

**Village Board Meeting and Public Hearing
December 2, 2024, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center**

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

Village Key Staff: Fire Chief Michael Zinn, DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey, Police Chief Ernie Bassett, Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Erik Pekar, *NYVT Media*

Others: Mr. Dan Williams, Mr. Milt Dunbar, Mr. John Harney, Mr. Pete Kishak, Mr. Darryll VanDetta and Mr. John Freed

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

The Mayor then called to order the Public Hearing concerning proposed Local Law #1 of 2024, which proposes a 1% Gross Receipts Tax for utilities operating in the Village Right of Way. He reviewed the rules for public comment for all Public Hearings conducted by the Village and then requested the sign in sheet from the rear of the room and recognized Mr. Darryll VanDetta, who was the only person listed on the sign in sheet.

Mr. VanDetta advised that he was opposed to the proposed legislation for a number of reasons. While he understands that the Board is trying to minimize the tax burden/spread the costs of operation, he still feels it is another increase in the cost of living locally and a difficult burden for constituents to bear. He inquired as to when the tax was proposed to be implemented, and how much revenue was expected to be raised. He sees this proposal as a detriment to the business climate and feels that the utilities will just pass along these costs to their consumers.

The Mayor thanked Mr. VanDetta for his comments and inquired if anyone else wished to express input.

There being no further public comment, Trustee Hyatt moved that the Public Hearing be closed at 7:03pm. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas called the regular session to order at 7:03pm.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hyatt moved ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 4th as posted to the Village website. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Consider Action, Proposed Local Law #1 of 2024: Mayor Labas inquired if any members of the Board wished to express additional input regarding the proposed Local Law. The Board did not have any further comment. The Mayor advised that while the Board generally sought to keep taxes and utility rents as low as possible, that the Village was seeing rising costs with insurance, retirement contributions, and commodities. If we want to continue to fund the Fire Dept., Police Dept., DPW and other services fully, additional revenue is required. This tax is seen to be on utility companies, and while the Village hopes that they will not pass it on to their customers, even if they were to do so, the Mayor sees this

measure as the broadest means to share the burden amongst businesses, residential customers, renters, non-profits, etc. Following the discussion period, the Mayor asked the Board for a motion to proceed. Trustee Hyatt moved adoption of proposed Local Law #1 as circulated, with allowance for spelling/syntax changes. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Monthly Reports: Mayor Labas reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board of Trustees: Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory), Fire Dept., Police Dept., and Local Ordinance Officer. Deputy Mayor Smith moved acceptance of the reports as submitted. Trustee Davies 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: \$160,379.25
Water Fund: \$23,841.03
Sewer Fund: \$46,701.33
Senior Shuttle: \$1,120.90
Unaudited
Vouchers: \$5,297.37

Total Claims: \$237,339.88

Trustee Leaman made a motion to authorize payment of the claims as submitted. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Budget Transfers: The Clerk-Treasurer circulated a memo recommending a single Budget Transfer for the Water Fund to avoid overdrawing any individual line items in the funding of this evening's appropriations:

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

F83204	Power & Pumping, Water Plant	+\$3,500.00	Power Rates have increased > Budgeted
F911	Unreserved/Unappropriated FB	-\$3,500.00	Cure above shortfall

Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Hyatt moved the approval of the budget transfer as recommended. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Resolution—Local Match—NBRC Grant: The Mayor briefly reviewed a proposed Resolution pertaining to the local match required in support of the replacement/upgrade of the Water Main from the Church Street Bridge to Main Street. While the grant will pay for construction costs and materials, a local match in the amount of \$21,603 is required to aid in funding engineering costs. The Board briefly discussed the proposed Resolution prior to Trustee Hyatt sponsoring the same by motion. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Update—Village Tree Lighting Ceremony: Mayor Labas asked the Village Clerk for an update concerning the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Clerk began by thanking the many volunteers, DPW, and

business owners for their assistance in purchasing, refurbishing, repairing, and installing the many decorations around the Village and in Veterans Park. The installations are now some 90% complete, and the Committee continues to work applying the lights and coordinating logistical details. All seems to be coming together well, and favorable weather is forecast for the weekend. The Clerk commented that this was a great season of giving in Granville, and thanked those who knitted and purchased hats, mittens, blankets, and scarves for children, and the many vendors who donated food and refreshments to patrons. The Clerk also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for co-sponsoring this event, providing gifts for the children, and sponsoring the horse & wagon rides. A good crowd is expected for Saturday, and the Park should be looking festive as usual. Nightly shows set to music should be available through radio station 89.3 FM from Sunday through January 20th. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for his report and stated that he looked forward to the Tree Lighting as the annual kickoff to the holiday season in Granville.

Authorize Mayor to Execute Contract—South Granville Fire District: For many years, the Board has authorized the Mayor to review and execute the contract that allows the Granville Engine & Hose Company #1 to provide fire protection to the South Granville Fire District. The contract originates with the Town, then is reviewed by the Fire Chief prior to arrival the Village for the Mayor's signature. No significant changes are expected for 2025, beyond an increase in the contract amount and spelling/syntax changes. Trustee Hyatt moved that the Mayor be so authorized to execute the contract in keeping with past practice, with review/counsel from the Village Attorney as necessary. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify New Member—Granville Engine & Hose Company #1: The Mayor reviewed correspondence from the Village Fire Chief seeking ratification of a new member—Nathan Williams. Trustee Hyatt moved the ratification of Mr. Williams as recommended. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Authorize DPW Superintendent to Execute County Road Maintenance Agreement: Mayor Labas advised that the Village had received the annual contract and supporting documentation from Washington County concerning annual snow & ice removal from NYS Route 149 on Main Street, around Veterans Park, and adjoining the GCS Campus. Generally, reimbursement is provided to the Village DPW when they remove snow in excess of 6" from a single storm in these areas. In years past, the Board generally reviews these documents and then authorizes the DPW Superintendent to execute the same. In keeping with past practice, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that DPW Superintendent Mackey be so authorized. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor's Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following matters with the Board of Trustees:

- A. Final Plan—Main Street Technical Assistance Grant: The Mayor advised that the Final Plan pertaining to the Main Street Technical Assistance Grant had been received. The document is approximately 110 pages, including appendices. It is hoped that this plan will serve as a basis for a more substantial application through NY Forward, Downtown Revitalization, etc. The hope is to target several of our vacant buildings on Main Street for redevelopment in the coming years. The Mayor thanked Michael Allen for his efforts in producing the plan, and advised that it was available for public review if anyone desired to do so. Anyone wishing to review the Plan can contact the Office of the Village Clerk, who has a digital version of the same.

- B. Update—Lighted Tractor Parade: Mayor Labas advised that 32 paid entries had been received to date for the Tractor Parade. Another large turnout is expected this year, with upwards of 7,500-8,000 patrons expected. The Mayor feels that this is a wholesome, family-friendly event, that just gets better each year. He advised that the Village will continue to support the parade logistically in the coming weeks, under the direction of Parade Co-Chairs Paul Garrone and Krystle Morey.

- C. Service Awards: Mayor Labas presented two Awards for extended service to the Village: Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith (25 Years) and Police Chief Ernie Bassett Jr. (35 years) were presented with framed certificates by the Mayor to recognize their exemplary service to our constituents.

Mayor Labas opened the meeting to public comment at 7:25pm.

Trustee Hyatt commented that he would like to see some upgrades in Veterans Park over the next year—he feels that improvements are needed to the bandstand, lighting, and that tree maintenance is required in several locations. The Mayor advised that he would discuss this matter further with the DPW Superintendent and advise.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts
Clerk-Treasurer