

**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 1, 2010 at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor M. Connie Castañeda, Trustee Kent R. Blair, Trustee Scott W. Hunsinger, Trustee Hal S. Legg, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli

**EXCUSED:** Deputy Mayor Christopher R. Martin, Treasurer Gina M. Tojek, DPW Superintendent Harry G. Donahue, Building/Zoning Officer Scott C. Zarnstorff, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti, Village Attorney Michael Leone, Fire Chief Scott Smith

**ALSO PRESENT:** James Sabado, Bill Andrews, Steve Maier, Rob Welch, Rob Carges, Leisa Strabel, Joanne Marcello, Harry Hamlin, Kathy Halstead, Jonathan Keck, Norm Giancursio, Pam Ketchum, Pam Krahe, Rich Miller, Eric Gekoski, Carrie Maziarz, Bernie & Karen LoBracco, Brian Winant, Francisco & Linda Borrayo, Kathy Snyder, Kathy Goetz, Mary Jo Nayman, Sandeep Singh, Jon & Linda DeVecchio, Dave Moore, Bruce Hovey, Tony Perry, Pam Ketchum, Fred Webster

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Castañeda 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."

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Mayor Castañeda called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting.

➔ Trustee Hunsinger moved, Trustee Blair seconded, carried 4/0 that the minutes of the meeting held January 20, 2010, be approved as amended.

Clerk Morelli referred to page 3 of the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes under Public Works in which Superintendent Donahue recommended and the Board adopted a resolution accepting \$2,975 from NYSDOT in compensation for the Village's sign at the south end of the Village. It turns out the agreement is for \$1,950 in compensation and the Village keeps the sign to re-install at a later date. This requires an amended motion.

→ Mayor Castañeda moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board accept \$1,950 in compensation of the claim for building/fixture (sign) removal and that the Mayor of the Village of Brockport be empowered to execute the Agreement and any subsequent papers which might be required to secure payment of this claim.

Note: This amends the resolution of January 20, 2010 citing \$2,975 in compensation.

**AUDIT – PAY BILLS:**

➔ Mayor Castañeda moved, Trustee Blair seconded, carried 4/0 that the bills be allowed and paid upon audit.

A/P Clearing Account Check #	000288-000336		
	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
FUND (A):			
<u>General</u>	02/02/10	\$99,808.68	
		\$99,808.68	Total General
FUND (F):			
<u>Water</u>	02/02/10	\$9,945.30	
		\$9,945.30	Total Water
FUND (H):			
Capital:	01/21/10	\$173,415.71	
		\$173,415.71	Total Capital
		<b>\$283,169.69</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Eric Gekoski of 75 High Street – appealed to the Board to be forthright with the residents and taxpayers about the financial crisis. He felt the Treasurer’s statement at the last meeting was full of pep rally spirit but lean on substance. He believes the Board lacks the understanding of the principles needed to balance the budget. The Mayor has said in media articles that there needs to be a combination of cutting services and raising taxes. He urged the Board not to insult the intelligence of its constituents. A tax increase, whether 18% or lower, combined with the large water rate increase and possible sewer user fee can be considered a shell game. Whether they are taxes or fees, the money is still coming out of the citizen’s pockets. The Board needs to come up with a plan to tackle the deficit the Village faces.
  
2. Rich Miller of 52 State Street – said the Board knows how he feels and that he will keep coming back to remind them. He feels the behavior the Board exhibits is totally unacceptable. He quoted Thomas Jefferson “That government which governs least governs best.” The Board was elected and sworn to their positions to serve the Village. There needs to be some financial relief. As a realtor, he sold the previous speaker, E. Gekoski, his home a few short years ago. It is getting harder and harder for people to maintain their homes. He feels some on the Board will run roughshod over the constituents. He commended the Department Heads for putting their heads together and said the financial mess is not their making, but that of current and past Boards. He questioned the wisdom of some current Board members filling vacancies such as the part time Police Department Clerk and writing checks the Village is no longer in a position to afford. He quoted George H.W. Bush “No new taxes.” He said it’s time the Village got out of the water business. Going with MCWA would make it more affordable for everyone. He said implementing a sewer fee is unacceptable. He said he doesn’t care that some say there won’t be an 18% tax increase. The Boards have dug such a hole that they are putting the Village in the grave. He believes it’s time for consolidation, but that the Town of Sweden doesn’t want to as they will have to pick up the slack. The referendum for dissolution will be the mandate. If it fails at first, they will keep trying until they succeed, as this level of government is no longer necessary. Sweden, Clarkson, Hamlin don’t have their own Police Department. He said Chief Varrenti said the Brockport Police Department is a must. He disagrees and said it needs to be looked at as well as ways to abrogate the Chief’s 10 year contract. R. Miller referred to his recent letter to the editor and said it was edited. In summary he said take my Village please – and make this community a better place to live for everyone.
  
3. Rob Welch of Presidents Village Apartments on West Avenue and Clark Street – expressed concerns as a business owner with the large water rate increase and the potential of a sewer fee. He estimates he may have to raise his rents by \$40 or \$50 per month to cover these increases. This will make him unable to compete with apartment complexes in Sweden that don’t have such fees. This will cause a 20% or 30% vacancy rate. He will not be able to afford to pay the Village taxes. He plans to challenge his assessment and encourages others to do the same. Lowering the assessed value will simply nullify the water and sewer increases.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS:** None

**CERTIFICATES OR PROCLAMATIONS:** None

**GUESTS:**

1. James Sabado – U.S. Census Bureau – Mayor Castañeda introduced James Sabado of the U.S. Census Bureau’s Rochester office. She spoke with him on January 20<sup>th</sup> and he wanted the opportunity to provide the Board with some information and request partnering make sure everyone is accounted for. She said he had mentioned to her that they may be working out of a local church. She offered her assistance. Clerk Morelli shared that she serves as the coordinator of Census materials that come to the Village.

J. Sabado’s assistant distributed his business card and bags with Census souvenirs and information packets to the Board. J. Sabado shared that some 308 million people have to be counted in the next 9 months. The Census Bureau has to have a report to the President of the United States by December 31, 2010. He said he is appealing to government entities and agencies to help, as they are often considered trusted authorities in their communities. He shared that many, such as migrant farm workers, are hesitant to respond to the Census for fear it might compromise their ability to remain here. He said information is safe and that by law (Title 13), the Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s answers with anyone including federal, state, and local agencies. J. Sabado said every residence will receive a short questionnaire that is simple and fast to complete and return. He showed the blue form with 10 questions that will be sent out beginning in the middle of March. He shared that it is important as over \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded annually to states and communities for new

hospitals, schools, better transportation and social services. He stressed that responding is safe, simple and important.

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 3**

2. Consultant presentation (30 minutes max) on Clinton Street redevelopment study – Mayor Castañeda said Bill Andrews, Chair of the Historic Preservation Board, will be introducing consultants of the Clinton Street Redevelopment Study. She said it is important to keep in mind that while grant funding plays a role, sometimes it requires a matching component in dollars or in-kind services of the Village. B. Andrews clarified that there is no expense to the Village. The consultant fees are paid by the grant. The Village pays them and submits for reimbursement. The fees are paid entirely by the Preserve America Community Program and Community Development Block Grant Program. Mayor Castañeda said she thought there was a matching component of in kind services. B. Andrews said the only in kind services are his time and a bit of clerical support from Village Hall. Mayor Castañeda asked B. Andrews to meet with her and the Treasurer to clarify the matching component. B. Andrews said he had previously met with the Mayor and also with the Treasurer on the various projects he has in the works. He would be happy to do so again.

B. Andrews introduced Kerry Ivers of Clark Patterson Lee and Joanne DiMarle of Bero Architecture. They will provide a brief progress report and take questions from the Board. They are looking for input from the Board and will follow up with each Board member by phone or email in the next week or so. A public hearing will be held when the study is complete.

K. Ivers distributed a summary presentation to the Village Board on the Clinton Street Redevelopment Study. The project team is comprised of Clark Patterson Lee – project coordination and community planning, Bero Architecture – historic building rehabilitation / adaptive reuse study and community design and Camoin Associates – market analysis. The project goals are 1) Identify the area's potential for revitalization 2) Collaboratively plan the rehabilitation of public and private lands to attract business and investment 3) Explore and illustrate the potential to adapt existing historic buildings for new uses 4) Develop schematic designs for private and public improvements. They reviewed the Clinton Street master plan – existing land use and the existing zoning districts.

The market study area consists of Brockport, Sweden, Clarkson, Hamlin, Clarendon, Holly, Murray, Kendall. The study area demographics consist of 1) market study area has a population of 38,326 people 2) median income (\$59,670) is higher than the county, upstate and national averages 3) below average poverty rate 4) little or no population growth projected in the near future. Employment 1) largest employment sectors are government, health care, retail, accommodation, food services, and transportation 2) growth is occurring in transportation, warehousing and professional services 3) key individual employers are the college, hospital, and distribution logistics center. Retail Market Assessment – retail sales leakage analysis indicates are has an unmet demand for 1) clothing stores 2) sporting goods / hobby / musical instrument stores 3) full-service restaurants. Real Estate – local demand for: 1) commercial office space for professional firms and service organizations 2) niche retail space 3) student rentals 4) higher end residential. Brockport commercial and residential rents are lower than the regional average and may be too low to overcome renovation and construction costs. Feasibility may depend on a combination of public funding and private financing. Target Markets: Students and Faculty 1) university partnership 2) housing 3) entertainment and amenities. Long-time Residents 1) family-style restaurants 2) professional office space 3) niche retail. Commuters 1) restaurants, niche retail, professional office space. Recreational Canal Users 1) seasonal traffic and low numbers compared to other groups 2) supplements revenue stream from other groups 3) may increase over time.

Recommendations - Key Opportunity Areas: 1) residential rental and ownership 2) student-centered projects 3) small office 4) niche retail. Restaurant: 1) plenty of pizza, sports bars, and cheap food 2) demand exists for "sit-down atmosphere" with family pricing. Student Centered Projects: 1) benefits College and Village 2) Geneseo example of partnerships (Big Tree Inn) 3) Community investments improves college experience and improves marketability of school. Small Office and Retail: 1) full Main Street indicates village has capacity to support more retail 2) growth in local services and professionals will support demand for small office 3) area's low rents are an obstacle. Student Housing: 1) less than 50% of students live on campus 2) increasing demand for student housing...put it where it will do some good 3) housing supports downtown atmosphere and provides critical mass for businesses.

Physical enhancements are a vital component of economic development, especially along this street. 1) enhancements will improve the area's marketability 2) pedestrian connections to college, Main Street, canal, and park are critical 3) amenities can give Village business district an edge over suburban shopping centers.

Changes to existing zoning would be needed to facilitate the physical enhancements and reinvestment anticipated for this area. For example: 1) allow/encourage shared parking and/or

extend parking requirement exemption (Planning Board discretion) to this area 2) amend the zoning regulations to allow a greater number of residential units, whether condominiums or apartments, within the business district or the Clinton Street overlay district, should it be created.

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 4**

An alternative approach would be to create new zoning code to address this area specifically: 1) extend the existing historic overlay district to include this entire area or create a Clinton Street Overlay District that establishes design standards and land use guidelines to help direct private and public reinvestment within the study area.

Joanne DiMarle reviewed the plans, historical spots and landscape design. This is the third plan that incorporated the consultants recommendations as well as feedback from the Historic Preservation Board and several of the Clinton Street property owners. She pointed out the potential development and continuation of a walkway along the canal to the Smith Street and need to better define Merchant Street and create a pedestrian area. She referenced 60 Clinton Street owned by GBDC and commented that it is a key building in the district. There are lots of possibilities as it could lend itself to many things such as a restaurant, housing, small inn or such with a SUNY/public connection. They showed a rendering of what 60 Clinton Street could look like once its features are brought back. She commented that current municipal parking would be maintained. Access to the municipal parking between King Street and Erie Street could be strengthened by developing a strong walkway on the Queen Street Alley. J. DiMarle commented on the many historically significant buildings in the district and the importance of identify and bringing out the features. Proper guidance could be provided to property owners.

K. Ivers said a mixed use corridor could be a wide range of opportunities. They showed a rendering of what buildings could look like with some tender loving care – such as 41 Clinton Street, the Navy Club, etc. As money becomes available to property owners to spend on improvements, they would have some guidance. K. Ivers said it is important for the Village to establish the vision now – realizing that change can happen incrementally over many years. It will also enable the Village to seek grant funding proactively. Signs of reinvestment have a domino effect in neighborhoods. While it may be difficult to imagine during financial hard times, the “deferred maintenance” can be improved upon. She gave the example of Schoen Place in the Village of Pittsford being transformed in 7 or 8 phases over a 20 year period. It is important to establish the vision now.

Mayor Castañeda asked if individual Clinton Street property owners have been approached. J. Dimaro said they were all invited to an informational meeting. Some attended and provided feedback.

K. Ivers & J. DiMarle encouraged the Board to give this more thought and provide them with any feedback. K. Ivers said the involved consultants are collaborating on a document that they will share with everyone.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS: (All Department Heads are in attendance the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of each month)**

- A. PUBLIC WORKS – Superintendent Harry G. Donahue (excused)
- B. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Daniel P. Varrenti (excused)
- C. BUILDING / ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT - Scott C. Zarnstorff (excused)
  - 1. Media Requests – Trustee Hunsinger, said as liaison to this department, S. Zarnstorff shared with him that the SUNY Brockport paper The Stylus contacted him for an article they are writing. Since the Village now has a media policy, S. Zarnstorff requests Board authorization to speak to The Stylus.

Mayor Castañeda said she was not at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in which a majority of the Board adopted the media policy. She would not have voted for it. She believes it is unconstitutional and that if the media contacts an individual, they should have the right to respond. Trustee Hunsinger said he does not disagree or wish to debate it, but that S.

Zarnstorff was simply following the policy and needs a response. Mayor Castañeda said since the Mayor is in charge of the Department Heads, she will allow them to speak to the media. She said Treasurer Tojek was also contacted by the media and referred them to her as Mayor. She said that is unreasonable and that the person holding the information, such as finances, should be able to provide information and facts. This is not closed government. There is no need to ask permission of the Village Board.

- D. FIRE / AMBULANCE / DISPATCH - Chief Scott Smith (excused)
- E. TREASURER – Gina M. Tojek (excused)

1. Third Party Funds to General Fund – Mayor Castañeda reminded the Board that at their January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting they directed and authorized the Treasurer to transfer funds in the amount of \$400,000 from Third Party Billing (Money Market Consolidated Account) to General Fund Savings as a temporary loan between General Fund cash assets. Then at the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting they authorized an additional \$64,000. They are now in need of an additional \$60,000 – this time to the Water Fund Savings.

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 5**

→ Trustee Hunsinger moved, Trustee Blair seconded, carried 4/0:

RESOLVED, that the Village Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to transfer funds in the amount of \$60,000 from Third Party Billing (Money Market Consolidated Account) to Water Fund Savings as a temporary loan between cash assets to be repaid by the end of the fiscal year or when cash becomes available.

2. Cash Flow Analysis – Mayor Castañeda referred to the Treasurer having made the Board aware that Third Party funds will not be enough to get to the end of the fiscal year May 31<sup>st</sup>, but to March. The Village is looking to borrow \$250,000 from the bank. Mayor Castañeda referred to her memo of last September urging liaisons to work with Department Heads and areas on further cutting costs and postponing projects where possible.

**F. CLERK - Leslie A. Morelli**

1. Notice for Electing Village Officers – Clerk Morelli read the following notice into the record. It has been published in the Village’s official paper and on the Village’s website & posted on the bulletin board at Village Hall.

**VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT  
NOTICE FOR ELECTING VILLAGE OFFICERS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

That the Annual General Village Election in and for the Village of Brockport will be held on Tuesday, June, 15, 2010 with the following officers to be chosen: One (1) Trustee to complete a term to June 30, 2013, and

That the first day to circulate independent nominating petitions is Tuesday, March 30, 2010, and the last day to file said petitions at Monroe County Board of Elections is Tuesday, May 11, 2010. Petitions must indicate the office(s) and term thereto, for which it is filed, and

That the applications for absentee ballots will be accepted by Monroe County Board of Elections no earlier than February 15, 2010 and no later than June 9, 2009 for applications to be mailed or June 14, 2010 for personal applications by applicant of his/her agent. Questions should be directed to Monroe County Board of Elections at (585) 753-1550.

**G. VILLAGE MANAGER – (vacant)**

**H. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR – (vacant)**

**I. VILLAGE ATTORNEY – Michael Leone, Esq. of Harris, Chesworth, O’Brien, Leone, et al. (excused)**

**VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:**

**A. Mayor M. Connie Castañeda**

1. Accept resignation of Dan Kuhn from Code Review Committee - Mayor Castañeda received the following correspondence via e-mail from Daniel Kuhn of Utica Street.

“Mayor –

I feel that I must resign my position on the Code Review Committee due to my visible involvement in the movement to dissolve the village government. After the referendum, I will remain available to serve Brockport in whatever capacity you deem appropriate.

Daniel Kuhn”

→ Mayor Castañeda moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 to accept with regrets the resignation of Dan Kuhn from the Code Review Committee.

2. Lock in February & March special meetings (budget work sessions) – Mayor Castañeda said she is available the following evenings: Thursday, February 11, Friday, February 12, Friday, February 19, Monday – Friday March 23 – 26. Board agreed to hold special meetings to serve as budget work sessions: Thursday, February 11 at 7pm and Thursday, March 25 at

7pm.

(Note: it was later determined that February 11<sup>th</sup> would need to be rescheduled to sometime the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.)

3. COG Health Benefits Meeting 2/9 – Mayor Castañeda inquired if any Board members would be willing to attend the Monroe County Council of Governments (COG) meeting on health benefits on Tuesday, February 9. The 3pm meeting is for municipalities with more than 50

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 6**

eligible participants. The 7pm meeting is for municipalities with less than 50 eligible participants. Clerk Morelli said the Village is just shy of the 50 eligible participants, so that puts us in the 7pm session. Mayor Castañeda plans to attend. Trustee Blair and Clerk Morelli indicated a willingness to attend. Mayor Castañeda said she will ask Treasurer Tojek if she can attend as well.

4. Seymour Library Fundraiser – Mayor Castañeda referred to the invitation to become a sponsor the 2010 After Hours @ the Library event to be held Saturday, March 20. Last year the Board personally sponsored a food station at the \$250 level which came to \$50 per Board member. Donations can be forwarded to Benefit Committee Sponsorship Chair Hanny Heyen. Sponsor names will be listed on the program. Board agreed to personally sponsor the event in the amount of \$50 each for a total of \$250. Checks can be made payable to Seymour Library After Hours.

Trustee Blair referred to he, Trustee Hunsinger and Trustee Legg announcing at the last meeting that they plan to forego their salaries for the remainder of their term. Trustee Legg said they were advised by Counsel that there are some issues with not receiving payment. Therefore, the paychecks will be cashed and then donated to worthwhile Village and community endeavors that are impacted by the Village's budget woes. The first recipient will be this Library event.

5. NYSDOT Main Street Reconstruction – Mayor Castañeda shared that NYSDOT's Dan Schwind contacted her, Superintendent Donahue and Main Street Rehabilitation Committee Chair Bob Ryan regarding a proposed change to the curb extended crosswalk at the Canal. This change would cause the Central Business District (CBD) to lose one more parking spot totaling an overall loss of 4 parking spots. They were all of the opinion that even though parking spaces are very valuable, if this proposed change increases safety at the crosswalk they were all for it. There were also snow removal issues with Superintendent Donahue has addressed.
6. NYCOM Special Forum on Local Government Consolidation and Dissolution: Understanding the New N.Y. Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act – Mayor Castañeda shared that many officials attended the January 21<sup>st</sup> forum which was very informative. In light of the January 25 article in the Democrat and Chronicle, the Village Attorney is preparing a memorandum for the Village Board on the legal issues associated with the referendum.
7. Televised Airing of Village Board meetings – Mayor Castañeda said she would like to again express her gratitude to John Bush who has been volunteering his time and coming in to tape Village Board meetings. Time Warner Cable is airing the Brockport Village Board meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7pm on channel 12. She said she spoke with J. Bush and will take over dropping the tapes off to TWC as it is close to her work.

→ Mayor Castañeda moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 to appoint John Bush as the official volunteer videographer of Village Board meetings.

8. APWA Award – Mayor Castañeda shared that on January 28<sup>th</sup> she and Deputy Mayor Martin attended the dinner in which DPW Director of Operations David Moore was recognized on having received the 2009 American Public Works Association Douglas C. Zeffing award. This was recognized at the last Village Board meeting. Congratulations again.
9. Parking Tickets and Use of Collections Agency – Mayor Castañeda shared that on January 22<sup>nd</sup> she met with Clerk Morelli and Treasurer Tojek regarding the Comptroller's informal opinion on the use of a collection agency for delinquent parking tickets. The Village Attorney is looking into this and will have more information shortly.
10. Mayor's Advisory Committee – Mayor Castañeda said she has made mention before that government works best when all invested key players come to the table to discuss issues. One of the biggest stakeholders are the residents we represent, the taxpayers. She said she believes the taxpayers need to be represented and involved in the budget process and make recommendations to the Board with regards to the services the Village provides. Mayor Castañeda said she is creating a Mayor's Advisory Committee. The members will be invited to

attend budget work sessions and will receive budget information. They will bring back recommendations to her and she will bring them before the Board. The members of the committee are: Erica Wood, Chuck Switzer, Mary Ann Thorpe, Emily Cokeley, CPA and Senior Accountant and Bob Fox of EFT Rotenberg. E. Cokeley and B. Fox have agreed to lend their expertise to this committee and the Board free of charge. She said she is awaiting response from one or two other individuals she is considering. She thanks all for their willingness to serve.

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 7**

11. Correspondence from citizen Jon DelVecchio – Mayor Castañeda received the following correspondence via e-mail from Jon DelVecchio of South Avenue and read it into the record.

“Mayor Casteneda,

Tonight's (01 FEB) agenda.. lacks any budget discussion and I feel that every meeting should have a budget discussion item, at least until a path to resolution is determined.  
This is a very hot subject in our community and the village board meeting notes reflect little about what is/is not being done.

I would like to offer an agenda item regarding the Village budget to the next board meeting... 17 Feb.  
Title.. Discussion of the elimination of the Brockport Police Dept.  
This discussion should not be a criticism of the police dept.. performance of the Chief or the officers is not at issue. Simply.. we can't really afford the luxury of our own police dept.when other means of protection may be available for less cost or no line item cost to the village. The discussion should remain factual, since public safety tends to be an emotional issue.

Since intergovernmental activity is your area of assignment (Village Board Web page), could you over the next couple of weeks investigate the facts around this subject and be prepared to present your findings on this subject? .....and any relevant info the Village Dept heads have to offer?

Specifically,...

Since the college pays no village taxes, could the college provide police protection for the village as some have suggested? Seems like a good trade off for paying no taxes.

Is there some legal issue that the college police cannot provide protection? My understanding is that they are a branch of the NYS Police, I would assume they are qualified.

Is it true that the Brockport Police dept costs are two-thirds of the village budget?

Is it true that the primary responder to the two shooting incidents (West Ave & Fourth Section) was not the Brockport PD but the MC Sheriff?

What are the details regarding the village protection by the MC Sherrif? Has anyone contacted the MC Sheriff dept to discuss this issue?

What benefits would we gain and lose as village residents if the MC Sheriff or the College police were to cover the village.?

Would any referendums be required to make these changes? I know there are those that favor keeping and those that favor eliminating the BPD. The majority of Village residents should have a say in this matter.. maybe the town residents should have their say as well, since elimination plan costs may impact town taxpayers, too.

Please reply and let me know if I can help you with your investigation, if I need to be at the meeting to have this item included, and if this item will be included at the next board meeting attended by the dept heads.

Jon DelVecchio  
78 South Ave”

B. Deputy Mayor Christopher R. Martin (excused)

C. Trustee Kent R. Blair

1. Trustee Blair read the following prepared statement into the record:

"I want to thank all of the Village residents that have come to me with their concerns and with questions. Now is the time to get involved and ask questions.

We find ourselves at a crossroads. The situation is, to dissolve the Village or not to dissolve the Village. In reference to dissolution, there are quite a few unknowns. For example:

What is the amount we will actually save?

How many districts will need to be created and what will the tax rate be for each?

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 8**

With the Village government being seen as an unneeded level of government, how many secondary levels of government (districts) will support the Village government? Essentially losing one board and adding a group of commissioners per district created to levy taxes.

What services will be lost, what services will be kept, and at what cost?

How many pre-existing contracts does the Village have and the cost associated with these contracts that will need to be continued by the Town and then taxed back to the Village residents even after dissolved?

There is a laundry list of items that continues to grow each day and I would suggest to start asking questions.

The financial problems of the Village began years ago and have come to light within the last year or two. This Board along with the Department Heads has more input, knowledge and general understanding of each budget line more so now than ever before. We continue to find areas to cut and/or adjust each week and most of these suggestions are coming from the Department Heads themselves. In fact much research and planning has begun to guide us in building the 2010-2011 budget. These items range from vehicle replacement to decreasing or eliminating services.

Keep in mind it took many years to get into the current situation and it will take far more than six months to get out of it.

So, this is where we stand. We can travel down a dissolved road that hasn't been traveled, throw our hands up and turn the lights off on the way out of Village Hall or we (Board, Department Heads and residents) can band together and reform this Village back to fiscal responsibility and unified leadership, and move forward as one team – one community.

I have begun a list of items that I plan on sharing with the Board and with the Town of Sweden over the next few weeks to incorporate more shared services. I am confident that there can be a mutual understanding that can assist both Brockport and Sweden."

Mayor Castañeda asked Trustee Blair to forward such list to her and the Board.

D. Trustee Scott W. Hunsinger

1. Capen Hose Company – Trustee Hunsinger commended Duanne Beckett of Sunnking for agreeing to donate the 2 computers and such the Capen Hose Company needs to document its museum equipment and artifacts. A presentation will take place on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Code Enforcement Department Budget – Trustee Hunsinger shared that the Code Enforcement Officer submitted his department's 2010-2011 budget input to the Treasurer and it reflects a \$3,000 decrease over 2009-2010.
3. Financial – Trustee Hunsinger shared that he has met with Treasurer Tojek twice since the last meeting and plans to meet with her again this week.
4. Village Court – Mayor Castañeda asked Trustee Hunsinger if he and Chief Varrenti yet have any findings to share on their research regarding establishing a Village Court. Trustee Hunsinger said he has nothing to report yet, but as previously indicated, they plan to have information to the Board in March.

E. Trustee Hal S. Legg

1. Trustee Legg read the following prepared statement into the record:

"I think there are 3 separate but related matters facing the village that each of us on the board is called upon to address.

First, there is the question of the necessity of a local police department.

Second, there is the recent idea of municipal dissolution.

Third, there is the issue of governance and how to make it more effective.

It's conceivable that I'll be spending a lot of time talking about these matters over the next few months because each is significant. At the moment, the most pressing appears to be whether a police department is appropriate here in Brockport.

I'll say this clearly and unequivocally: I believe firmly that the village's provision of local law enforcement has been and will continue to be in residents' best interests. And roughly every half hour, my position is affirmed by someone who calls for the police. In fact, the demand for police – more than 15,000 calls last year – may be the strongest expression of the value of any village service. I would not be eager to

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 9**

trade our police for something else. When it comes to ensuring public safety, I'm not inclined to make high stakes gambles. And I think a vast majority of taxpayers see it this way, too.

Our neighborhoods' security is fundamental to the standard of living that I believe villagers have come to expect. Our police provide precisely the level of service that causes people to choose to reside in villages, as opposed to elsewhere, in the first place.

As some of you know, I grew up in an extremely rural area where emergency services still are not immediately at hand. My parents continue to reside in the house where they raised me. And last fall, when my father suffered a life-threatening head wound as the result of a hunting mishap, my mother chose to drive him to their local hospital because she feared that the local emergency services may not be able to respond quickly enough to save my father's life. People live in villages in part because they do not ever want to have to make choices like this one.

I acknowledge that Brockport's emergency services come at a price, whether we're talking about our three quarters of a million dollar a year fire department or our police department, which costs even more. In fact I cannot dispute that in Brockport, as in most villages with police, our police department is the costliest government function. But that fact alone doesn't mean it's a lousy investment.

Incidentally, if anyone hearing this has signed a petition to dissolve Brockport with the understanding that getting rid of the village would leave the police intact, then you've been duped. I'll spare everyone the intricacies of the state's dissolution law – it's more than a little complicated – and just cut to the chase insofar as police are concerned. If you value the Brockport Police Department and want it to continue, then you need to oppose village dissolution, plain and simple.

But I digress; I was talking about the cost of maintaining a police department. Here's what I think, and what I think the people who share my point of view think: your leaders ought to do everything they can to reduce the cost of our police. Toward that end, the village board enacted more than \$180,000 in police cuts recently. At this point I will not blame the anti-police lobby for pointing out that it looks the police overtime line likely will be overspent this year, because that's true, so long as they also say that 2 officers have been out on disability for a while now, which increases overtime costs.

Next, I'm happy to pass on that the police chief has found a way to forego the purchase of a new police vehicle during the coming year, which will save the village another \$25,000 or thereabouts. More important than the savings is the notion that the chief has not been indifferent to the village's situation. He continues, as the other department heads do, to add value to this team.

Finally, I made my position with regard to police union contract negotiations clear way back in November: we need to seek flat salaries and have officers begin to contribute toward their health care costs. Toward that end, appointing the police chief to negotiate with the Stetson Club on the village's behalf was, in my mind, the smartest thing our mayor's done, and I applaud her decision. Those who follow the village board might recall that the last police contract took more than a year to wrap up, cost the village tens of thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees, damaged the relationship between labor and management, and produced an agreement that was not substantially different than the one that had been proposed initially. To her credit, Mayor Castañeda has taken a decidedly different tack, which especially given some of her personal opinions, is nothing short of commendable. This is exactly the kind of leadership move that I think will help the village over some of its hurdles.

In the past couple of months there has been more effort than perhaps ever before directed at lowering the cost of Brockport's police. And we are starting to see results. While I don't expect those who are opposed in principle to having police to feel any better about this, for those of us who support our local police, it's good news that's been a long time coming."

Mayor Castañeda commented that the Police Department comes at a high cost: \$1.7 million per the Treasurer. This is the most expensive department. It is over half of the \$2.1 million tax levy. That

means most of people's 2009 Village taxes covered one service – the Police Department. At least the cost of the Fire Department is shared with the Towns of Sweden and Clarkson. She said some feel it is a duplication of services, since taxpayers pay for Monroe County Sheriff's coverage. She said that if Trustee Legg feels the vast majority of taxpayers feel so strongly about keeping the police department, why not put it up for a referendum? She said the Village Board can bring it to a referendum, the taxpayers can't. She said she does not want to bear this on her shoulders. Why not let the voters decide? Mayor Castañeda urged people not to be confused by the information that's out there citing \$340 per year for Police. It all depends on your assessment.

→ Mayor Castañeda moved to put the Police Department up for referendum. No second. Motion died.

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD February 1, 2010 continued.....page 10**

**Executive Session:**

⇒ At 8:20pm, Trustee Legg moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport enter into an executive session to discuss a pending litigation matter (Webster case) pursuant to (d) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

⇒ At 8:25pm, Trustee Blair moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 that the Board of Trustees re-enter the regular meeting.

→ Trustee Legg moved, Mayor Castañeda seconded, carried 4/0 to suspend retainer payments to Frank A. Aloï, Esq., Deputy Village Attorney and Special Counsel to the Village for the Webster case, for a period of time beginning March 1, 2010 and ending June 7, 2010 and further to continue Mr. Aloï as Deputy Village Attorney and Special Counsel to the Village for the Webster case through June 7, 2010, without retainer payments, which I acceptable to him, at which time the Village will consider its options concerning the Webster litigation.

⇒ At 8:28pm, Trustee Legg moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to (f) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

⇒ At 8:30pm, Trustee Legg moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 that the Board of Trustees re-enter the regular meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

→ Trustee Legg moved, Trustee Hunsinger seconded, carried 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk