

**Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held in the Village Hall Conference Room 49 State Street Brockport, New York, January 4, 2016 at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Margaret B. Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor William G. Andrews, Trustee Annette M. Crane, Katherine J. Kristansen, Trustee John D. LaPierre, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Erica L. Linden

**EXCUSED:** Village Clerk Leslie Ann Morelli (death in family)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lori Skoog, Linda Ketchum, Fred Webster, Jack Merritt

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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** to honor those who serve our Country, enforce our laws, & respond to emergencies

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

**BROCKPORT HISTORICAL MOMENT:** Trustee/Deputy Mayor Andrews shared the following:

This evening we will take a look at the history of postal service in Brockport in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century—the postmasters (and one postmistress), the post offices, and the arrival of home delivery. Until 1971, postal service in the United States was operated by the Post Office Department, a part of the executive branch of the United States government, and was used by successive presidents as their most important patronage dispensing tool. Even after passage of the Pendleton Civil Service Act in 1881, postmasterships were exempt from its merit appointment system. The candidates for the 60,000-some postmasterships were essential elements in the national networks of presidential campaign organizations.

Therefore, Brockport's postmastership changed with virtually every change of presidents. Postmasters belonged to the incumbent president's party and had served in their campaign organizations. Exceptions were Republican John Collins, allowed to remain in office by Democrat Grover Cleveland and Democrat Henry C. Hammond, appointed by Republican Benjamin Harrison.

Between 1852 and 1900, eleven men and one woman served an average tenure of four years. The case of the Sweden Center post office illustrates the importance of partisanship. It was closed in 1859 when Democrat President James Buchanan could find no willing Democrat to be postmaster and reopened in 1861 when Republican Abraham Lincoln found a willing Republican.

Often, Brockporters fought over the office. The most notable fight occurred in 1869 when President Grant sent the name of Mary E. Baker, the widow of a Civil War soldier, to the Senate for confirmation. Horatio N. Beach, publisher of the Brockport Republic and a bigwig in the Monroe County Republican organization, also coveted the job and got her nomination withdrawn. A public outcry erupted, however, and Grant changed his mind again. Baker served for 16 years, under successive Republican presidents, until replaced by Democrat Grover Cleveland in 1885, and Editor Beach nursed his wounded ego in exile as U.S. consul to Mexico, Venezuela, and Ecuador, also patronage appointments.

The post office moved as often as the postmasters. Often, the postmasters were in business and used their stores as post offices. Until 1899, Brockporters had to collect their mail at the post office. So, the arrival of the mail became a great social occasion. Men gathered to exchange gossip and swap yarns. In 1891, the Post Office Department instituted free home delivery for eligible communities. In 1893, Brockport became eligible. A postal inspector came from Washington to assess the situation. He ruled against it because: 1. The post office was too small. 2. The village had no street signs or house numbers. 3. The businessmen opposed it. 4. Many men objected to having their social time disrupted. 5. Many Brockporters objected to the necessary increase in the cost of postage from one cent to two cents.

H.N. Johnston overcame the first objection in 1894 by building a fully-equipped post office on King Street and renting it to the federal government. However, the incumbent postmaster was dismissed for embezzling \$3,200 and Johnston became postmaster. Finally, in 1899, the village crank, lawyer H.C. Holmes, broke the logjam. Holmes had run unsuccessfully for police judge, receiving only ten votes. He pursued legal action to overturn the result, but took time out to file a successful petition for a writ of mandamus requiring the Village Board to take the action necessary to enable the post office to begin free home delivery, which began August 1, 1899, with three carriers and 25 boxes.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

-Annette M. Crane as Trustee



**CERTIFICATES & PROCLAMATIONS:** none

**GUESTS:** none

**PUBLIC HEARING:** none

- Note: Proposed Local Law – adding a Parks chapter to the Brockport Village Code – public hearing of 12/21/15 carries over to a future meeting – date to be determined

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Lori Skoog of the Town of Sweden – congratulated her running mate Annie Crane on her appointment as Village of Brockport Trustee.

**CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the 12/21/15 meeting will be available at the next Village Board meeting for approval.

- **APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID**

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 that the bills be allowed and paid upon audit.

A/P Clearing Account

	<u>Abstract Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
FUND (A): <u>General</u>	1/4/16	\$77,647.30
FUND (F): <u>Water</u>	1/4/16	\$1,101.94
FUND (G): <u>Sewer</u>	1/4/16	\$1,450.37
FUND (H): <u>Capital</u>	-	-
FUND (T): <u>Trust &amp; Agency</u>	-	-
		\$80,199.61 total

**CLERK REPORT:** Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Erica Linden, reporting for Clerk Leslie Ann Morelli

- o 2016 Village Tax Collection – re Chase Lockbox – Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linden reported that she, Treasurer Hendricks and Clerk Morelli recently met with their Chase Bank representative. The Village will no longer be using the Chase Lockbox service; the software platform at Chase is outdated. Their new platform will not be able to process escrow accounts, which is a large percentage of the properties. If the Village were to continue to utilize the Chase service, it would no longer be free. Therefore, the decision was made to keep 100% of tax collection efforts in-house for the 2016-2017 Village tax season.

Trustee Kristansen expressed concern over how this would impact Clerk Morelli's work load.

Mayor Blackman responded, assuring everyone that Clerk Morelli had already stated her ability to manage this additional effort. It was done completely in-house many years ago until Chase offered it as a free service.

- **PERSONNEL ITEMS:**

- o Code Review Committee – Mary Rich off due to election to Sweden Town Board -

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Andrews seconded, carried 5/0 to accept Rich's resignation with gratitude for her service.

- **OLD or NEW BUSINESS:**

- o Approve and authorize Mayor to sign amended cable television franchise agreement – (decision within 62 days of close of public hearing) - Mayor Blackman noted changes in the agreement. Time Warner agreed to make quarterly payments instead of annual. There was new language regarding the trimming of trees that simply requires them to come to the Village and give notification before they trim. Language was added regarding late payments on their part. In Appendix A regarding free cable, it does not include internet.

Village Attorney Mastrella reviewed the contract and is satisfied with the changes.

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 5/0 to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the amended cable television franchise agreement.

- o Approve and authorize Mayor to sign Zoldaz brush grinding agreement - Per DPW Spt. Donahue's email earlier today:

I recommend the Village Board accept the proposal for Zoldaz Construction to tub grind our brush pile

generated throughout the year. As most of you know, we share this pile with the Sweden Highway Department. The Sweden Highway Spt. is also going to be asking the Town Board to accept the same proposal. We split the cost in half for this service. Our share would be as written on the proposal, \$3,600. It would be a 2-year agreement. This will help us budget for this each year. In the past we have solicited proposals. Zoldaz has been the cheapest. The rest usually come in between \$13,000 and \$23,000.

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 to authorize the Zoldaz brush grinding agreement.

- Bid results – 2012 or newer hydraulic track excavator – Per DPW Spt. Donahue's email earlier today:

We opened 4 bids last Wednesday for this piece of equipment. Two of the bids were on a new machine and the others were for a used machine. I would recommend to the Village Board that we accept the low bid of \$65,902.34. This low bid was submitted by Monroe Tractor of Henrietta. It is for a 2012 CX80 track excavator. As discussed at previous meetings, funding will come from the sale of the 1999 John Deere backhoe, some from the Water Fund and some from the Sewer Fund. The remaining balance will come from the Contingency line. The other used machine bid was \$69,212 from George & Swede for a 2011 excavator. The bids for new ones were \$83,123 from United Rentals and \$89,785 from Milton Cat.

→ Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 5/0 to accept Spt. Donahue's recommendation to accept the low bid of \$65,902.34 by Monroe Tractor for a 2012 CX80 track excavator.

- Amend Village Board liaisons listing –

→ Mayor Blackman moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 to update the liaison listings as follows:

**VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT  
VILLAGE BOARD LIAISONS  
TO DEPARTMENTS / AREAS / BOARDS / COMMITTEES / OUTSIDE ENTITIES  
JANUARY 2016 – JULY 2016  
Amended Village Board 1/4/16**

Mayor Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Andrews, Trustees Crane, Kristansen, LaPierre

Personnel / Human Resources	Blackman
Budget & Finance	Blackman
Town/Gown Relations (SUNY College at Brockport)	Blackman & Andrews
Intergovernmental Relations (Towns of Sweden & Clarkson)	Blackman & Andrews
Police Department	La Pierre & Kristansen
Building / Zoning / Code Enforcement Planning Board Zoning Board of Appeals Code Review Committee	Crane & Kristansen
Department of Public Works Parks Committee	La Pierre & Crane
History Historic Preservation Board Emily L. Knapp Museum & Library of Local History Board Brockport Community Museum	Kristansen Andrews Andrews
Economic Development Farmers Market Welcome Center Management Committee	Crane Andrews

BMA (Brockport Merchants Association)	Kristansen
GBCoC (Greater Brockport Chamber of Commerce)	Kristansen
GBDC (Greater Brockport Development Corporation)	Andrews
BISCO (Brockport Integrated Service & Community Org)	Kristansen
Tree Board	Blackman
Walk Bike Brockport Action Group	Andrews
Housing Task Force	Crane
Seymour Library Board	Kristansen

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> –      o Authorize Mayor to attend NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting in Albany February

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 to authorize Mayor Blackman's attendance at the NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting in Albany February 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Blackman noted that it is a terrific annual meeting, offering the opportunity to speak with other mayors and legislators as well. She said she has gone the last couple of years. Several workshops appeal to her; one in particular is controlling streetlight costs. It is a very busy and full two days.

Trustee Kristansen asked if there is time to ask questions.

Mayor Blackman said there is an opportunity to ask questions at each session. If the Trustees have any questions, they can forward them to her to ask. She said she hopes to spend time with Barbara Van Epps from NYCOM regarding SUNY Impact Aid in an effort to get it passed this year. Both our assemblymen and senator are in favor of it and they need municipalities to get behind it.

#### **VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:**

- o Mayor Margaret B. Blackman
  - Swearing In – Mayor Blackman shared having attended the January 3<sup>rd</sup> ceremonial swearing in of Village Trustee Crane, Sweden Councilperson Skoog and Sweden Councilperson Rich. She said the whole atmosphere was very celebratory. She said it was great that Congresswoman Louise Slaughter agreed to come out and conduct the ceremonial swearing in. She said the event was packed and I hope it marks a new age of cooperation between the Village and the Town.
  - BI/CE/PB/ZBA Clerk – Mayor Blackman reported on participating on the Search Committee with BI/CEO Miller and outgoing Building/Codes Clerk Krahe regarding this vacancy. The Village received 11 applications. The Committee is interviewing 8 and plans to narrow down to 3 for second interviews.
  - Rocco's Canalside Pub at 26 Clinton Street – Mayor Blackman distributed to the Trustees a proposed letter to the New York State Liquor Authority that was drafted by the Village Attorney. She requested a resolution in support of revoking Rocco's liquor license. It is currently temporarily suspended. Rocco's has the right to appeal. Past history includes a murder, a stabbing, and other dangerous activities. If approved, the letter will go out tomorrow.

→ Mayor Blackman moved, Trustee Andrews seconded, to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign said letter to the New York State Liquor Authority regarding Rocco's at 26 Clinton Street.

Discussion:

Trustee Andrews said this action was recommended by the Police Chief.

Mayor Blackman said Chief Varrenti is sending his own letter. This would be an independent recommendation from the municipality.

Trustee Kristansen the Village Board's decision on this is based on the recommendation of the Police Chief. She said she feels it is important that the Village Board take a stand on this. There have been problems at that establishment for quite some time. She said she was a witness to one of the worst incidents there. She said she saw a man they thought was dead, almost dead, drug deals going on and Rocco's employees just standing there. With the on-going problems there, this action needs to be taken.

Trustee LaPierre said time is of the essence. He supports the action and suggests sending the letter via FedEx overnight.

Mayor Blackman said it will go out first thing in the morning.

Call to question:

Carried 5/0 to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign and forward the following letter to the New York State Liquor Authority regarding Rocco's at 26 Clinton Street.

David L. Edmunds Jr., Deputy Commissioner  
New York State Liquor Authority  
535 Washington Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Commissioner Edmunds:

I write to advise you that the Village of Brockport Board of Trustees unanimously resolved at its January 4, 2016 meeting to recommend that the New York State Liquor Authority revoke the license of Rocco's Canal Side Pub in the event that the licensee is found to have committed any violations of the ABC law. As you are aware, the Brockport Police Department uncovered credible evidence that employees of Rocco's were intentionally allowing underage consumption of alcoholic beverages with at least the tacit approval of the licensee's ownership. Moreover, Rocco's has a history of established violations over the past five (5) years which obviously have not served to deter ownership from policing and preventing the now pending violations.

While we applaud the actions of the SLA in issuing an Emergency Suspension of Rocco's license, we urge the Authority to strongly consider a permanent license revocation if any of the currently pending violations are established.

Sincerely Yours,

Margaret B. Blackman, Mayor

- Budget preparation – Mayor Blackman reported that the Village's share of the Seymour Library budget is \$192,000. It is \$192.00 less than was budgeted. Mayor Blackman shared that Treasurer Hendricks is forwarding the following memo to the Department heads regarding budget preparation.

To: Department Heads

From: Daniel P. Hendricks

Date: January 4, 2016

Re: 2016-17 Budget

As we develop the 2016-17 budget, we are facing serious challenges that could impact the continued viability of the Village of Brockport. The tax cap approved by the Governor's Office, limits our tax levy increase to .12% of last year's tax levy. If the Village Trustees do not vote to override the tax cap, the tax levy increase would be limited to \$3,189.00. As a percentage of the budget that would be .06%, very close to no increase!

In developing the budget, we will prepare what the budget would be with the current approved staffing levels, and appropriate fringe benefits, without any increase in current budget lines for supplies, equipment, contractual expenditures, etc. Afterwards, we will prepare the budget with the changes that you have proposed in your budgets various line items.

As the process of developing next year's budget will be challenging, and one cannot predict what the Village Trustees will accept as an acceptable tax levy increase; you should be prepared to offer suggestions, in priority order, of what reductions could be made in your budget to meet whatever target the board sets.

Attached is the budget calendar that was adopted by the board.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Xc: Mayor Blackman  
Village Trustees

Trustee LaPierre said he doesn't disagree with it but believes it is not strong enough for the challenge that we have in front of us. He said Department Heads should show the Village Board a line by line

decrease. Personnel lines will be up because that is contractual, so other lines will have to decrease. We need to see what those reductions look like. We need to know what that IMPACT is per line, say if each has to reduce by 15%.

Mayor Blackman asked Trustee LaPierre if he thinks that should be in the letter.

Trustee LaPierre said he does and he would be happy to work with Treasurer Hendricks on it.

Mayor Blackman stressed expediency as this has to get out to Department Heads so they can come back with the information for the January 25<sup>th</sup> work session.

- Monthly meeting with Sweden Supervisor – Mayor Blackman reported that each month she and Sweden Town Supervisor Rob Carges meet to exchange information and discuss issues and ideas. She said she gives Supervisor Carges credit for continuing to do so. It is informal and has been a good exchange. She said she would like to see it a bit more structured. Therefore, now before meeting with him she will ask the Trustees what issues they would like her to take to him. Her next meeting with him is this Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and she welcomes suggestions. She will then report back on it.

Trustee Kristansen suggested they discuss the Seymour Library.

Mayor Blackman said Treasurer Hendricks called Library Director Gouveia about budget figures and he was going to ask about if the towns had paid what they agreed. However, there is more to the library than that.

Trustee Andrews said he is troubled by the substantial funding without oversight opportunity and a provision that explicitly excludes members of municipal boards to be part of the library board.

Trustee Kristansen said that is state law. She said as Village Board liaison the only time she has been excluded from a Seymour Library Board executive session is when it is personnel related. She has found budget related matters to be very transparent with sufficient time allowed for review.

Trustee Andrews said he withdraws that recommendation. However, he believes the municipal boards should be better informed as to personnel issues as there is ample evidence that under past Library Directors and they have been left in the dark.

Mayor Blackman said Trustee Kristansen as current liaison to the Seymour Library provides regular updates in her reports at Village Board meetings.

Trustee Andrews suggested they discuss possible reactivation of the Sweden Clarkson Brockport Recreation Commission. It was discontinued years ago and was a sore point. It may be good for intergovernmental relations. He said he does not know all that the Joint Recreation Commission did but knows they organized activities and presented awards.

Mayor Blackman said the Joint Recreation Commission was discontinued when the Sweden-Clarkson Community Center came into being.

- o Trustee/Deputy Mayor William G. Andrews

- The Red Jug Pub – proposed for 38 Merchant Street – Trustee Andrews referred to the application before the Planning Board for the space formerly known as Northbound Junction. There is some concern of this vacant space re-opening as a bar / applying for a liquor license. He said it might be useful for the Village Board to invite the business owners to the January 25<sup>th</sup> work session in which Department Heads will be in attendance to share with them the Village's concerns and establish communication with them in the hopes they will do a better job running the establishment than their predecessors.

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 5/0 to invite the owners of The Red Jug Pub proposed for 38 Merchant Street to the 7pm January 25<sup>th</sup> Village Board work session.

- Historical - Trustee Andrews shared that as Village Historian emeritus the final editing is complete for his book on Brockport history set for publication in February. A room has been reserved at the library for a celebration. Related to that, the College at Brockport has invited Wanda Hendricks, the only biographer of Brockport's Fanny Barrier Williams, to speak at a banquet on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

He met with the subcommittee of the Brockport Community Museum in regards to African American History Month in February.

- Swearing In - Trustee Andrews said he is dismayed that he missed the January 3<sup>rd</sup> ceremonial swearing in of colleagues as he had an issue with his calendar.

- Trustee Annette M. Crane
  - Swearing in – Trustee Crane said she looks forward to working with everyone.
- Trustee Katherine J. Kristansen
  - Seymour Library – Trustee Kristansen said the December 22<sup>nd</sup> Library Board special meeting centered around the solar farm agreement. They discussed term limit Dec 22 – library board special meeting centered on solar farm PPA. Term limit agreement, accounting transparency, whether they will see their energy bills, whether they will know what their savings are, who will do the billing, whether the credit savings alter the amount of money allocated to the Library from the Village, confusion about unmetered properties in the Village, etc. They would like one representative per entity to review energy bills on a monthly basis. The attorneys are in discussions. Trustee Kristansen said she is glad they could vocalize their questions and concerns and that they invited her. She said they are pleased to be a part of the solar farm but are rightfully protective of their responsibility.

Mayor Blackman suggested they talk with Brad Kelly of Larsen Engineers as well.

- Swearing In – Trustee Kristansen shared having attended the January 3<sup>rd</sup> ceremonial swearing in of Village Trustee Crane, Sweden Councilperson Skoog and Sweden Councilperson Rich. She said she is pleased to have them as part of Village Town government.
- The Red Jug Pub – proposed for 38 Merchant Street – Trustee Kristansen shared her opinion regarding this application. Originally she thought no, no, no we can't allow this. She said she has changed her opinion after talking with several people. However, she has concerns about underage drinking, parking, etc.

I would like to express my concern about the proposed tavern application at 38 Merchant Street. My concerns stem around 'under age' drinking and 'of age' excessive drinking which leads to an unsafe environment and decrease of quality of life both in the establishment and outside of the establishment, parking issues, overuse of law enforcement, etc. We have already gone down this road with an establishment which was recently suspended due to these very issues. My hope is that the code enforcement office along with the involved boards and the police department take a good, extensive and complete look at what the impact and implications will be of having another bar in our village as they research the applications. This is a perfect example of why we need to complete a Village Comprehensive plan very soon.

- Climate Smart / Cleaner-Greener – Trustee Kristansen reported being preapproved for the \$2,500 from the solar permit. When the funds arrive, she suggests they be earmarked for the comprehensive plan.

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Mayor Blackman seconded, carried 5/0 that all Climate Smart / Cleaner-Greener funds received be dedicated to the comprehensive plan.

- Trustee John D. LaPierre
  - Police Department – Trustee LaPierre inquired as to the outcome of a letter from the Police Chief. The Village will bill Monroe County for expenses incurred in the training and outfitting of Officers Sarratori and Brady for them transferring to another law enforcement entity. By law we are allowed to bill for such. Trustee LaPierre said the Village should bill them. Costs incurred were approximately \$20,000.

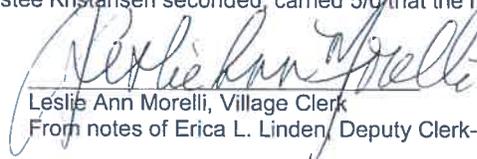
→ Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 5/0 that the Village bill the County for expenses incurred in the training and outfitting of Officers Sarratori and Brady.

- Swearing In – Trustee LaPierre shared having attended the January 3<sup>rd</sup> ceremonial swearing in of Village Trustee Crane, Sweden Councilperson Skoog and Sweden Councilperson Rich. It was a nice event and he enjoyed a good piece of cherry pie.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** none

**ADJOURNMENT:**

→ At 8:08pm, Trustee Crane moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 5/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

  
 Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk  
 From notes of Erica L. Linden, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer