him to set up an interview at their convenience.

- C. Update—Website Development: The Mayor advised that he had been in contact with Karin Rozell, who had been heading up the marketing/branding committee formed after the RERC Workshop. Mrs. Rozell has advised that after a slow start, work has commenced on the website to be utilized for community events, lodging, eateries, etc. The website is meant to be a single-stop resource for information about Granville, as well as to promote the natural and cultural resources seen locally. The Mayor has been advised that the website is expected to be completed during the month of December, with an expected launch date in January.

- D. Consider Gross Receipts Tax: Mayor Labas advised that the Village had begun work on the 2025-26 Budget and that we are seeing continued inflation in certain areas beyond our control, particularly in terms of retirement costs, property insurance, health insurance, and commodity costs. He noted that the Village would like to remain tax cap compliant, but the inflationary pressures seen are making that difficult. In order to address this, he asked that the Board consider the adoption of a Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) for Utilities who operate in the Village Right of Way. The Mayor asked the Clerk-Treasurer if he could provide additional information to the Board concerning the GRT.

The Clerk-Treasurer advised that many municipalities in NYS utilize the Gross Receipts Tax as a means to supplement non-tax revenues. He explained that this tax amounts to a 1% fee collected from utilities that utilize the Village right of way, namely power and telephone suppliers. This tax would be similar in composition to that seen with the current cable franchise fee, but lower in terms of percentage (1% only, as opposed to 5% for Spectrum) If the Board were interested in pursuing this, the means to do so would involve the Village Attorney drafting proposed legislation and then holding a Public Hearing to accept any public input/comment. This would develop an additional revenue stream for the Village as opposed to an increase in taxes beyond the tax cap. The Treasurer advised that the Mayor/Board had established this Tax Cap compliance as a priority going forward. He also noted prior reductions in staff (DPW reduced from 8 FT staff to 6, Police Dept. reduced from 6 to 5 FT staff), so the GRT may be something to consider if the Village wants to retain its current services.

Following a period of discussion, Trustee Davies moved that the Village Attorney be directed to craft draft local legislation to consider the GRT, and that the Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to advertise for a public hearing on Monday, December 2nd at 7pm at the Village Municipal Center to consider the same. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Robin Anderson addressed the Board concerning the formulation of a local youth group targeting students in 6th-12th grade at GCS. While she acts as Faith Coordinator at St. Mary's Church, she stressed that the program would be open to all and was designed to be non-denominational. Previously, under Rev. Zelker, this program had been quite successful/popular, and the church is hoping to re-establish the same in an effort to provide healthy, positive alternatives for local youth. Components of the program would include money management, time management, eating well/healthy, community involvement, character, games, interaction, food & beverages, etc. Mrs. Anderson also noted that program volunteers would be vetted and have passed background checks—parental involvement would also be welcomed, similar to when the program was administered by Rev. Zelker and the Ecumenical Council. She noted that the Church has received some grant funds and is hopeful to put them to good use through growth of the program locally. She concluded by noting that this program can be viewed on You Tube by searching for "A Trail Map for Life". The Mayor thanked Mrs. Anderson for her presentation and wished her success.

Trustee Hyatt commented that he felt that the Veterans banners looked great throughout the Village during the summer months. He complimented the DPW for their time and care in installing and maintaining them through the seasons. He went on to suggest that it might be a good idea to have a small group of volunteers to receive the banners following their removal to clean and care for them so that they are put away fresh for next season. He feels that this might extend the life of the banners and maintain a positive appearance, while simultaneously making things a little easier for the DPW when it is time to reinstall them in the Spring. The Mayor noted that this might be a good project for the youth group and Mrs. Anderson agreed.

There was no further public input.

The Mayor advised that he had no material for Executive Session this evening and as such, he would accept a motion to adjourn if the Board were so inclined. There being no other business, Trustee Leaman moved that the Meeting be adjourned at 7:20pm. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer