

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 8, 2023
Regular Meeting

Board Present:

Chris Ivers, Mayor
Keith Walters, Deputy Mayor
Marlene Hamann-Whitmore, Trustee
Eddie Lee, Trustee

Other Village Representatives Present:

Aprile S. Mack, Clerk/Treasurer
Jeff Boorsma, MRB Group Engineer

Public Present:

Charlotte Sutphin, SUNY Geneseo Student
Brendan Fuhr, SUNY Geneseo Student
Ashley Ames, SUNY Geneseo Student

1. Meeting Opened:

Mayor Ivers opened the meeting at 5:05pm. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Action Items:

Minutes: Deputy Mayor Walters moved to approve the April 17, 2023; regular meeting minutes as amended. Trustee Hamann-Whitmore seconded the motion. The motion passed with ayes from all.

Cedarwood Estates Subdivision, Phase 3 Acceptance of dedication of roadway base course (Steeplechase and Equine) and infrastructure including watermain and sanitary and storm sewers for Phase 3 of the Cedarwood Estates Subdivision, Authorization for Village Clerk to file necessary documents: Deputy Mayor Walters moved the following with second from Trustee Hamann-Whitmore:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Geneseo (herein after referred to as ‘Village Board’) is considering the acceptance of a dedicated roadway base course and infrastructure (watermain and appurtenances and sanitary and storm sewers) for Phase 3 of the Cedarwood Estates Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the roadway to be dedicated in Phase 3 is approximately 700 linear feet of Steeplechase and approximately 100 linear feet of Equine; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure to be dedicated has been installed and tested in accordance with the approved plans under the supervision of the Village Engineer (MRB Group); and

WHEREAS, the Village Superintendent of Public Works and Village Engineer have completed their field review of the roadway to be dedicated; and

WHEREAS, the streetlights, sidewalks, and roadway top course (herein referred to as ‘Remaining Work’) associated with Phase 3 will be completed and dedicated to the Village Board separately; and

WHEREAS, the final certificate of occupancy for Phase 3 will not be issued prior to the Acceptance of Dedication of the Remaining Work; and

WHEREAS, any further phases of the Cedarwood Estates Subdivision will not be considered prior to the Acceptance of Dedication of the Remaining Work;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board does hereby authorize the Village Clerk to file any and all documents to cause to be accepted the infrastructure, roadway base course, and concrete gutters of Phase 3 of the Cedarwood Estates Subdivision, contingent upon receipt of the following:

- 1) Notification in writing from the Code Enforcement Officer that all monuments have been set in their required locations and certified to the Village.
- 2) Notification in writing from the Village Engineer that acceptable Record Maps have been submitted to the Code Enforcement Office in accordance with the Village's Land Development Regulations.
- 3) Notification in writing from the Village's Attorney that all easement maps and legal descriptions, land transfer documents, and R.O.W. documents have been received, reviewed, and filed with the Village Clerk and County Clerk.
- 4) A two-year Maintenance Bond for all improvements to be offered to the Village for dedication in accordance with the Village's Land Development Regulations.
- 5) Apply topsoil, fine grade, and seed all lawn areas within the ROW.

Mayor Ivers asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed with ayes from all.

Employee Assistance Program: Deputy Mayor Walters moved that the Village of Geneseo join the Livingston County Employee Assistance Program. Trustee Hamann-Whitmore seconded the motion. Mayor Ivers asked if there was any discussion. Trustee Lee and Deputy Mayor Walters both said that they would not be interested in participating and with the tentative list of employees/Board Members (Village Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board) that Clerk/Treasurer Mack provided there might be at least seventeen names that could be eliminated, therefore reducing the cost. Deputy Mayor Walters stated that personally as a Village Board Member, he would rather the funds go to a full-time employee, Trustee Lee felt the same. Mayor Ivers stated that it does not matter to him either way, however, Planning Board and Zoning Board Members receive little to no compensation for the time they give to the Village. This may be a way to offer them something they may really need, especially since it is getting more difficult to find people to serve. Trustee Hamann-Whitmore stated that she believes that everyone (including Zoning Board and Planning Board Members) should be included. She believes that a program like this might be a lifeline to someone and if the Village can offer that to them, she thinks that we should. With a motion on the table, Mayor Ivers asked for a vote. The motion passed with ayes from all.

Police Officer Hopper Request: Officer Hopper is requesting tuition reimbursement under the Police Union Contract. Officer Hopper will be taking Strategic Management at SUNY Brockport this summer. The course is 100% online, therefore will not interfere with any shifts he is scheduled for. The contract states that the employee shall receive prior approval from the Village Board for the course for which reimbursement is sought and that the employee will be reimbursed only after successful completion (i.e. grade of C or above) of the course, and that the employee submit evidence of tuition costs and documentation of successful completion of the course to the employer. Deputy Mayor Walters moved to approve the request. Trustee Hamann-Whitmore seconded the motion. Mayor Ivers asked if there was any discussion. Trustee Lee stated that this request is not unprecedented. Trustee Hamann-Whitmore believes that it is money well spent and would encourage him and others to take advantage of such.

Trustee Lee asked if this Section of contract was also part of the Department of Public Works contract as he had never seen any other departments take advantage of it. Mayor Ivers was not sure but believed that the Board would encourage any employee to take job-related courses whether or not it was in their contract.

With a motion on the table, Mayor Ivers asked for a vote. The motion passed with ayes from all.

3. Discussion Items:

Parking Minimums: Deputy Mayor Walters as previously discussed by the Board has been researching a way to eliminate parking minimums as stated in the Village Code Section 130-81 as a way to allow for more green space which in all cases would allow for more permeable areas, would encourage walkability and biking and would be a cost savings for potential new businesses. What Deputy Mayor Walters is currently proposing is for conversation purposes only with the hopes of moving forward. All have been supplied with draft language and Deputy Mayor Walters asked what the next step would be if everyone was in agreement about moving forward. The Board was appreciative of the draft language provided and Mayor Ivers stated that it would need to be reviewed by the Village Attorney before moving forward. Once the Village Attorney reviews, the next step would be formal introduction of the Local Law to change the Code, schedule a Public Hearing on the change, hold the public hearing and move forward from there.

There is also the possibility of either extending the **moratorium on Inns** or defining Inns at the same time the public hearing is held on the parking minimums code change.

In what Deputy Mayor Walters has proposed, there was a statement about recognizing that parking maximums may be an alternative to parking minimums, but the proposed language does not include that. Trustee Lee asked if the elimination of parking minimums would be one Code change and then a committee be formed to discuss adding parking maximums. Deputy Mayor Walters stated that he is hoping the Board would agree to move forward with the elimination of parking minimums as soon as possible and then work to develop parking maximums.

It was noted that the term redevelopment is used in the proposed language. The Board wondered if this would then apply to a project similar to the Bank of Castile who is redoing their parking lot and there may be a change in the number of parking spaces. As stated, redevelopment is included, and Deputy Mayor Walters hopes that any redevelopment would look to reduce the number of parking spaces they currently have.

Village of Geneseo Planning Board Engineer from MRB Group Jeff Boorsma believed that any redevelopment like that would be considered pre-existing non-conforming, therefore would not be required to abide by the new Code, but they could be asked to/encouraged to. Engineer Boorsma also explained that there would always be the opportunity in both directions for an applicant to seek an area variance and that the Planning Board and Zoning Board work independently of each other.

The Board was in agreement that the sea of parking spaces in the Goodwill/Country Max plaza may be developable land if all those parking spaces were not required as they probably were when the plaza was built and most definitely when that plaza housed Wegmans.

Trustee Lee noted that the draft language was not limited to public and private parcels. Engineer Boorsma also noted that parking lots are defined in the code as a use/special use in certain zoning districts in the Village.

Pedestrian Safety and Crosswalks: Trustee Lee distributed approximately forty-five (45) memos to Main Street businesses regarding asking delivery drivers to not park on crosswalks and to park at least 20' away from any crosswalks. Some good conversations were had while those memos were distributed.

Trustee Lee, Deputy Mayor Walters and Dan Quinlan met to discuss the crosswalk between School Street and the alley way just north of Rector-Hicks Funeral Home. The general consensus was that the crosswalk could be moved to the north with little to no disruption. One parking spot would be lost on the east side of the street in front of Image Empire Salon. This parking spot is the handicap accessible parking spot in that area, which would not be eliminated, but moved down one spot. In the long run this appears to be a better scenario for someone using a mobility device. No parking spots would be lost on the west side of the street and the crosswalk would connect to the existing sidewalk in front of Main Moon Chinese Restaurant.

Curb cuts/accessible ramps would be required on both sides of the street and a tree on the east side of the street may need to be removed. However, something was going to have to be done with that tree anyway because the roots of the tree are pushing the sidewalk up. Mayor Ivers asked what the cost of this project would be. There would be the labor costs and concrete costs, which are not

known at this time. Mayor Ivers asked if the Main Street merchants had a need or desire for the crosswalk to be moved and curb cuts installed. Trustee Lee stated that they did not ask the merchants but believes that the current way the crosswalk is laid out is not safe. Deputy Mayor Walters agrees that it would be safer to move the crosswalk and that part of the Comprehensive Plan talks about improving pedestrian safety and walkability.

Trustee Hamann-Whitmore agrees that the crosswalk should be relocated as logically a crosswalk should not be located where vehicles are turning into. Mayor Ivers would like a cost estimate before moving forward with the relocation.

Website Update: Trustee Hamann-Whitmore and Town Council Person Rob Deming have met remotely with one potential vender and in person with another, with two additional vendors to still meet with.

Route 20A Committee Update: Trustee Lee believes that everyone is in receipt of Gary Mix's email from May 3rd. There was a consensus of the Committee that they would identify shorter term (low hanging fruit) projects as they simultaneously plan for longer term and necessary projects. The short-term projects have been identified as:

- a. Route 39/Avon Road
 - Complete sidewalks to Cavalry Road including a cross walk at Cavalry Road
 - Enhance the existing path on the west side of Route 39/Avon Road
 - Work with the Geneseo Central School to develop off road parking north of the baseball field (this was a previous Department of Transportation recommendation)
 - Work with DOT regarding speed limit in the school zone
- b. Complete sidewalks along Route 20A to Wegmans
- c. Route 20A/South Street
 - Develop a right turn lane onto Main Street by the post office, liquor store and gas station
- d. Restart the conversation for enhanced crosswalk options at Prospect Street and South Street along with the crosswalk at the Groveland Road-Crossett Road-Temple Hill Street-Route 20A/South Street intersection.

The County Planning Department and County Economic Development Office will assist the committee in applying for grants. The Consolidated Funding Application is an application that includes many grants; therefore, the plan is to apply under this grant.

Rob Deming, Town Council Person, and Village Planning Board Chair is going to reach out to DOT and NOYES/UR Medicine to determine how long the Town/Village may have to provide additional important feedback regarding the proposed and approved traffic light at Route 20A and Center Street, especially giving the concerns from Fire Chief Chanler and the impending approval of a car wash between the State Farm Insurance Office building and Jaycox Creek. Mayor Ivers stated that MRB Group Engineer Boorsma is in the process of setting up a meeting between Village Representatives and DOT. Engineer Boorsma stated that he has not yet heard back from everyone, but it appears that the 17th is best for everyone.

Second Street/Oak Street Project Update: Mayor Ivers stated that he is expecting to have a representative from LaBella present at the next meeting (May 22nd) to give the Board an update. Mayor Ivers will be following up with LaBella tomorrow on a couple different items and will remind them of this appearance.

NY Forward Grant: Mayor Ivers attended a virtual meeting last week with NYS Representatives to go over the NY Forward Grant process. Next week NYS Representatives and Consultants along with Village Representatives will be touring the Village. There is a meeting tentatively scheduled for May 30th which will include the Local Planning Committee, Village Representatives, NYS Representatives and the Consultant.

4. Board Updates/Information:

Police Department: Trustee Hamann-Whitmore stated that all are in receipt of Police Chief Osganian's weekly activity report. Trustee Hamann-Whitmore also stated that Chief Osganian had emailed regarding the unspent police reserve funds for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. She asked if the Board would be discussing that. Mayor Ivers stated that he has been in contact with Matt Horn, MRB Group regarding end of the year items so he asks that all stay tuned.

Village Court: Trustee Lee stated that there is nothing new to report regarding the number of tickets written. However, Court Clerk Molisani is getting ready for the anticipated JCAP Grant application process which typically opens in June/July. The court is looking to get a quote for security cameras for the front and back of the Geneseo Building. In addition, she is going to get a quote for a new keyless entry system, possibly a key fob system for the Geneseo Building. The new system would allow access and the codes can be changed at any time without the need to memorize a new code each time it is changed. Court Clerk Molisani will be consulting with Chief Osganian and Dan Quinlan on this proposed project.

Geneseo Community Main Street: Trustee Lee reported that the Sip N Stroll event that took place on Friday, May 5th was a success. They sold 400 tickets, which was the maximum and they had twenty-four (24) businesses participate. Trustee Lee was not able to attend, but when he did come down to Main Street around 8:30pm/9pm it was still very busy.

The Bistro Lighting came down yesterday, Sunday, May 11th.

2024 Solar Eclipse: Trustee Lee reported that the Livingston County Tourism Office is planning for the April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse. In anticipation of the event, representatives from Sweetwater, Tennessee a small town of approximately 5,700 residents who welcomed over 50,000 visitors for the 2017 eclipse will be visiting Livingston County to share how they prepared and why Livingston County business owners, community leaders and local stakeholders should start planning for the event now. Representatives from the Livingston County Tourism Office will also present on what is being planned locally, how to get glasses and a new grant funding opportunity.

Treasurer's Report: Trustee Lee asked if the monthly Treasurer's Report could be discussed and added back to the agenda. Clerk/Treasurer Mack stated that she was not prepared to discuss the report this evening, but that she would add it to the agenda for the May 22nd meeting and she will add it to future agendas.

Department of Public Works: Deputy Mayor Walters reported the following from Dan Quinlan, Superintendent of Public Works:

1. May Special Yard and Garden Brush Pickup (May 1st).
2. The crews are preparing for the anticipated capital improvement projects.
3. The crews have been working on ongoing drainage work.
4. The crews have been preparing the parks and Main Street for the summer.

Highland Park Master Plan Update: EDR has sent a draft Highland Park Master Plan to the Steering Committee for review.

Livingston County First Impressions/Wayfinding: Mayor Ivers would like permission from the Board to apply for funds through the Livingston County First Impressions program as presented in the Wayfinding Strategic Plan. Mayor Ivers will work with Louise Wadsworth, Livingston County Downtown Coordinator, on applying for the grant. The Board was in support of Mayor Ivers applying for the grant. Trustee Lee asked if there would be discussion on the specific items the Village would be asking for in the application. Mayor Ivers will discuss with Louise before submitting the application.

Trustee Lee stated that crosswalks are probably eligible through the grant and the relocation of the crosswalk as discussed earlier in the meeting could be included, along with benches, lighting, the picnic tables in the Village Park, and the large entry signs into the Village by the school and on Route 20A that need some attention. Mayor Ivers will bring these all up to Louise.

5. Executive Session:

Trustee Hamann-Whitmore moved to enter into executive session at 5:49pm to discuss 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. Mayor Ivers asked that all in attendance except the Board leave the meeting. Deputy Mayor Walters seconded the motion and the Board entered into executive session.

6. The following was reported by Mayor Chris Ivers:

At 6:17pm, Deputy Mayor Walters moved to come out of executive session. Trustee Hamann-Whitmore seconded the motion and the motion passed with ayes from all. It was noted that no action was taken during the executive session.

7. Adjourn per Mayor Ivers:

Trustee Hamann-Whitmore moved to close the meeting at 6:18pm. Deputy Mayor Walters seconded the motion and the motion passed with ayes from all.

Aprile S. Mack, Clerk/Treasurer