

**Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held in the Conference Room, Municipal Building, 49 State Street, Brockport, New York, March 15, 2004 at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Josephine C. Matela, Trustees Morton Wexler, James E. Whipple, Norman J. Knapp; and Peter C. DeToy, DPW Superintendent Bradley B. Upson, Building/Zoning Officer Scott C. Zarnstorff, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti, Treasurer Scott D. Rightmyer, Treasurer Ian M. Coyle, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli.

**EXCUSED:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Village Attorney Edward W. Riley, Fire Chief Christian A. McCullough, Planning Board Chair / Economic Development Coordinator Scott Winner, Carrie Maziarz, John Bush, Ray & Jackie Morris, Jim & Joan Hamlin, Kathy Snyder, John Lessord, Bob Connors, Bill Weber, Fred Webster, Norm GianCursio, Leisa Strabel, Terri Green (Brockport Post).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Matela called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES:** Mayor Matela called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held March 1, 2004.

➔ Trustee Wexler moved, Trustee Whipple seconded, unanimously carried that the minutes of the meeting held March 1, 2004, be approved as written.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Joan Hamlin of 50 Park Avenue said she was saddened and dismayed to hear on WHAM radio Saturday that a Trustee gave a hot tip to the television media alerting them to the March 11<sup>th</sup> Village Board workshop meeting on the budget. J. Hamlin said Trustee Wexler has continued to say it is not proper to discuss hiring while contracts are being negotiated and while the budget is being worked on. She said she feels the same about firing. She said Village elections will be coming up again and the public can expect the same Barnum and Bailey circus. She said she was hoping for better.

2. Bob Connors of 281 West Avenue referred to the media attention paid to the Village of Brockport. He referred to a recent article in the paper that talks of a 12 percent increase in spending. If that is true, 12 percent of 5.9 million is \$708,000. Using \$180 million as the assessed valuation, the Village would need an increase in state aid and an increase in sales tax. Otherwise, his guess is that the tax rate would have to be \$11.90 per 1,000. That would be a 48% increase. He said he had the privilege of attending the March 11<sup>th</sup> Village Board workshop. He says privilege because in the past the budget workshops were held under executive session. He was thankful this was not the case this time. A sewer user fee was discussed at possibly \$60 per household. This would be another 8% increase. This puts the projected increase at 56%. The Village is in a financial crisis. In times of crisis, people look for a strong leader. However, the Mayor addressed the Board and media for a few moments at the beginning of the workshop and then left for a prior commitment. B. Connors said he later learned that the prior commitment was a birthday party. As a taxpayer he would hope that the Mayor and Trustees would set aside all else to address the budget. Two years ago he cautioned the Board about using the fund balance to falsely lower taxes. It catches up. There was an article in the paper regarding Webster and how they chose not to use the fund balance to keep taxes low. A large tax increase here should not surprise anyone. He referred to a quote by John Dean about a cancer needing to be removed. The cancer here is the spending of this Village administration. The foundation is starting to crack. This is proven by a rumored 18-page letter from Village Attorney Riley to the Mayor and Trustees that includes disparaging remarks about Police Chief Varrenti. B. Connors said he would never call Chief Varrenti an "alien interloper". He deserves more respect than that. So do the taxpayers.

3. Bill Weber of 333 Main Street asked the Mayor and Trustees to re-consider its public comment policy to include being able to speak during and at the end of meetings instead of just at the beginning of the meeting.

**GUESTS:** both scheduled guests cancelled

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. PUBLIC WORKS / COMMUNICATIONS CENTER – Superintendent Bradley B. Upson  
1. Spring Clean Up – B. Upson suggested the spring curbside junk pick up be held April 19 – 23. Board agreed. B. Upson will make sure a notice goes in the local paper and on the website. Mayor Matela asked if the guidelines and restrictions would be the same as last year. B. Upson said yes. B. Upson further stated the price they get for scrap metal has gone from \$20

to \$110 per ton recently. Trustee Knapp asked the cost. B. Upson said tipping fees are \$17,000 plus a full week's salary for the full crew. Altogether, about \$34,000. Trustee Knapp commented that this annual service is expensive and might have to be analyzed. Treasurer Rightmyer said the

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD March 15, 2004 continued..... page 2**

labor cost can't be eliminated, but the staff could be freed up for other projects if they didn't do the annual curbside pick up. Mayor Matela commented that remodeling projects that cause building debris should be up to the homeowner's to dispose of, not the taxpayers.

**B. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Daniel P. Varrenti**

1. General Orders – Chief Varrenti said he would provide Clerk Morelli with an updated table of contents for the General Orders manual.
2. Unlisted Phone – Chief Varrenti asked the Mayor and Board if they know a “Peter Reynolds”. Trustee Wexler said he knows some Reynolds, but not sure he knows Peter. All replied that they did not know him. Chief Varrenti shared that a caller purporting to be Peter Reynolds of the Village of Brockport called his home Saturday evening asking for him. Chief Varrenti said his daughter said he was out with her mother. He called again at 10:15pm, was very irate and said he had a complaint about a Brockport Police Officer and was upset at the way his Uncle was treated. When Chief Varrenti asked how he got his unlisted telephone number, the man said a Village Official gave it out. Chief Varrenti asked if any Trustee gave out his home phone number. All replied they did not. Chief Varrenti explained that there is a process in which to file a complaint and that he would be happy to answer his complaint. The man said the Chief would answer to his complaint on Monday in front of the news media. Chief Varrenti said he does not answer complaints about officers in front of media. In checking, Chief Varrenti learned that the call came from 16 Centennial Avenue. Chief Varrenti said he will gladly accept calls from Village officials and will come in to the office at a moment's notice. However, he respectfully requests that his unlisted home telephone number not be given out. Over his many years in law enforcement he has made arrests involving murders, drugs, etc. and has to protect his family. Monday came and went and no media arrived.

Trustee Matela thanked Chief Varrenti for his comments and asked all Village Officials to heed his request. Trustee DeToy commented that this could be considered aggravated harassment. Chief Varrenti agreed. He said he is here to serve day or night, but does not need his family alarmed.

**C. BUILDING / ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT - Scott C. Zarnstorff**

1. Signage – FAB Books – S. Zarnstorff shared that FAB Books at the newly remodeled Marv Duryea building at 48 North Main Street is about to open. They request approval from the Village Board to place a sign on the existing pole directly in front of their store. S. Zarnstorff distributed photos including a sample of the proposed sign. S. Zarnstorff said he has some reservations about having an additional freestanding sign. They already have the bottom portion of the high freestanding Dollar General sign as well as a sign on the side of the building and on the glass. However, Fred Blandford feels he needs better identification. S. Zarnstorff said he thinks his concern is premature and suggests the Board reserve decision for 3 or 4 months to give the business a chance to get started. Mayor Matela expressed concern for sign pollution and visibility of pulling out of Liberty Street. She agreed they should give it a chance to see if additional signage is necessary. Chair Winner said the Planning Board has no purview over signage, but the Board may want to change that so it can be addressed at time of site plan review. Trustee Knapp asked if the existing post is on private property or Village property. S. Zarnstorff said private property.

**D. FIRE DEPARTMENT - Chief Christian A. McCullough**

1. Membership Adds/Drops/Transfers – None
2. Call Load – Year to date ambulance calls: 341 Year to date fire calls: 190
3. Deputy Fire Chief – Chief McCullough announced that newly elected Deputy Fire Chief Mark Warner has resigned. The delegates to elect Chiefs met on March 10<sup>th</sup> and recommend past Chief Laurence C. Vaughan be appointed to fill the vacancy until December 31, 2004 at which time there would be an election to fill the position.

→ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Wexler seconded, unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Mark Warner as Deputy Fire Chief with regret.

→ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Whipple seconded, unanimously carried to appoint Laurence C. Vaughan as Deputy Fire Chief until December 31, 2004. Mayor Matela said she would swear him in tomorrow.

**E. TREASURER - Scott D. Rightmyer**

1. Amend Project 50 to include sewer projects – Treasurer Rightmyer said when the South Avenue extension was completed, a streets, sidewalks, and curbing replacement reserve was established. He asked for authorization to add sewer projects to this.

→ Trustee Whipple moved, Trustee Knapp seconded, unanimously carried to add sewer projects to Project 50.

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD March 15, 2004 continued.....page 3**

2. Budgetary changes as of February 29<sup>th</sup> – Treasurer Rightmyer asked for authorization to make budgetary changes as outlined in his handout totaling \$51,807.

→ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Whipple seconded, unanimously carried authorizing the budgetary changes as of February 29<sup>th</sup> as presented by Treasurer Rightmyer.

3. Set date for budget public hearing – The tentative date on the timeline for the public hearing on the budget is Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Mayor Matela said Trustee DeToy will be out of town and asked if it could be held April 21<sup>st</sup>. Treasurer Rightmyer said by law it needs to be held by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Knapp said he would not be available April 14<sup>th</sup>. Board agreed to hold the public hearing on the budget on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

F. CLERK - Leslie A. Morelli

1. Semi-Annual Newsletter – Clerk Morelli asked for input by April 15<sup>th</sup> for the next newsletter to come out by Memorial Day.

G. ATTORNEY – Edward W. Riley / DEPUTY ATTORNEY – Frank A. Aloi

1. Belmont Development – Attorney Riley asked if the Mayor and Board had reviewed his memo on the proposed PILOT agreement and contract regarding 222 Main Street. Chair Winner shared that it will be placed on the next Village Board workshop agenda for discussion and then Belmont will return to the Village Board in April.

H. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Coordinator R. Scott Winner

1. Updates – A martial arts chain will be locating in the plaza behind Domino's in the space formerly occupied by Time Warner Cable. The building last known as the Brockport Post will be home to an investment company. Wal Mart plans on donating another \$2,000 towards the proposed Community Center in June. They are applying to corporate office to help pay for remediation efforts at the site. They further plan to participate in the Sitting Pretty bench program.
2. Farmer's Market – Carrie Maziarz shared that she and Scott Winner will be attending a one-day conference in Batavia on Wednesday to recruit farmers to participate in the proposed weekly Farmer's Market in the Village. They are working on the location and day and time and have met with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and DPW Superintendent to discuss involvement. S. Winner said they have looked at various grants. However, to qualify they must be established at least one year. They are optimistic that any costs involved will be low. So far, the favored time is Sunday morning. We would be the only one in a 7 county area to have a Sunday Farmer's Market.

**SUPPORT BOARDS REPORTS:**

A. PLANNING BOARD – Chair R. Scott Winner

1. Updates – The Planning Board granted final site plan approval to Belmont Development for 222 Main Street for affordable senior citizen apartments, just like Park Place Apartments. Belmont has offered the existing building for use by the Brockport Fire Department for training purposes. They have also offered use of the existing signboard to the Village. It could be used for a permanent welcome, community organizations, advertising, etc. If the Village Board does not need it, Belmont will demolish it. He asked the Board to mull it over for consideration at a future meeting.

The Brockport Federal Credit Union will be relocating from the mini-plaza behind Pizza Hut to the front of 16 Liberty Street, formerly NAPA. The Galley Restaurant has proposed a dining deck along the canal and is working to design it to fit in with the proposed area improvements. Jon Mendez plans to break ground this spring on his new restaurant along the Canal on Merchants Street. It is anticipated to be a \$300,000 project. This is a great private sector investment.

B. LIBRARY BOARD – President Matthew Minor (absent)

C. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - Chair Jennifer Skoog-Harvey (absent)

**VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:**

A. Vice Mayor Wexler – No report.

B. Trustee Whipple

1. Paid Ambulance Program – Trustee Whipple reported that he and Trustee Knapp as liaisons to the Fire and Ambulance have been meeting regularly with the Fire Chiefs and Interim Career Staff Coordinator Noltee. They are keeping the lines of communication open and all is going well.

C. Trustee Knapp – No report.

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD March 15, 2004 continued.....page 4**

D. Trustee DeToy – No report.

E. Mayor Matela

1. Budget – Mayor Matela responded to Bob Connors remarks under public comment. She said for 8 years the Village of Brockport has used the fund balance to not raise taxes or to keep the tax increase low. What B. Connors did not mention was that although Webster decided not to do this, their tax rate went up 100%. Further, B. Connors is on the record at the last budget hearing as having said he can't balance his own checkbook. Mayor Matela concluded by saying that she does not need to apologize to anyone for missing one meeting to attend a birthday party that her family planned for her. In response to Joan Hamlin, Mayor Matela said she, too, was very upset that a Trustee contacted the media about the last budget workshop.

Bob Connors asked to be heard. Mayor Matela said the public comment period is over.

**AUDIT:**

- ➔ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Knapp seconded, unanimously carried that the bills be allowed and paid upon audit.

Village

Date	Check #	Amount
3/15	169340-169392	66,584.40
3/3	169276-296	22,189.20
3/1	169254-169257	1,508.15

Fire

3/15	169305-339	36,159.13
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Capital Projects

3/15	1629-1631	352.10
	P. 44	96.74
	P. 36	255.36

Third Party Billing

3/15	282-291	10,842.73
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**ADJOURNMENT:**

- ➔ Trustee Whipple moved, Trustee Wexler seconded, unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45pm.

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Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk