

**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, February 4, 2008 at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Morton Wexler, Trustee/Vice Mayor Maria C. Castañeda, Trustee Carrie L. Maziarz, Trustee David J. Wagenhauser, Trustee Hannelore G. Heyen, Village Manager / Treasurer Ian M. Coyle

**EXCUSED:** DPW Superintendent Harry G. Donahue, Building/Zoning Officer Scott C. Zarnstorff, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti, Fire Chief Timothy Rombaut, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli

**ALSO PRESENT:** Approximately seven members of the public.

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

**MISSION STATEMENT:** "To provide a high quality of life for all residents, exercising fiscal responsibility and preserving Brockport's unique heritage and historic character."

**REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES:** Mayor Wexler called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting.

Trustee Wagenhauser stated that the addition "and the Town still raised taxes" should be included on page 6 section 5.

Trustee Castaneda read a letter from the Town of Sweden Assessor relative to the discussion on new housing in the 01-07-08 minutes. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that he did not speak just about Sunflower. Trustee Castaneda stated that she inferred that is what Trustee Wagenhauser was talking about. No corrections were made to this section.

➔ Trustee Castaneda moved, Trustee Heyen seconded, unanimously carried that the minutes of the meeting held January 7, 2008, be approved as amended.

Trustee Maziarz again read to the Board her report at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. She said she e-mailed this to Leslie and it is verbatim what she read aloud at the meeting. The draft minutes failed to include the entirety of her statement. Her corrections were read via a statement as follows:

"I am disappointed to hear that the Mayor, who has been unable to successfully negotiate a new police contract, was eager to personally call the local news agencies to discuss this failure. I believe this undermines the good faith position the Village of Brockport Officials should be taking, especially those who are solely responsible for the negotiating. The Mayor has had this issue in his hands for over a year and has come up short. The reason I feel comfortable isolating out the Mayor on this issue is because he has made it clear to all of us that he is in charge. He formed the negotiating team of which started off consisting of Village Manager Ian Coyle, Chief Varrenti and our Attorney and has forbid the Trustees from participating. Of his original team he has fired one member and refused to take the advice of our hired council. It is clear to me that the Mayor must have his own agenda, of which includes media attention. I would like to make it clear that I disagree with the process as it has been organized year-to-date and am further disappointed with the Mayor's poor judgment regarding personally contacting the media to highlight these unfortunate events."

Trustee Maziarz also corrected the minutes to reflect that only Trustee Castaneda was laughing and not Mayor Wexler.

➔ Trustee Castaneda moved, Trustee Maziarz seconded, Trustee Wagenhauser abstained, Mayor Wexler and Trustee Heyen in favor that the minutes of the meeting held January 22, 2008, be approved as amended.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS:** None

**GUESTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** (Most Department Heads are excused from the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the month)

A. PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Harry G. Donahue (excused)

1. No Report.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Daniel P. Varrenti (excused)

1. No Report.

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C. BUILDING / ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT - Scott C. Zarnstorff (excused)

1. No Report.

D. FIRE /AMBULANCE / COMMUNICATIONS - Chief Timothy Rombaut (excused)

1. No Report.

E. VILLAGE MANAGER / TREASURER - Ian M. Coyle

1. No Report.

F. CLERK - Leslie A. Morelli (excused)

### VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:

A. Mayor Morton Wexler

1. Mayor Wexler presented certificates of special recognition to Mr. Jim Hamlin and Mrs. Joan Hamlin. Mayor Wexler stated that volunteerism runs high in Brockport and it is a community that prides itself on being a community of givers and he thanked the Hamlins for giving their time over the years in attending meetings and being involved. He thanked Trustee Castaneda for bringing this issue to the forefront.

2. Mayor Wexler brought up the intermunicipal agreement with Monroe County for sales tax collection and distribution.

- Trustee Heyen, Trustee Castaneda seconded. Discussion ensued. Trustee Castaneda stated that the Village receives many grants through Monroe County. She read off a listing of CDBG-funded projects in the Village. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that he was okay with the original motion but questioned Trustee Castaneda's point in reading those numbers. Mayor Wexler stated that Trustee Castaneda was trying to say that the County and the Village should work together and the County's assistance has been beneficial. He stated that at this point there is not a need for further delay. Trustee Wagenhauser replied that he inferred Trustee Castaneda's comments to mean that if we fail to sign the intermunicipal agreement, we fail to receive CDBG funding. Mayor Wexler reiterated that all Trustee Castaneda meant was that the two entities work together. Call for motion. Unanimously carried.

3. Mayor Wexler referenced comments made at a previous Village Board meeting relative to the Stetson Club negotiations. He asked the Board members to go back to October 2006, a time when proposals were put on the table by one Board member and one Village employee. The Board favored Village Manager Coyle's recommendations and those were the items that were eventually proposed. The Board wanted to focus on three distinct areas. Those items are still on the table. Mayor Wexler stated that the Board asked him to hold the line on these issues and he has done so. He reiterated the importance of the Taylor Law and the Chief Executive Officer's role and responsibility in negotiating contracts. He stated that we will see this process through impasse, mediation and arbitration if necessary but above all he, and we, want a settlement. He stated that if we do get to arbitration that it is binding.

B. Trustee / Vice Mayor Maria C. Castañeda

1. Trustee Castaneda presented a series of updates and comments, including

- a. The next date for the Village Advisory Committee, which is 02/12/08 at 7 PM.
- b. She met with Jackie Morris to go over expense requests at the Emily L. Knapp Museum and Library of Local History. She read a listing of expense items needed for various heating, cooling and lighting improvements at the Museum. Window replacements were estimated at \$6,600. She stated that she will be writing a letter to Assemblyman Reilich and Senator Maziarz to attend a tour of the Museum and discuss funding.
- c. She is reviewing with Manager Coyle the offering of credit card payments for Village transactions.
- d. She updated the public on the possible changes to the Summer Serenades Concert Series, to include a time change to 6:30 from 7 with the concert length changes to an hour and ½. Other items being explored are a joint Village/SUNY musical event on a Thursday night in August to celebrate the welcoming back of students.

2. Trustee Castaneda brought forward the idea of Saturday meetings, as discussed at a prior workshop. She stated that this will increase community involvement. She suggested moving the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to May 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.

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- Trustee Castaneda moved, Trustee Heyen seconded to change the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to May 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. Discussion ensued. Trustee Heyen said she seconded for purposes of discussion and did not favor this date change. She stated many Mayors have weekend meetings and this may want to be explored first, if there is a demand from the community for more accessibility. Trustee Castaneda stated that the Board did discuss this at a workshop. She referenced Village Manager Coyle's memo regarding attendance of 9-15 people. She said we can do better. She stated she arbitrarily picked a date hoping it would work. Trustee Heyen said she seconded to bring up discussion and that she is not willing to make the motion tonight. Call for motion. Aye- Trustee Castaneda, Mayor Wexler, Nay- Trustees Heyen, Maziarz and Wagenhauser. 3-2 against. Motion fails.
3. Trustee Castaneda next brought up the issue of an installment plan for Village taxes. She stated that the Board discussed this at the last workshop. She favored an installment due July 1<sup>st</sup> with no interest and the second payment due August 1<sup>st</sup> with 3% interest and 1% interest each month thereafter. Trustee Wagenhauser asked when collections get turned over to the County. Manager Coyle replied November 1<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Maziarz stated that if payments are delayed there should be additional or higher interest. Trustee Wagenhauser asked if other Villages offer this plan. Manager Coyle said the results of a recent survey show that East Rochester is the only entity offering installment plans amongst Monroe County Villages. Trustee Castaneda stated that she is willing to change her motion to 1.5% interest and an additional 1% interest each month thereafter. She commented that we are attempting to add one extra payment. This is not a bad thing. Trustee Wagenhauser questioned the cost and effect on the Village's cash position and revenue. Manager Coyle stated that any effect would be negligible. Trustee Maziarz questioned the goal of this installment plan. She asked if we want the large interest charge up front or at the end? Trustee Castaneda referenced her willingness to make an amended motion. Trustee Heyen discussed stretching the thirty day window farther, if indeed this is being done to accommodate those on fixed monthly incomes. Trustee Wagenhauser inquired about the goal of this installment payment plan. All agreed to table the discussion until the second February meeting.
  4. Trustee Castaneda reported that she spoke with someone from the BCSD relative to the funding of the crossing guards.
    - Trustee Castaneda moved, Mayor Wexler seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter asking the Brockport Central School District for funding assistance towards the costs of the Village crossing guards. Discussion ensued. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that this was done in the past and asked why the Board felt the answer would change. Mayor Wexler referenced new NYS legislation being approved that allows such expenditures. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that he is okay with the motion but did not want to get into another discussion of the elimination of crossing guards. Mayor Wexler said elimination of the positions has nothing to do with this proposal. Trustee Heyen stated that this is a letter to prompt discussion and certainly not to make staffing decisions. Call for motion. Unanimously carried.
  5. Trustee Castaneda next reported on a series of items she has been working on. On Friday, Feb 1st she met with the HS principal Dr. Gary Levandowski to discuss 3 possible joint ventures: 1. The possibility of having a senior from their technology department work on an independent study to videotape our Board meetings. 2. The possibility of buying office supplies together to save money. Dr. Levandowski said they currently purchase office supplies through BOCES but that the cost of paper has increased and would like to pursue the possibility of purchasing paper together. He will be speaking with Rob Carges who handles this. Trustee Castaneda stated that she hopeful that perhaps the Village, Town and School would be interested in this; and 3. An initiative where we could work on a program to provide work experience skills to village students. Trustee Castaneda stated that she is just initially working on this and will provide the board with more information. She thanked Principal of HS Dr. Gary Levandowski for providing her with contacts and for listening to her suggestions. She also thanked the Vice Principal for helping to secure the meeting.
  6. Trustee Castaneda thanked Officer Paul Wheat for allowing her to ride along from 10PM – 1 AM Friday night to get hands-on knowledge of the police work during this time frame.
  7. Trustee Castaneda thanked Brad Alexander for his donation to the Seymour Library, which is being used to purchase all of the books on the NY Times best seller list. She thanked him for his generosity and support.

8. Trustee Castaneda next brought up a proposal from Parks Committee member Bob Canham, which asked the Board to consider a \$5,960 expense for tree trimming at the South Avenue Park. She stated she contacted Supt Donahue who commented that the Village DPW could do the work in the spring. Trustee Castaneda stated that this will save taxpayer money.

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9. Trustee Castaneda stated that she was dismayed at the lack of dialog on the budget at the 01-28-08 budget workshop. She suggested having separate budget workshops. Manager Coyle said stand-alone budget meetings are planned for this year and are in the draft calendar.

**C. Trustee Carrie L. Maziarz**

1. Trustee Maziarz stated that she is working on the Farmer's Market survey.
2. Trustee Maziarz encouraged those registered to vote to make their voice heard on Primary Day tomorrow.
3. Trustee Maziarz had a follow-up comment to the minutes correction discussion earlier in the meeting. She stated that Mayor Wexler chooses when to be inclusive with the respect to the Stetson Club negotiations process. She feels that Mayor Wexler is selectively inclusive in involving the rest of the Board in negotiations.

**D. Trustee David J. Wagenhauser**

1. Trustee Wagenhauser brought forward a resolution in support of ROI & DHCR funding for the housing rehabilitation program. He stated that ROI has surveyed properties for compliance with the grant guidelines and feels that the Village meets the requirements of the housing grant. He stated that the Village has already adopted a letter of support for this venture and this resolution is the final piece needed to move forward with the grant submittal. Mayor Wexler and Trustee Castaneda questioned how person A would know they qualify or how people would get involved. Trustee Wagenhauser replied that ROI would handle the administration of the grant upon receiving word of a positive funding announcement. Premature talk only causes problems as evidenced by a neighboring town's experience.

- Trustee Wagenhauser moved, Trustee Maziarz seconded, unanimously carried to adopt the following motion.

**AUTHORIZING SUPPORT FOR SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY RURAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION FOR A HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT**

Resolved, that the Village of Brockport has identified housing rehabilitation of owner occupied single family homes as a significant community development need, and

Whereas, the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal provides grant programs to improve homes (housing rehabilitation) for low and moderate income families, and

Whereas, Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation has the experience, knowledge, skills, abilities and staff to submit an application to the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal for a housing rehabilitation grant program, and

Whereas, Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation has the experience, knowledge, skills, abilities and staff to administer a housing rehabilitation program funded by the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, be it

Resolved that the Village of Brockport Board authorizes assistance for and support of an application submission for a housing rehabilitation program by Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation to the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

2. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that with respect to the Village Advisory Committee, we as a Board are short on minutes for the last two (2) years.
3. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that he has received a few memos recently, one of which had Mayor Wexler commenting on how "the chickens have come home to roost." The memo references police overtime in excess of \$200K. Trustee Wagenhauser referenced Chief Varrenti's memo that stated police overtime will likely be about \$35K under budget and not over \$200K as alluded to by the Mayor. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that he liked those numbers better.
4. Trustee Wagenhauser stated that from day one he has not spoken about the police contract negotiations and tried to stay away from the fray. He did not support the Chief Executive Officer being a member of the negotiating team. He did not support the original administration/handling

of the negotiations process.

E. Trustee Hannelore G. Heyen

1. Trustee Heyen thanks Bob Canham for his request and work on the South Avenue Park. She also thanked Brad Alexander for his generous gift to the Library.

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2. Trustee Heyen commented that she will save her motion on committee appointments and processes for a future meeting. She stated that while this document has been reviewed and approved by the new Village Attorney, she is anxious to give the document one more final read-through.

There was some discussion on changing the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting as two Board members will be absent but it was decided to maintain the date.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Joan Hamlin thanked the Mayor for his proclamation. She asked what the vote was on the intermunicipal agreement. Manager Coyle stated that it was 5-0.
2. Mary Jo Nayman commented that as a taxpayer she wanted to congratulate the Hamlins for all they have done and that as a taxpayer she wanted to thank Trustee Castaneda for thinking of us, the taxpayers, in reference to the installment plan option for Village tax payments. She stated that many taxpayers are on a fixed income and extending the time to pay by even a few months will mean a lot. She hopes the Board finds additional ways to help the taxpayers. She asked if the Board had a budget workshop meeting where information was supplied and the Board as a group discussed the numbers. Trustee Castaneda stated that the last Board workshop doubled as a budget workshop but there was limited dialog on the budget due to time constraints.

**AUDIT:**

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

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check #'s</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Village	02/06/08	176501-176540	267,438.02
Fire	02/05/08	176500	1,467.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Billing	02/05/08	1178-1183	9,288.90
Capital Projects	02/06/08	2184-2188	75,808.21
Water	02/06/08	1909-1915	19,888.33

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- ➔ Trustee Heyen moved, Trustee Wagenhauser seconded, unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:17 pm.

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Ian M. Coyle, Village Manager