

**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, April 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, Village Clerk Leslie Ann Morelli

**ALSO PRESENT:** Linda Ketchum, Norm Giancursio, Terry Joseph, Pat Nichols, Helaine Donn, Joan Hamlin, Rhett King, Francisco & Linda Borryayo, Fred Webster

From College journalism class: Marsha Ducey, Catherine Mattis, Kayla Zeluff, Patricia Meehan, Alyssa Gray, Crystal Rosas, Kayla Green, Alex Dean

**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:

Another distinguished Brockport family was that of Wilson Henry Moore. He was born in Clarkson in April 1859, the son and grandson of Clarkson farmers, and attended the Brockport Normal School. Already as a boy, he showed business enterprise by obtaining a Kelsey hand press and printing and selling business and calling cards. In 1878, at age 19, he founded the Moore Subscription Agency based on the "clubbing" concept, whereby subscribers received discounts by ordering several magazines at once. One obituary claimed that "by means of that plan he did more than any other man to bring good reading to the homes of our land".

In 1882, he moved his company to King Street in Brockport and, when that building burned in 1888, to the vacant former office building of D.S. Morgan & Co. on Market Street. He expanded the business by buying two Chicago magazine agencies. His business was so successful that it became the world's largest subscription agency, mailing one million of its catalogs annually, and had 100 employees. Its business alone raised the Brockport post office from fourth class to second class and qualified the village for home mail delivery.

In 1888, he and his cousin, Manley Shafer, acquired the bankrupt Ham-Rogers Shoe factory that was housed in another former D.S. Morgan building on Market Street. They expanded it and built the brick building near the railroad on Park Avenue that burned in 1974. The shoe business thrived, producing high-end ladies' shoes for nationwide distribution and had 400 employees.

Moore was also a partner with F.F. Capen in the Capen Piano Co. and with Gifford Morgan in the Rochester Wheel Works. He served on the Normal School Board and was a founder of the Brockport Rural Cemetery and a vestryman at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. He owned the first automobile in Brockport.

In 1887, he married May Scranton, a Brockport woman. They had two children, Henry Wilson and Helen. About that time, he built a house at 39 State Street, two doors from here. When the Rochester, Lockport, Buffalo electric railway was being laid out, it was slated to pass in front of the Moore house. Wilson was adamantly opposed to it. He fought it in every way he could. In 1907, when he realized that he had lost the battle, he went to Canada with his physician and two nurses and shot himself.

His widow sold the subscription business to the Cottrell Agency in North Cohocton and it continued as the Moore-Cottrell agency until 1974, using the clubbing concept that Moore had invented nearly a century earlier. She lived on in Brockport with her two children until her death in 1949. Helen married one of her father's employees, Stanley H. Geerer, and remained in the family home until she died in 1981.

Henry was drafted in 1917 and served in the field artillery. He was an officer in the Moore-Shafer Shoe Manufacturing Co. until it failed in 1927. After that, Henry was a traveling cigar salesman.

Henry married in 1919. He and his wife, Marian, were avid and quite successful amateur golfers. Also, they took annual cruises to the Caribbean and South America. After Marian's death in the early 1960s, Henry and Helen lived in the same nursing home, but had become estranged and would not speak to one another. Reportedly, he had suffered from bouts of mental illness since childhood. I bought his house in 1970 and found four barrels of shoe lasts in the basement. I visited him once at the Brightonian, but he was very uncommunicative. Neither Helen or Henry had any children.

Wilson has no descendants. All of his businesses have failed. None of the buildings they erected still stand. Only the house he built on State Street and the flagpole he raised in front of the Moore-Shafer Shoe Co. remain as the legacy of a man who was once perhaps the most enterprising businessman in Brockport history.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** (ceremonial) none

**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:**

- Linda Ketchum of Erie Street read the following statement into the record:

A group of people have it in their heads that it is a good idea to dissolve the Village of Brockport.

These people are spreading half-truths. I think the Village Board needs to expose the whole story for all residents.

One of the main complaints is about the tax rate. Our tax rate for living in the Village is high compared to other Villages. The tax rate is not the whole story. It gets very complicated when you take into account the assessed value of homes, the tax base and the total budget of a Village. People that want to dissolve our Village only want us to know that the tax rate is high. They don't want us to know that it's much more complicated than that. We don't pay the highest taxes in Monroe County.

The whole story needs to be told so that we don't lose our police department. That is the first thing that we will lose. It will be a big loss in a Village of our population. We are considered an urban environment by the US Census bureau. With an urban environment we have urban crime. We can't afford to lose our police department.

There is false information about each police officer making \$100K a year. That may have been true in 2010, but it is no longer true. The BPD used to be under-staffed and a lot of overtime was available to officers. The current department is not under-staffed and new hires make less than any other officer in Monroe County because of a new contract. The days of saying our police department is over-priced are over.

The water rate is also a half-truth. Our water rate is high, but it includes a bond payment. If Brockport is dissolved, the average homeowner will pay more with Monroe County Water Authority. The whole story needs to be presented to taxpayers, not just the half-story that the dissolution-ists want people to hear.

There is a high poverty rate in our Village. When the census was last taken, students living in rental properties were also counted with little or no income that influenced the rate. Again, the complete picture needs to be shown.

The new rowing shed that will be in Corbett Park is a great addition to this community at no extra cost to taxpayers. It will benefit the Town, Village and surrounding communities. I think this present Village Board is a huge asset to our community. You have saved this Village and I want to keep it.

Dissolution is not unification, it is elimination.

- Helaine Donn of Carolin Drive – said she is here regarding the proposed boathouse to be built in Corbett Park. She asked for clarification as to the proposed location, suggested there are better locations for it, asked how the boathouse would be staffed, suggested that bringing rowing to Brockport will benefit only a few citizens, questioned where the money is coming from, that grant money is still taxpayer money, just from the State or Federal governments instead of the Village government, and expressed concern that the property owners that abut Corbett Park have yet to be consulted as many of those who know anything about it have concerns.

- Terry Joseph of Carolin Drive – said she echoes many of H. Donn's comments and mentioned just having received a copy of the Village Board agenda yesterday.

Mayor Blackman shared that the first location considered was a tiny parcel at Fayette/Lyman Streets

but that it would only accommodate a boat shed. She and DPW Spt. Donahue visited Corbett Park and considered it a much better location. Some re-grading will need to be done to make it easier to get the boats (shells) up the hill to the canal. Mayor Blackman said she met with the Parks Committee and provided information and an FAQ sheet. They plan to soon call for a public information meeting with the property owners in the Corbett Park area. The construction of the boathouse will be through New York State grant monies. If Brockport didn't apply and receive the grant funds, another municipality would have. The boathouse will be staffed, maintained and insured by a non-profit organization to be formed to be known as Brockport Rowing. Their funds will come from membership fees, not tax monies. The project will benefit more than a few citizens. Bringing Rowing to Brockport will benefit taxpayers at all levels as well as the College at Brockport and Brockport Central School District as it is considered economic development by bringing people into the community to shop and eat, etc. As to Village Board agendas, packets, minutes, etc., they are all posted to the Village website. Agendas and packets are posted by the Friday before the Monday meeting. Minutes are posted once approved.

- Rhett King of Adams Street read the following statement into the record:

Mr. Vice Mayor, you got all of us thinking about unification and divisiveness in your letter to the editor. My comments and questions tonight will address just that. We wondered if helping the near 30% of our village population living in poverty to keep their homes would qualify as a unifier. We may have different perspectives, but you as a representative of every village resident, ask yourself, how well do you represent all of your constituents? As the representatives for all of us, ask yourself, what you have done to ease the burden of those living below the poverty level? If that question can't be answered publicly, perhaps your wish is for those living in poverty to just leave. Why not make it easy for them by continuing to raise the tax levy? How is that unifying our community?

The Mayor calls the upcoming referendum a distraction. You Mr. Vice Mayor state that, "nothing has been more divisive than their two referendums". Why, because it doesn't go along with your plan to continually raise taxes and fees? Have any of you, since you have been on this board asked the community for their thoughts on how this government is representing them? Have any of you reached out and talked to residents whose houses were in need of repair and asked what you can do to help?

We wonder why you have only chosen to represent a small group of individuals calling themselves probrockport, which some of you are members, while at the same time, you turn your nose up, or call it divisive, General Municipal Law 17-A which was signed into law in 2009 and made effective March 2010. Is the state legislature a distraction? How about the over 600 people that voted yes to unify our community in 2010? Are they a distraction? The only special interest group that voted in 2010 and will vote again on May 24 are your constituents, we the people. Sometimes the truth hurts but the reality is, had you truly represented our whole community, no one would have signed petitions in 2010, or again in the last few years.

In 2010, after the petitions were certified, our government said we would do better. Those were empty promises as you have raised the tax levy by \$530,000. At the same time you state that the village is in better financial shape. What you should have said is that the village government is in better shape. Did you tell your constituents the plan was to raise the levy by \$530,000 so the government was better off even if all village residents weren't? You can't hide from the facts; we are the highest taxed village in Monroe County, have the highest poverty rate of any village in Monroe County, and have the lowest median home value among villages in Monroe County. You and your probrockport group can continue to call people names and spread fear among the residents but, it's nothing more than a distraction. You know it, I know it and our community knows it. After all, it's you, our fine government that decides what happens financially to our community. You have chosen to continue to over burden our residents with more taxes and fees. Why, are you trying to turn our village into the Pittsford of western Monroe county. It's your unresponsive oppressive government that has our community where it currently is. It's easy to distract the community by playing the blame game. However, you are currently in charge of our finances and the facts don't lie. You haven't done a good job. You have not been good neighbors with Clarkson and Sweden but chose to blame them. You have been shedding services for years and still our taxes continue to climb. Do you manage your own check books the same way?

Mayor Blackman stopped R. King at this point as his 5 minutes was up.

#### **CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

→ Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Crane seconded, Trustee Kristansen abstained due to absence, carried 4/0/1 that the minutes of the 3/21/16 meeting be approved as amended.

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Andrews seconded, carried 5/0 that the minutes of the 3/28/16 meeting be approved as written.

- **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>	4/1/16	\$84,675.59	
FUND (F): <u>Water</u>	4/1/16	\$55,285.12	
FUND (G): <u>Sewer</u>	4/1/16	\$602.95	
FUND (H): <u>Capital</u>	-	-	
FUND (T): <u>Trust &amp; Agency</u>	-	-	
			\$140,563.66 total

**CLERK REPORT:** Clerk – Leslie Ann Morelli

- o Any sidewalk café permit applications submitted for the 2016 season – Clerk Morelli referred to the Perri's Pizzeria application materials in the packet.

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 to approve the application of Perri's Pizzeria at 82 Main Street for 2 tables and 8 chairs (plus umbrellas and trash receptacle) for the 2016 season sidewalk café season.

The approval letter will indicate that 6am to 11pm is allowed, that the tables and chairs need to be placed on the concrete up against their storefront, that the tables and chairs should match and be kept in good repair and that they must provide their own trash receptacle for use only during café hours.

- o United Way – Clerk Morelli reported that 14 employees submitted pledge forms for this year's United Way campaign with contributions pledged for 6/1/16-5/31/17 for a total of \$3,302.

- o 2016 Events Schedule – Clerk Morelli said she solicited and received information from community organizations and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linden has formatted it into the annual poster/handout. As soon as NYS Canal Corporation hours are announced and Welcome Center hours set, it will be made available from the Village website, at Village buildings, Seymour Library, Town buildings, and forwarded to the College, BCSD, community organizations and media.

- o Public Hearing on proposed budget – Clerk Morelli reminded all of the special Village Board for the singular purpose of Treasurer Hendricks presenting and the Village Board hearing public comment on the proposed 6/1/16 to 5/31/17 budget. It will be at 7pm Monday, 4/11/16 at the Middle School L.G.I. Treasurer Hendricks and Mayor Blackman will be taking notes of public and board comment as Clerk Morelli has a previously scheduled commitment as 4/11 was not on the originally adopted meeting schedule.

- **PERSONNEL ITEMS:** none

- **OLD or NEW BUSINESS:**

- o Grants – DASNY – awarded \$50,000 grant for construction of a boathouse on canal at Corbett Park – Mayor Blackman referred to the letter in the packet that the State has awarded the Village of Brockport a State and Municipal Facilities Program grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of a boathouse at Corbett Park. This is in addition to the \$75,000 from the NYSCC reported on a couple of months ago.

- o E.L.K. Museum – approve recommended accession / deaccession list per 3/23 Museum Board meeting –

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 5/0 to approve the accession / deaccession list in the packet as recommended by the E.L.K. Museum Board at their 3/23 meeting.

Trustee Andrews commented that this process is another step the E.L.K. Museum Board is taking to professionalize the Museum. He commends their work. The Village Board concurred.

**VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:**

- o Mayor Margaret B. Blackman
  - 36 Erie Street – Mayor Blackman shared that she met with Dave Enos to talk about the restaurant he is building at 36 Erie Street and toured the site from the basement to the second floor. It will be featured in the upcoming Village newsletter.

- Town/Gown – Mayor Blackman said she and the VP for Student Affairs co-chair the Town/Gown Committee. The College President will soon take that role from the VP and is eager to take it on. She waited until now because she wanted to settle into her new job first. The Town/Gown

Committee has been in existence for just over a year with lots of ideas, proposals and stimulating discussion. Some of the proposals will move on, particularly those which require action on the part of the College.

- South Avenue Extension – Mayor Blackman shared that on 3/30 she met with Trustee Kristansen, BI/CEO Miller, Town Board Member Lori Skoog and Hollybrooke Road neighborhood representative Bill Plews and Sumket Development's Pepsy Kettavong. He was supposed to have been at the 3/28 Village Board work session but had written down the wrong date. Sumket owns 75 acres of land on the South Avenue extension and has asked for community input on how they might develop it. He was provided with commentary from the 3/28 work session and then Trustee Kristansen, Town Board Member Skoog and Bill Plews took him on a tour of housing developments in the Village and the Town as well as the properties that about the site.

- Low Bridge High Water – Mayor Blackman said the LBHW Committee met 3/31 and continues to work on the 5/13-5/14 events and on finalizing the Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> events. There will be more family friendly activities on the canalfront this year. They have \$2,500 in sponsors so far. The committee is now meeting weekly.

- Women of Courage – Mayor Blackman shared having attended the 4/1 Women of Courage celebration and luncheon at the College. The luncheon featured a keynote speech by Wanda Hendricks, author of a 2014 biography of Fannie Barrier Williams who grew up in Brockport and returned here in old age – the first African American graduate of Brockport Normal School and a nationally known social activist. Award recipients included a student, alum, faculty and an emerita.

- Trustee/Deputy Mayor William G. Andrews

- E.L.K. Museum Board – Trustee Andrews reported having attended the 3/23 Museum Board meeting in which the accession / deaccession list was recommended and discussion took place on what to do about the two stuffed golden eagles. A possibility may be for next year's College graduating class to sponsor restoration and become property of the College as the College's mascot is the Golden Eagle.

- Town/Gown – Trustee Andrews reported having attended the recent Town/Gown meeting.

- Low Bridge High Water – Trustee Andrews reported having attended the recent LBHW Committee meeting.

- Women of Courage – Trustee Andrews shared having attended the 4/1 Women of Courage celebration and luncheon at the College.

- Brockport Community Museum Board – Trustee Andrews reported having attended the BCM Board meeting earlier this evening. The special exhibit on African American History they had at Seymour Library has concluded. Several historic markers are being refurbished. The interpretive sign in front of Hartwell Hall at the College is to be replaced. An interpretive sign will be placed in Sagawa Park related to the soon to be implemented historical mural on the wooden fence. Trustee Andrews said the sign will be dedicated at the time of a field trip to Brockport as part of a conference being held in Fairport this coming September.

- Trustee Annette M. Crane

- Code Enforcement – Trustee Crane reported that on 3/22 she accompanied BI/CEO Miller on an inspection of the studio apartments at Villager Apartments on N. Main Street. They saw 32 apartments in varying conditions. There were some violations in some apartments to be addressed by the management of the apartment complex.

- South Avenue Extension - Trustee Crane reported that on 3/24 she met with a group of Hollybrook Road residents in the Town of Sweden who had questions and concerns about possible development of 75 acres on the South Avenue Extension. It was a useful meeting and she was able to give them some feedback and encourage them to attend the 3/28 Village Board work session that they were invited to, which many of them did. She said that Sunday afternoon she took a long walk through the South Avenue woods to see the conditions of the area adjoining the back yards of those Hollybrook Road homes.

- Police Department – Trustee Crane reported that on 3/25 she did a ride along with the Police from 8pm until 3am. From 8pm until 10pm she was with Officer Hagen. From 10pm to 3am she was with Officer Dawson. In addition to patrolling the streets in all areas of the Village, several traffic tickets were issued. She said it seemed to be a big night for broken headlights. There was also a DWI, a few open container violations, a loud party, an interview with a student on campus in an ongoing investigation, and a possible missing person. She said the Officers told her they considered it a quiet night. She said she was very impressed with teamwork and professionalism of the officers.

- Housing Task Force – Trustee Crane reported that on 3/28 she attended an HTF meeting. They discussed parking concerns on Fair Street.

- Code Review Committee – Trustee Crane reported that on 3/28 after the HTF meeting, she attended the CRC meeting. They discussed the sign chapter of the Village Code.

- Trustee Katherine J. Kristansen

- Greater Brockport Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Kristansen reported that on 3/28 she attended the Greater Brockport Chamber of Commerce meeting. Discussion centered on the new year's budget, future networking events, and new members.

- South Avenue Extension – Trustee Kristansen commented on the 3/28 Village Board work session which was devoted to discussion about possible development by Sumket of the 75 acres they own on the South Avenue extension. She said she wished to publicly thank the property owners in the Village and the Town (i.e. on Hollybrook Road) for taking the time to attend and voice their concerns and provide input. Their honest, thoughtful remarks were both interesting and educational. She said she volunteered to be the Village liaison to the residents group as this development progresses and hopes that our dialogue and collaboration continues. She said she also hopes the Town of Sweden will now address and correct the issues that the residents expressed regarding

excess water and flooding in their neighborhood. It was mentioned that these issues have been in existence and known to the Sweden Town Board for a long time and have not been addressed or corrected.

Trustee Kristansen shared that on 3/30 she was part of the meeting with Sumket Development and that she helped give the tour of the Village and the neighborhood bordering the land. She said it is always an honor and privilege to show off the Village of Brockport—our fine Victorian Village on the Erie Canal. It is also nice to have a developer be proactive and come to the municipality for information and suggestions on how best to utilize their parcels.

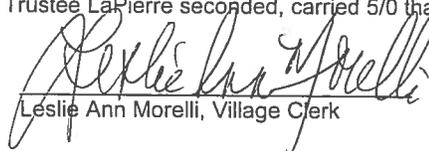
- Trustee John D. LaPierre

- Public Works – Trustee LaPierre said he regularly keeps up with his DPW liaison assignment and has had recent equipment discussions with Spt. Donahue.

- Police Department – Trustee LaPierre said he regularly keeps up with his PD liaison assignment and stays abreast of happenings.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

→ At 7:42pm, Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

  
Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk