

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 7, 2023
Regular Meeting

Board Present:

Chris Ivers, Mayor
Keith Walters, Deputy Mayor
Eddie Lee, Trustee
Katarina Woods, Trustee

Other Village Representatives Present:

Aprile S. Mack, Clerk/Treasurer

Public Present:

Scott Layton, Energy Enterprises
Maureen Wheeler, Livingston County Economic Development
Louise Wadsworth, Livingston County Economic Development
Margret Lee, Livingston County News

1. Meeting Opened:

Mayor Ivers opened the meeting at 5:00pm. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Livingston County Wayfinding Signage:

Maureen Wheeler and Louise Wadsworth from the Livingston County Economic Development Office appeared before the Board with ideas on how they and the Village can move forward with LivCo Wayfinding Strategies as outlined in the planning document as distributed to the Village in February.

Wayfinding is any visual clue that helps people navigate in their environment. Wayfinding is not specific to a business but to any staple within one's environment such as where to park, where to shop, and how to get to the library or government office building. What the County would like to do is to use the Village of Geneseo as a pilot Village by installing temporary signage within the Village based on the Village's existing signage and what signage the strategy has determined is needed.

The signage is meant to look similar countywide so that visitors can navigate between communities. During the study, it was determined that many of the existing Village of Geneseo signs are in great condition. Therefore, the County would like to focus on filling the gaps based on the strategies recommended needs. It was determined that most of the existing signage in Geneseo was geared toward a person in a vehicle and not pedestrians. Geneseo cost estimates for new signage over a phased five-year time period is \$550,000. Some of this has been submitted as part of the Village's NY Forward Grant application.

The temporary signage they are requesting to be installed within the Village would not cost the Village anything, but they would ask for assistance from the Department of Public Works to install the signage. They would work with the Village's Superintendent of Public Works to determine the best location for the temporary signage. The temporary signage could be installed within the next couple of weeks and stay up through the holiday season.

Allowing the Village to be the pilot Village with this temporary signage would allow other communities to see how the signage would work within their community. The temporary signage would also allow the Village and County to determine if the location is correct and to see if any amendments to the wording on the signage are needed.

The temporary signage would be durable enough to last through at least the holiday season. The Board asked if there would be information provided to the community to let people know what the new signage is about and why it has been installed. This was not something that the County had thought about but believes it to be a good idea and will work on something that can be distributed and available for residents. The Board also asked if the public would be invited to give their feedback on

the signage. Ms. Wheeler explained that this had already been done through the development of the strategy. They always welcome public comment, but no specific public comment period would be opened.

Mayor Ivers noted, and the Board agreed that they would like to incorporate the Village's logo (the bear) on the Village of Geneseo's signage. Ms. Wheeler did not see any issues with this but noted that the pedestrian and vehicle wayfinding signage was not large enough for this.

Deputy Mayor Walters moved to approve the installation of Temporary Wayfinding Signage within the Village of Geneseo as requested by the Livingston County Economic Development Office. The Village will serve as a pilot Village for this type of wayfinding signage and the Department of Public Works will assist the County with placement and installation. Trustee Woods seconded the motion and the motion passed with ayes from all.

3. Energy Enterprises – Electric & Natural Gas Consultants:

Scott Layton, Energy Enterprises Electric & Natural Gas Consultant, appeared before the Board with a quick overview of how Energy Enterprises assists the Village. Through a cooperative bidding process, the Village agreed to work with Energy Enterprises to obtain a fair market price for the use of natural gas and electricity. The delivery of natural gas and electricity is paid for through RG&E and National Grid, but the supplier is paid through an approved upon bidder through the cooperative bidding process. When Energy Enterprises first contracted with the Village, the Village was paying over \$9.00 per unit of natural gas with a supplier that was making a lot of money from the Village, when the Village should have been paying around \$4.50. The first year or two, the Village saw a significant amount of savings by bidding out the supplier. Energy Enterprises creates the bid and specifications based upon the user instead of the marketer giving the Village a price.

All users have seen natural gas prices increase; this was due to the Ukrainian War. The marketers found that they could ship natural gas over to the Ukraine at a high cost that they were willing to pay, therefore increasing everyone's price. This also happens during times of Hurricane's that have devastating effects on areas in the south. However, prices are going down. Scott recommends that individual homeowners stay with their delivery company but for bigger operations such as the Village of Geneseo, it makes more sense to bid the use of the commodity out and grouping the Village with others including school districts.

Scott continued by explaining that they offer (for a fee) reporting and assistance with budgeting that at the time, the Village Board was not interested in. He also noted that the bidding cycle does not line up with the Village's fiscal year or a school district's fiscal year, but that the key in looking at a utility bill is to look at the meter read date. He would love to see all meters read on the first of the month but unless all meters go to smart meters, there is no way this could be accomplished. He continued by stating that since COVID the number of meter readers has diminished, and customer service has also declined therefore many customers are getting incorrect bills.

Scott explained that Energy Enterprises does charge a fee for the services they are providing, but that fee is built into bid price. All Energy Enterprises can do is take the utility out to bid and make the best recommendations to the Village based on those bids. Energy Enterprises is happy with the savings the Village has gained by the bidding process, especially in the beginning years.

Trustee Lee asked about how the Village should go about budgeting for their utilities based on the bidding cycle not matching up with that of the Village's budget year. He noted that for most of the bidding year, the Village has already budgeted for utilities and that he was glad to see that Energy Enterprises recommends an increase of 25-30% for the future. Scott explained that the 25-30% increase is for those entities that use purchase orders to pay for their utilities, which applies to School districts rather than the Village of Geneseo. He continued by explaining that Energy Enterprises may

look at this by using the NYMEX (New York Mercantile Exchange), but that number is changing every few minutes, but Energy Enterprises could sit down with the Village when it gets closer to budget time to look at this more in depth.

The Board thanked Scott for attending the meeting tonight to explain this process and Scott reminded the Board that if they have any further questions, they are always welcome to reach out.

4. Action Items:

Minutes: The July 24, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed. Trustee Woods moved to approve the minutes as amended. Trustee Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed with ayes from Trustee Woods, Trustee Lee, and Mayor Ivers. Deputy Mayor Walters abstained as he was not present at the July 24th meeting.

Proclamation: On behalf of the Village Board, Mayor Ivers wished to express their deepest condolences to the family of David W. Parish, Village Historian and does apologize for not honoring and recognizing his passing sooner.

Therefore, Trustee Woods offered the following with second from Deputy Mayor Walters:

WHEREAS, David W. Parish served as Historian for the Village of Geneseo since 1987.

WHEREAS, Historian Parish served this Village with honor, dedication, and distinction for 36 years.

WHEREAS, Historian Parish has been recognized for his role as a leader and scholar throughout his career and has left a lasting mark on our community especially through his records, books, and other publications.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees, all the employees and public officials connected to the Village of Geneseo today and all throughout the last 36 years, by this resolution, wish to express their great appreciation to Historian Parish for his admirable service, loyalty, and dedication to the Village of Geneseo, its citizens and to all of us.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees that the passing of Historian Parish, the Village of Geneseo has been bereaved of one of its most outstanding figures and the community as a whole deprived of an admired and distinguished citizen.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees does hereby commend Historian Parish for his years of valuable service and expresses its sincere gratitude on behalf of the Village of Geneseo, presented this 7th day of August, 2023.

The motion having been duly seconded, was adopted, and the following votes were cast: Mayor Chris Ivers: Aye, Deputy Mayor Keith Walters: Aye, Trustee Eddie Lee: Aye and Trustee Katarina Woods: Aye.

Teresa House: Upon receipt of a letter from Teresa House Director Leah Fletcher, the Board has been asked to waive all fees for the Teresa House for use of pavilions and the depot at Highland Park, specifically the Volunteer Appreciation Event scheduled for September 20th. Fees for use of the park for the House's Dice Run and Comfort Care Walk have been waived on a continuous basis in the past. Deputy Mayor Walters moved to grant Highland Park fee waivers for Teresa House for all events. Trustee Woods seconded the motion. It was noted that a Highland Park Use policy is being worked on so items like this does not come up in the future. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed with ayes from all.

Noise Permit Application: Paul Schill, 4 Northview Drive has applied for a noise permit for Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 5:30pm-9:30pm for a backyard party with a live band. It was noted that the Board did not necessarily have to act upon the request, but that because there would be

a live band and Mr. Schill applied for the permit, action should be taken. It was also noted that last September (09/10/2022) the Police Department did receive an anonymous complaint about a loud party at this property. The party is a neighborhood block party held in Mr. Schill's backyard and all the nearby homes receive invitations. Trustee Woods moved to approve the noise permit application as presented with second from Deputy Mayor Walters. The motion passed with ayes from all.

Finance & Accounting Assessment Firm: Deputy Mayor Walters moved to enter into a contract with ProNexus for no more than \$6,000 to assist the Village with an assessment of the current practices, policies and software used within the Village Clerk's Office, assist the Village with getting the past three years of the financials audit ready and assist the Village in obtaining a external auditing firm. Trustee Woods seconded the motion.

Mayor Ivers explained that five different auditing firms were contacted with a request for proposals to complete a full financial statement audit of the Village's financial records for the past four years. One of the five firms responded with some questions, but then decided not to submit a proposal. No other firms were heard from. Mayor Ivers stated that we were not sure as to why no one responded but ProNexus was contacted and agreed that they could assist the Village with an assessment as described above. What ProNexus has supplied in their engagement letter does not seem unreasonable and does include rate sheets and scope of work.

Deputy Mayor Walters asked where the \$6,000 would be paid from. Mayor Ivers believes this to be an appropriate ARPA expenditure, therefore, it will be derived from ARPA Funds. Trustee Lee asked what ProNexus would be doing and who they would be working with. Mayor Ivers believes that they will be interviewing staff (Aprile, Shawn, and Front Desk Employees) and checking software along with reviewing our current reserve funds and how we could go about re-establishing those reserve funds. Trustee Lee commented that if possible, he would like to be involved in the process, especially on the aspect of budgeting.

Mayor Ivers stated that once he notifies ProNexus of the Board's approval, they will immediately put the Village on their schedule with an approximate start date of August 21st and they are expected to be on site for approximately two weeks.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed with ayes from all.

Salvaggio Enterprises LLC, dba Drum Roll – Liquor License and Liquor License 30-Day Waiver Request: Trustee Woods moved to waive the 30-day municipality notification request for an on-premises liquor license serving liquor, wine, beer, and cider at a retail bar/tavern establishment to be located at 86 Court Street. Deputy Mayor Walters seconded the motion.

Mayor Ivers asked if there was any discussion. Trustee Lee stated that he along with Deputy Mayor Walters knows the applicant, Chuck Salvaggio. When Trustee Lee ran into Mr. Salvaggio, he asked him about the liquor license waiver and Mr. Salvaggio was not aware that a 30-day waiver had been requested. Upon further investigation it was revealed that the firm hired to apply for the liquor license routinely asks for a 30-day waiver. However, it is Trustee Lee's feeling that the municipality should be given the entire 30 days to comment on the application. Trustee Lee continued by explaining that Mr. Salvaggio's plans are not only to re-open the Statesmen at 86 Court Street, but he has plans to transform the building and neighborhood. Mr. Salvaggio plans to make the building into a cultural hub for everyone. A liquor license application as presented to the Board seems as though Mr. Salvaggio just wants to open a bar when it is much more than that and Mr. Salvaggio would like to be given the opportunity to share his plans with the Board. Given that information, Mayor Ivers stated that he could be given some time on the August 21st agenda to do so.

With an action on the table, the Board decided that this matter could be tabled until the August 21st meeting.

5. Mayor Updates:

NY Forward Grant: Mayor Ivers has been meeting with the consultants weekly. A public meeting is scheduled with the entire committee on August 16th. The Local Plan Committee (LPC) will begin to pare down the requests. Some items included in the NY Forward Grant application for the Village of Geneseo include Highland Park Improvements and North Street bike lanes.

Hoochenanny: A planning and logistics meeting for the Hoochenanny Whiskey/Music Festival will be held this week.

Livingston County Water Sewer Authority (LCWSA): Mayor Ivers and Dan Quinlan, Superintendent of Public Works has been meeting with Jason Molino, Executive Director of the Authority for the past several months. The plan is to get water to the affected parts of the Town of Leicester due to the Retsof Salt Mine collapse. The Authority's original plan bypassed the Village and took some of the Village's customers away, including the Town of York and the Town of Geneseo. The Authority's most recent proposal includes pumping water through the Village's system to Leicester. Mayor Ivers explained that this is a remarkably complicated process that is very detailed. Discussions are ongoing.

Highland Park Project: The Highland Park project has been included in the applications for the NY Forward Grant Funding. Regarding the Highland Park Master Plan as developed by EDR, Trustee Lee asked what Phase 1 of the project would be considered to be. Mayor Ivers explained that since this has been included in the NY Forward Grant Funding application, it will depend. He however did note that the \$8.8 million estimated costs for the improvements included contingency amounts that may not need to be included. The State is the deciding factor on NY Forward Grant Funding awards and will base that upon what they feel as though will be the most transformative for the Village.

Wayfinding: Wayfinding signage costs have also been included in the applications for the NY Forward Grant funding.

Underberg & Kessler Attorney Contract: More information regarding this will be forthcoming and added to the August 21st agenda. One thing to note is that the Town of Geneseo also uses Underberg & Kessler, therefore, contracts and such the Village has with the Town of Geneseo will need to be handled in a yet to be determined way.

Police Union Contract: The Police Union contract is due to expire next year. However, the Police Union asked that negotiations on the contract start now. Progress is being made and Trustee Hamann-Whitmore as Police Department liaison and Mayor Ivers are meeting with Police Union representatives on a regular basis.

6. Discussion:

Parking Minimum Regulations: Deputy Mayor Walters noted that he had been in conversation with Attorney Mary Kay Yanik on this subject, but now that the Village is moving in a different direction discussion on the subject has stopped. More to follow on this soon.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee Update: Deputy Mayor Walters reported that the committee has been reviewing the summation of the studies that have already been completed. They are also working on a letter of support that will be signed by both the Town and Village, the letter is in draft format at this time. They are scheduled to meet later in the month. Trustee Lee and Town Councilperson Gary Mix are scheduled to meet with SUNY Geneseo representatives in the near future regarding their own experience with NYS DOT in relation to the flashing lights on the crosswalk signs on Mary Jemison Drive.

Letchworth Gateway Villages/Parks & Trails New York: Mayor Ivers had nothing to report as Trustee Hamann-Whitmore attends those meetings and has been excused from this evening's meeting.

Total Solar Eclipse 2024: Trustee Woods has been attending Livingston County 2024 Solar Eclipse meetings. They are currently focusing on how all organizations can work together to promote the event.

7. Board Updates/Information:

Fire Department: Trustee Woods had nothing to report from Fire Chief Andrew Chanler.

Police Department: In Trustee Hamann-Whitmore's absence Mayor Ivers had nothing to report from Police Chief Eric Osganian.

Village Court: Trustee Lee had nothing to report from Court Clerk Molisani.

Correspondences: Trustee Lee asked if the Board could briefly discuss the email from Bob Wilcox regarding his request to the Board to consider a proclamation naming the stone wall along the Wadsworth Property "The Kurt Cylke Village Wall." It was noted that this is a great concept, but the Village does not own the wall, therefore cannot name the wall. Kurt Cylke touched many aspects of the Village of Geneseo, and his loss is being mourned. Mayor Ivers hopes to come up with some ideas along these same lines and does have some ideas of his own but is not yet ready to share them. As discussed at the July Village Board meeting, the Board Member signing the vouchers for that month will respond to any correspondence received. Deputy Mayor Walters will respond to Mr. Wilcox.

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

1. Street and road repair on Court Street and several other streets.
2. Annual flushing and testing of the Village's water distribution system and hydrants.
3. Street sign replacement and installations.
4. Extensive repairs and equipment replacement are taking place at the water plant with funds that were budgeted for such.

Regarding the sidewalk along the north side of Route 20a from Ryan Drive to the Town line to then connect to Volunteer Road, the Village is still waiting to hear back from the Town.

8. Adjourn:

Hearing no further discussion, Deputy Mayor Walters moved to close the meeting at 6:21pm. Trustee Woods seconded the motion and the meeting closed with ayes from all.

Aprile S. Mack, Clerk/Treasurer