

**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, May 16, 2016 at 7:00pm.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Margaret B. Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor William G. Andrews, Trustee Annette M. Crane, Trustee Katherine J. Kristansen, Trustee John D. LaPierre, Clerk Leslie Ann Morelli, Treasurer Daniel P. Hendricks, DPW Superintendent Harry G. Donahue, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer David J. Miller, Jr., Attorney Daniel J. Mastrella

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mike Schaffer, Terry Joseph, John & Lynne Gardner, Andrew Gardner, Gary DeFilippo, Joan Hamlin, Karen Maynard, Brandon St. John, Pam Ketchum, Norm Giancursio, Fred Webster, Brian Winant

**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:

Elections, both national and local, have been the subject of much talk lately, making this an appropriate moment to look at a Brockport election season exactly 150 years ago. The 1866 election took place against the backdrop of the Civil War, Lincoln's assassination, and the feud between Andrew Johnson, the "accidental" Democrat in the White House, and the Congress controlled by Radical Republicans. Politics then, locally and nationally, was about as chaotic as it is now.

As an off-year election, the main contest locally concerned the Congressional seat for this district. The freshman Representative, Republican Roswell Hart, was running for re-election as a supporter of the Radical Republican Reconstruction policies. Hart was a Rochester native, a lawyer, and a businessman. He had not held public office before his election to Congress in 1864.

Hart was opposed by Lewis Selye, a former Whig turned Republican running as a "johnsonite" independent. Selye came to Rochester from Chittenango in 1824 at the age of 21. He had been trained as a blacksmith, but turned to the manufacture of iron implements and, eventually, fire engines, one of which is owned by the Capen Hose Co. While still in his 30s, he began a successful political career, serving several terms on the Monroe County Board of Supervisors and the Rochester Common Council. He was also County Treasurer for several years. Thus, Selye came into the contest with much greater visibility, political experience, and popularity. Also, his core of support was the most populous municipality in the district.

Republic publisher Horatio N. Beach pulled out all stops to support Hart. He had founded his newspaper for the express purpose of serving the Republican party and was the secretary of the local Republican convention. He published a resolution listing 326 Republicans in Sweden and Hamlin who "pledge to you [Hart] our hearty and undivided support". They included most political and business leaders in the communities. In contrast, Beach alleged that the Rochester Democrat could cite only three names of Sweden residents who supported Selye.

Beach claimed that "ninety-nine one hundredths of the loyal people here are in favor of your return". He also made clear Hart's support for the Radicals in their clash with Johnson, saying "We believe the false 'policy of Andrew Johnson can be best defeated by returning the true members of the 29<sup>th</sup> Congress". According to the Republic, "Johnsonites" (Democrats and Conservative Republicans) had sought the Republican nomination for Selye, including bribes "offered as high as \$500" to Republican caucus members. When that failed, they persuaded him to run as an independent with the understanding that no Democrat would oppose him.

Beach published a rumor "That Mr. Selye and Miss Butler had been criminally intimate and the young lady had become the mother of a pair of twins, of which Lewis Selye was the father", adding that "we discredit the report". He also called Selye the "dupe" of the Democrats and predicted that he would be "badly defeated".

Despite Beach's predictions, Selye won by a 2,000-vote margin. Hart's margin in the Town of Sweden fell from 69 in 1864 to 27. As the secret ballot had not yet been invented, the names of 21 Sweden Republicans who defected to Selye were well known. The Republic said that they had now "been blackguarded by the Democrats and distrusted by the Republicans".

In Congress, Selye was a loyal supporter of the President, but did not seek re-election in 1868. Upon

retiring from Congress, he founded the Rochester Daily Chronicle, which was acquired in 1870 by the Rochester Daily Democrat in a merger carried out by Brockport native Nathan P. Pond. That newspaper became the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle that we know today.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** 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 was unable to attend, but submitted a statement for Clerk Morelli to read into the record:

After being criticized many times for just trying to explain the differences between the rural Town community and the urban Village community, I am more resolved than ever to stress that point. Some people just don't get it. The Village needs much more policing than the Sheriff provides to the town. We need community policing 24/7 with two cars each shift and more for special "active" times when there are many more people enjoying our close Village atmosphere and small businesses.

Brockport also can't be compared to any other municipality that has dissolved so far. No Village of our size has ever dissolved. No Village with a SUNY campus in its boundaries has ever dissolved. The NYS law that deals with dissolution was not designed for our Village. It was designed for smaller villages like Lyons, Macedon and Seneca Falls. These villages don't have the tax base needed to pay for the services that they need. It gets harder every year to do that.

I am happy that the current Village board has worked hard to make sure we stay under the tax cap and have even lowered the tax rate a little. Their hard work is necessary to keep our Village vital and I hope we continue to support the savings they have planned for the future by voting NO on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

- John Gardner of Carolin Drive said he has some questions regarding the proposed boathouse in Corbett Park. Where exactly will it be located? This is important as it could impact certain property owners enjoyment of their back yards. Is there an estimate of how many people the boathouse will draw? This will impact parking needs. Will there be grass, gravel or asphalt parking or will boathouse users have to park on Carolin Drive? How will vandalism be deterred? There is already graffiti (tagging), sometimes foul language, under the Smith Street bridge. What alternative locations were considered for the boathouse? What will be the operating hours and will there be a noise impact? Sculling crews often practice very early in the morning before school and work). Will less extreme boats (kayaks and row boats) be allowed? He said he doesn't expect an answer to these questions this evening, but soon.

Mayor Blackman said those are all excellent questions and she can touch on some of them now. One of the critical issues is siting of the boathouse. After considering a Fayette Street spot on the canal for a small boat shed, it was determined that the canal stretch by Corbett Park would be ideal. There are two spots being considered, but the preferred is at the top of the park by the canal path – out of view of neighbors. Experts and engineering will be involved. Expanded parking is likely. Vandalism is certainly a consideration. This will be a club sport, so operating hours will be set to suit those needs. Less extreme boats will be allowed. Mayor Blackman said there have been other distractions of late, but once they have concluded, a meeting with the neighboring property owners will be called as promised.

- Gary DeFilippo of Evergreen Road read the following statement into the record:

Pro Brockport or ProBs will **not** tell you that a Monroe Ambulance sits at the Mobil Mart on East Avenue and Lake Road for us. They will not tell you that two Sheriff's cars (which we already pay for through our county taxes) cruise through our village JUST like the Brockport police. Regarding the college parties and drinking in the streets. Today is May 16<sup>th</sup>. Graduation was Saturday. U-Haul trucks are taking away all the students and their stuff. So during a month of warm weather at the beginning of the fall semester and the month of nice weather in the spring, there is a party outside. Couldn't anyone approach one of the students or the property owner and request that they respect the neighborhood? Have we become a nation of intolerant isolated adults who feel empowered appearing with their cat on a You Tube video but won't associate with their neighbors? How very dreadful! Now regarding code enforcement of the landlords. WE CURRENTLY HAVE code enforcement, do we not? YET people are still pointing at rental homes that violate codes. So either the code violation officer is not doing the job

that he should be doing OR there are landlords who do not, nor ever will care about code enforcement. I am sure that it's the latter.

*Ye, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.* – Psalm 23:4.

My neighbors have passionately shared their fears with me regardless of their position. The anti-dissolutionists angrily repeat what they read in the Shopping Bag because they believe the ProBs PROPAGANDA which is ALWAYS in there. Dissolutionists fear that there will be repercussions by members of the village board and the police department. If you find that hard to believe, I would like you to read the Varrenti VS Gannett Co (dba Democrat and Chronicle) 2011 court papers where Chief Varrenti sued Gannett to reveal the true identity of these anonymous commenters: "Taxcut" "Brockportonian" "BkptStars" and "TaxpayerBWare" because he did not like what they said. If you don't live here and pay the 12% village taxes + Fire District + Town + County + School + State + Federal, you'll never understand. I believe that most of the Brockport PD (regardless of how carefully they have worded it in a letter) fall into that "you'll never understand" category.

*Ye, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.* – Psalm 23:4.

He is not the only one who does not want others to know what is really going on. Every member of the village board (including a resident) refused to allow a study which would give precise numbers for the special districting costs for the village staff's retirements or the cost remaining on the Sewer Bond. Even though it was only \$750.00 of tax-payer's money, they said that they did not want to dissolve the village so they weren't going to do it. Often we'll be reminded that other towns and villages did not find that much of a savings so they did not go through with it. But, since you did not want the report done I guess that we won't find out til we get there. AND to use ProBs words, "They are not Brockport.". I feel that it can't be too much because the village government does not want us to know the truth. Here is what I can figure: The 30 year Sewer Bond original amount was \$2,150,000 and is now \$1,860,000. It matures in 2030. But think about it, if for only one year \$1,860 property owners had one thousand dollars from their current tax bills directed toward that bond, it would be paid off – bye bye. Even one of the many Zombie houses on Clark Street (the one condemned) is taxed \$4,360 on an approximate assessed value of \$79,000. So, when they say that we'll be paying more, they won't tell us that it's only "a little" more. We are currently paying about 2.75% to the town of Sweden. I think that the Swedes pay the town 4.5%. Hypothetically speaking, when we are all together, even if each home in the whole town (including us) were to pay 5.5% or even 6%, that is JUST 3-3.5% more than we currently pay the town BUT we would keep 8% that would have gone to the village. That 8% remains at home. On a \$100,000 home that's \$8,000 to fix your home, go on vacation, pay down debt, whatever you choose.

Folks, the village is not going anywhere. It will be the same as long as there are people who take pride in it. Many of the services that are required for "maintaining" the village are voluntary. Many of the neighbors told me that they would like for Brockport not to lose its quaintness. They like the "historic canalside" village feel to it. I would bet that many men and women would be proud to take part in a Village / Neighborhood Watch program. Wouldn't that make the news!! Securing doors in the village does not require special training and a badge. Who among us has not agreed to keep an eye on their neighbor's house when they are out of town? The Monroe County Sheriff's department has all the information and training that is needed to become neighborhood watch teams. You have by now seen the sheriff's cruisers in the village recently, have you not? They will be present, make no mistake. Currently, there is not a huge market for real estate here now. It's too far out AND it is more expensive to live here than to live anywhere else in the county. So why buy here? However, if the area that we live in became a place where neighbor helps neighbor and homes were more affordable there would be a demand for our homes. I can even see future bidding wars among potential buyers looking for a friendly, family, canal-side village on the west side. A Mayberry kind of town. Brockport would be the longed for "Mayberry" but in Monroe County. Imagine that. The media would be all over that and the demand for our homes would increase exponentially. There would be no empty homes where squatters and drug users could stay. Homes would be snatched up, "flipped" and sold to young families looking for a lovely place to raise their children.

According to Neighborhood Scout, there are only 25% of New York State cities MORE dangerous than Brockport. Seventy five percent of the cities in all of New York are safer than Brockport. That is our reputation. Is it any wonder why our houses sit on the market for so long? SUNY Brockport is reputed to be unsafe as well. <http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/ny/brockport/crime/>. It would seem that our village police care less about the reputation of the town they patrol than they do their job security. They do not care that Brockport has a reputation for being a high crime village. Either having a large and pricey village police department is not deterring crime OR there is a lot of false reporting going on.

- Karen Maynard of Main Street said it's about money. She said she doesn't have any but the Village keeps taking more and spending more. She said she doesn't benefit from the Welcome Center, from flowers and trees and won't benefit from a boathouse. She said she does benefit from sidewalks,

streets and parking lots, but they are not properly maintained. She said the rear of the police department is a slum, a hole. This is not a nice, quaint village. She hardly sees DPW doing much work and assumes they must need more money. She said the Police make a lot of money, but the Sheriff's would do a fine job and are already paid for through County taxes. She said the Village Board might be fine people, but aren't doing a good job with money. She said the Village government and its layer of taxes needs to go. She said she is not afraid of retaliation for speaking out - no guts, no glory.

**CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Andrews seconded, carried 5/0 that the minutes of the 5/2/16 meeting be approved as amended.

- **APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID**

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Andrews 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>	5/12/16	\$37,365.08	
	5/16/16	\$41,679.63	
FUND (F): <u>Water</u>	5/12/16	\$58,233.41	
	5/16/16	\$1,054.59	
FUND (G): <u>Sewer</u>	5/12/16	\$295.99	
	5/16/16	\$26.00	
FUND (H): <u>Capital</u>	-	-	
FUND (T): <u>Trust &amp; Agency</u>	-	-	
			\$95,894.48 total 5/12/16
			\$42,760.22 total 5/16/16

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

- Any sidewalk café permit applications submitted for 2016 season – Clerk Morelli referred to the application of Java Junction at 56 Main Street in the packet.

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Crane seconded, carried 5/0 to approve the application of Java Junction at 56 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.

Trustee Andrews informed BI/CEO Miller that Perri's Pizzeria leaves their tables and chairs out overnight which is against Village Code. BI/CEO Miller said he will follow up on that.

- Tax Collection Notice - Clerk Morelli referred to the notice in the packet which will be on the website and bulletin board and in Suburban News after tax bills are mailed 5/31:

**VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT  
TAXPAYERS NOTICE OF COLLECTION**

The Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of Village Taxes for fiscal year  
June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017 have been filed in the Village Clerk's Office.

**TAX BILLS WERE MAILED ON MAY 31, 2016.**

**To help us improve efficiency, please use the return addressed envelopes  
included with the bills.**

Check or money order for the exact amount should be made payable to the Village of Brockport and mailed or deposited into the drop box at the driveway entrance to Village Hall with payment stub to:

Village of Brockport  
Attn: Tax Receiver  
49 State Street  
Brockport, NY 14420

OR

Payment may be made in person to Village Hall 49 State Street Brockport, NY 14420  
Monday through Friday 9am-4pm except holidays.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

1) Payment is due in full by July 1, 2016 without penalty

- Late penalties:
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> = 5%
- August 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> = 6%
- September 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> = 7%
- October 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> = 8%

November 1<sup>st</sup> - Village taxes remaining unpaid will be turned over to Monroe County to re-levy onto the January 2017 County/Town tax bill with additional penalties.

OR

2) Payment may be made in 2 equal installments:

MUST make 1<sup>st</sup> installment by July 1, 2016 without penalty  
Then make 2<sup>nd</sup> installment due by August 1, 2016 without penalty

- Late penalties:
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> = 6%
- September 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> = 7%
- October 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> = 8%

November 1<sup>st</sup> - Village taxes remaining unpaid will be turned over to Monroe County to re-levy onto the January 2017 County/Town tax bill with additional penalties.

**IF YOUR TAXES ARE NOT ESCROWED IN YOUR MORTGAGE, AND YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A VILLAGE TAX BILL WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE, PLEASE CALL VILLAGE HALL AT 637-5300 X12.**

Leslie Ann Morelli  
Brockport Village Clerk / Tax Receiver

o Special Election / Dissolution referendum – Clerk Morelli shared having met 5/10 for a second time with Monroe County Board of Elections representatives, Mayor Blackman and Trustee Crane. Final plans were made as to the appropriate set up of the Village Hall conference room / court room for the Tuesday, 5/24 Noon-9pm polling. Clerk Morelli shared that she received a verbal complaint 5/9 as to not making the absentee ballot application available on the Village website. She inquired as to best process and while she was doing extra due diligence, it really isn't necessary for her to check the voter registration list until after the application comes in. Therefore, the absentee ballot application was made available to download from the Village website. The website also reminded folks that 5/13 was the last day to register with Monroe County Board of Elections to be able to vote in the 5/24 special election. Clerk Morelli said she continues to be thankful for MC BOE guidance as this has added to her workload and is not in her area of expertise.

• **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** (VB meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month)

- o Treasurer – Daniel P. Hendricks
  - Financial reports for period ending 4/30/16 – Treasurer Hendricks referred to the information in the packet. The fiscal year should finish within budget. We are in fine financial shape.
  - Budget Amendments & Transfers - Treasurer Hendricks referred to the information in the packet. He said the details under "purpose" were incorrect on the transfers document. He will provide the corrections to Clerk Morelli for the minutes.

→ Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Crane seconded, carried 5/0 that the following budget amendments & transfers be authorized:

Amendments

Account #	Description	Amount	
A7450.4010	Museum – Adopt A Picture	\$750	(1)

Purpose:

(1) Expenditures associated with Museum Adopt A Picture, revenues from sales

Transfers

Account #	From	Account #	To	Amount	
A1990.4000	Contingency	A1110.4000	Court- Contractual Services	\$1,000	(1)
A1990.4000	Contingency	A1325.4060	Clerk/Treas – Postage	\$1,500	(2)

A1990.4000	Contingency	A1325.4080	Clerk/Treas – Payroll Service	\$350	(3)
A1990.4000	Contingency	A3620.4020	Codes – Training	\$300	(4)
F1990.4000	Contingency	F8320.4000	Water Purchases	\$6,000	(5)
F1990.4000	Contingency	F8340.4010	Water – Meter Supplies	\$175	(7)

Purpose:

- (1) Court – training for Village Justices
- (2) Postage
- (3) Payroll service
- (4) Codes – training
- (5) Water purchases
- (6) Water - meter supplies

- RFP re ESCO – Treasurer Hendricks shared that he, Trustee LaPierre and Spt. Donahue held a mandatory pre-proposal conference today at 1pm with a couple of interested parties regarding the buyback of street lighting which would reduce costs and improve lighting. Proposals are due to him on or before 6/3/16.

- Building / Zoning / Code Enforcement – BI/CEO David J. Miller, Jr.
  - Read the following statement into the record:

To the Residents of the Village of Brockport,

Good evening! May 24th is an important day as we all know. In the past couple of months, most of you have probably seen at least one of the many fliers being circulated by those that want to see our great Village dissolved. They have spun truths, fabricated facts and promoted the spread of mis-information. What they don't tell you is that if the Village were to dissolve, there are no guarantees of anything at all. No guarantee that the Police Department would be retained. No guarantee that the Building/Code Enforcement Department would be sufficiently staffed to keep up with demand. No guarantee that the same services would be offered by the Department of Public Works and Village Clerical Staff as they are today. They talk about saving money for residents, but don't mention their own potential financial gain if the Village were dissolved.

It is no secret that a faction of rental property owners, some of whom are likely in attendance today, helped spearhead the movement for dissolution. One thing I want to make clear is that the Village has many great rental property owners that take care of their properties and are upstanding members of the community. Unfortunately, it only takes a few bad apples to ruin the bushel. The dissolution campaign preaches unification, but they fail to practice it. They have intently worked against the Village, and at times even residents, to create problems rather than resolve them. Their signs and mailers say "unification" but their actions exhibit singularity.

In 2010-2011, during the last dissolution vote, when the Village was in fiscal distress and administrative turmoil, the Building/Code Enforcement Department generated \$14,912.00 in revenue. In 2014-2015, revenues were up to \$30,208.60, and in this most recent fiscal year, so far generated \$55,690.25. That is a 373% increase in department revenue since the last dissolution vote. Revenue that has helped the Village stay below the tax cap for the last 3 years. Revenue that is mostly generated from the rental property owners and not the single family owner-occupied residents contrary to what the dissolutionists would have you believe.

In May of every year, students transition to their summer residences and depart our Village. This particular time in years past has presented a challenge for residences in the higher concentrated college rental areas. The streets would be lined with trash and furniture for long periods of time which would create blight and hazards to pedestrians. The Building/Code Enforcement Department has implemented a program to ensure this no longer happens. It has worked effectively for two years running.

When I first took the position, there were approximately 170 expired rental certificates of occupancy and 70 expired fire inspections for businesses in the Village. Some of which had never been inspected until now. Those that neglect their properties are being directed to repair them properly. In a recent flier, dissolutionists tell you that the Village implemented a "draconian" law that can penalize property owners with jail-time for failure to maintain their properties. What the flier does not mention is that the Village Code is much more lenient than State penalties for property maintenance violations. Title 19 of the New York Code Rules and Regulations states that a "...person or entity will be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both" if found to be in violation of the New York State Property Maintenance Code.

In another flier, they outline that Village Hall is not being held to the same maintenance standard as the rest of the properties in the Village, when in fact, during the 2015 Street by Street Inspections, Mayor Blackman was served a violation notice for exterior maintenance deficiencies of Village hall. As we

speak, the process is underway to have the building repaired and repainted. Bids have to be obtained, prevailing wage applies and certain procedures must be followed by law for a municipal project. Unfortunately it does not happen quickly, but it is in the best interest of the residents and taxpayers, to ensure that proper contractors are obtained, have sufficient licenses, insurances, and will do the job at a reasonable cost to the Village.

On the opposite side of that very same flier, those in favor of dissolution describe how the Brockport Police Department doing their job is a detriment to the community. Chief Varrenti and his officers are some of the most professional officers I have ever had the privilege to work alongside. To say otherwise, should be offensive to the community and an insult to the residents they work so hard to protect. I charge anyone in the community to find a municipal police department that matches our own in service and professionalism.

The creation of a Village Court is also called into question, or as they describe it, a "duplication of courts". I do not work for the court system and I will not chastise another department. I will however, give my opinion that the Village Board did what was in the best interest of residents by creating a Village Court based on information available to the public. I urge residents to read the most recent New York State Comptroller's Office audit report of the Sweden Town Court. You be the Judge in this instance.

In the May 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Suburban News, one of the local rental property owners and dissolution supporters submitted an article in an attempt to sway readers without the support of any fact. The author stated that certified mailings from my department cost tax payers "...over \$19,000" which is not only completely inaccurate, but exceedingly hypocritical. The irony of this accusation is that a vast majority of certified mail sent from the Building/Code Enforcement Department is addressed to a handful of problematic rental property owners, including the author of the letter, in an effort to rectify outstanding property maintenance deficiencies or failing to register their rental property in accordance with local law. Certified letters are the first step in ensuring proper service of correspondence before further action can be taken, yet certain rental property owners repeatedly refuse the certified letters – an action that highlights their continued defiance of Village code, disinterest in improving their properties, and disregard for wasting taxpayer money. That said, the factual postage costs for the Building/Code Enforcement Department between June 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014 were \$522.08. Total postage costs between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015 were \$2,426.04 for a total of \$2,948.12 for two budget years. A far cry from the "more than \$19,000" the author claimed that my department spent.

I ask all of you to let this resonate for a moment. If the individuals that are pushing this dissolution referendum cannot properly research and present simple numbers such as postage correctly, can you of good conscience rely on them to present you with an accurate accounting of the effects dissolution will have on this community?

Some may think I am only trying to save the department and the jobs of my staff, but that assumption is incorrect. The dissolution movement would harm the community as a whole and only benefit a select few. We have made great strides in providing the community with a Village to be proud of. We will continue to thrive with the support of all residents in the Village, no matter which side of the referendum you stand on. I urge that you **do not** allow the ambitions of a few, to punish the entire community.

Thank you,

David J. Miller  
Building/Code Enforcement

- Trash Patrol – Mayor Blackman thanked BI/CEO Miller and his department for a 2<sup>nd</sup> successful year of trash patrol at the end of the college semester.

- o Police – Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti

- Dissolution referendum – Chief Varrenti thanked BI/CEO Miller for his nice words about the Police Department. Chief Varrenti referred to a concern raised earlier in public comment about retaliating against those in favor of dissolution. He said not a single person was retaliated against the last time there was a dissolution referendum nor will there be this time.

Chief Varrenti said there has been a lot of back and forth in advertising for and against dissolution as to Monroe County Sheriff's Office covering the Village of Brockport if there were no Brockport Police Department. He said he believes MCSO to be the best Sheriff's department anywhere and the Sheriff is a friend and an honorable man of his word. He said a mailer went out today about BPD, all that they do and about the importance of community policing. He gave a recent example of a person in the community having lost a loved one and having a particularly bad day and a retired BPD officer having received a call from a family member of the person worried that they might harm themselves. That retired officer and 2 BPD officers assisted in a moment of need. That may be the best way to describe

community policing – knowing the residents, their families, and sometimes their health conditions and church affiliations. He gave a past example of a couple having to be notified that their son passed away out of town and BPD providing that notice and comfort. Chief Varrenti said early in his time here he was chastised by a member of the Village government about complimenting his officers and “bragging”. It’s warranted and he’s happy to do it. Often in law enforcement officers do their jobs and don’t talk about it. The community needs to know of good works. Chief Varrenti said as President of the Monroe County Police Chiefs Association he was contacted by the owner of Genesee Ford who wanted to do something for first responders. He said he told him the best way is to give back to the communities they serve. Soon, thousands of tickets to a Red Wings game will be made available in area communities and law enforcement agencies will have some friendly competition during the game.

In closing, Chief Varrenti thanked the current Village Board and officials for all they do, realizing they often hear the negative instead of the positive. However, a lot of positive has been done and is being done by these folks – some of the nicest people around.

- **Pharmaceutical Drop Off** – Chief Varrenti reported a successful 4/30 pharmaceutical drop off detail. He said people no longer have to wait for a special day and time to do so as the Brockport Police Department now has a drop box available for such during regular office hours.

- **Donations** – Chief Varrenti reported that the Police Department received a second unsigned thank you card with \$100 cash in it. Trustee Kristansen reported on the first one at the last meeting. This, like the last one was turned over to be deposited into the General Fund. Chief Varrenti also referred to the donation Trustee Kristansen reported on at the last meeting - \$40 from former Mayor Mary Ann Thorpe to the Seymour Library to purchase a children’s book with a police officer theme in honor of Officer Wakefield as a thank you for services rendered.

- **Public Works** – Superintendent Harry G. Donahue
  - **West Avenue water main replacement phase I** – Spt. Donahue reported that almost all the pipe is in and the first section has received Health Department approval and properties will be hooked up.

- **Patching** – Spt. Donahue reported that pot hole patching is taking place throughout the Village.

- **South Avenue Park** – Spt. Donahue reported that boxing out has taken place and the playground equipment will soon be installed.

- **Village Attorney** – Daniel J. Mastrella, Esq.
  - **Status of MOU/MOA with Brockport Fire District & Seymour Library re solar energy** – Village Attorney Mastrella reported that he followed up with the Attorney for the Seymour Library and they are in agreement with the proposed revision. He said he has been unable to follow up with the Attorney for the Fire District but will do so as soon as possible. He believes they will be in agreement as well.

- **PERSONNEL ITEMS:**

- **Welcome Center** – accept drops/adds to greeter roster –

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Crane seconded, carried 5/0 per Welcome Center Management Committee member Doug Wolcott to accept the addition of Doug and Cathy Chesnut to the roster of Welcome Center Greeters.

- **Hire to fill Part Time Court Attendant vacancy** –

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Crane seconded, carried 5/0 to accept the recommendation of Village Justices Andrews Jr and Blair and hire Thomas Soto as Part Time Court Attendant – a part time position not to exceed 20 hours per week or 40 hours within a two-week pay period at \$12.50 per hour with no benefits.

- **OLD or NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Clinton Street water main extension** – SEQR resolution –

→ Trustee Crane moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) procedures, the Village Board of the Village of Brockport has reviewed the significance of and potential environmental impact of the installation of approximately 75 feet of 4-inch water main from Clinton Street to 38 Merchant Street.

RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby concurs with Chatfield Engineers, P.C. that the Project is considered a Type II Action in accordance with 6NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(11); an extension of utility distribution facilities as part of upgrading a building to meet fire code.

RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby accepts the Environmental Assessment of this project, prepared by Chat field Engineers, P.C. The Village Board further declares that, based on the Environmental Assessment, it finds that the project will result in no significant adverse impacts of the environment and requires no further action.

- o Authorize purchase (new fiscal year) of new 1-ton roller & declare surplus & authorize on Auctions International sale of old 1-ton roller – Spt. Donahue referred to the information in the packet. This item was included in the new fiscal year budget.

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, carried 5/0 to authorize the purchase of a Caterpillar CB14B XW Compact Roller on NYS contract PC 66988 at a cost of \$27,465 and to declare surplus and authorize on Auctions International the sale of the 1985 Smith/Maudlin tow behind roller.

#### VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:

- o Mayor Margaret B. Blackman
  - Brockport Volunteer Ambulance Corp – Mayor Blackman reported having met 5/3 with Colin Arthur who is the new BVAC CEO. They discussed the Corp's relocation to Burroughs Terrace via Fair Street, their concern about the likely loss of Brockport Ambulance should dissolution result, etc. She said she and past BVAC Chief Cody Dean met regularly and she anticipates the same with Colin.
  - Tree Board – Mayor Blackman reported that the Tree Board's Arbor Day event held 5/6 was successful with the planting of 21 Winter Hawthorn trees on the South Avenue extension. This is a great Village/College/BCSD partnership and she thanked College President Macpherson, Poet Bill Heyen, 4<sup>th</sup> graders and all who participated.
  - NYCOM – Mayor Blackman shared that the 5/10 presentation on dissolution by Wade Beltramo of NYCOM had 120 attendees and provided information on what to expect, what we know and what we don't as it relates to dissolution. He entertained questions as he went along and several people signed up and made comment.
  - Grants - Mayor Blackman shared that on 5/12 she, Trustee Andrews and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linden met with Tom Lajewski of J. O'Connell Associates. She said they discussed the success of the first Main Street Enhancement (NEXT) grant and decided to wait until next year to pursue a second one. Discussions can begin as an internal group over the street parameters/locations and which property owners might be interested. She said they also discussed pursuing an Office of Parks and Recreation grant to upgrade Corbett Park. A follow-up from Tom after visiting the Park sounds like another Canalway grant to augment the work already being supported there more likely to succeed but will require 50% match which could be in DPW labor. This is for the Parks Committee to move forward with in discussion. She said they also discussed a new grant for Climate Smart Communities which will be reviewed for viability. She said they also discussed a possible grant application regarding recycling bins for Village parks and downtown district. Spt. Donahue is reviewing the information on it.
  - Low Bridge High Water - Mayor Blackman shared that the 5/12-5/14 LBHW Canal Opening Celebration was successful. It included a full house at the 5/12 film screening, of which we now have a copy, the 5/13 craft beer and cider big tent event, and the 5/14 mural dedication in Sagawa Park and canal side events such as the Barge Charge 5K, rowing demonstrations, poster contest awards and music. While the big tent event was even bigger this year than last year, there was not a single incident. While there was sporadic rain and wind on Saturday, the turnout was better than last year. Chief Varrenti said the Barge Charge drew 100 participants. Mayor Blackman said LBHW has enjoyed a successful and rewarding partnership with the Stoneyard last year and this year and now this year with the College.
- o Trustee/Deputy Mayor William G. Andrews
  - Western Monroe Historical Society – Trustee Andrews reported having attended the 5/3 annual meeting of the Western Monroe Historical Society of which he is a Board member.
  - E.L.K. Museum – Trustee Andrews reported having met 5/4 with Treasurer Hendricks as a follow up to the last E.L.K. Museum Board meeting with a request for more information on the Shafer Trust.
  - Statewide Historic Preservation Conference – Trustee Andrews reported having attended the 5/5-5/7 conference in Albany. He was a panelist, therefore, not charged a conference fee. He had a CLG scholarship, and most of his hotel expenses were covered by the Albany Visitors Bureau. He represented Mayor Blackman on the Mayors Preservation Roundtable, presenting an

account of Brockport's historic preservation as an example of a holistic approach. By that, he means that our historic preservation efforts are not limited to the work of the Historic Preservation Board in that some 12 by other organizations activities that promote an appreciation of Brockport's history in various ways also promote historic preservation, because an appreciation of history generates a desire to preserve the physical evidence of that history. He said he also attended the pre-conference Certified Local Government training session, a film showing the destruction of an Albany neighborhood to make way for the Rockefeller State Plaza, a tour of adaptive re-use projects in downtown Troy, a panel on Land Banks, and a session on oral histories. The Land Bank program may be useful to us in dealing with our zombie houses and the information on oral histories may help the Brockport Community Museum with its oral history project.

- NYCOM – Trustee Andrews reported having attended the 5/10 NYCOM presentation on dissolution which he felt achieved its purpose very well.
- Grants – Trustee Andrews reported that on 5/12 he, Mayor Blackman and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linden met with Tom Lajewski of J. O'Connell Associates and discussed grant opportunities.
- Low Bridge High Water – Trustee Andrews reported having organized the dedication ceremony for the new mural in Sagawa Park and presided at it on 5/14. The large, beautiful mural, Portraits of our Past, was funded entirely with grants and donations, except for a small amount of DPW work. Trustee Andrews said the Brockport Community Museum's interpretive sign will be dedicated at the time of a field trip to Brockport as part of a conference being held in Fairport this September. He said he worked on the cleanup crew with Richard Fenton, Gary Skoog, Jim Hosford and the Stoneyard team after the craft beer and cider tent event and participated in many of the LBHW events 5/12-5/14. He said by all accounts there was a positive impact on downtown businesses.

Chief Varrenti asked if it is okay if he implements the camera protocol for the Sagawa Park mural as was done with the DPW mural. The Village Board said yes.

○ Trustee Annette M. Crane

- Farmers Market – Trustee Crane shared that the Farmers Market Managers submitted the purchase requisition for new banners. The Farmers Market is open 8am to 1pm from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June to the last Sunday in October.
- Planning Board – Trustee Crane reported having attended the 5/9 Planning Board meeting in which approval was granted for a day spa called Aromantium to open on Market Street. She said the proprietor was very thorough with her application and plans.
- Parks Committee – Trustee Crane reported having attended the 5/9 Parks Committee meeting. Play equipment is being installed in the South Avenue Park. They are looking at replacing the swing sets at Corbett Park. Discussion also included the location of the boathouse in Corbett Park, the mural dedication in Sagawa Park, updating the Parks page of the Village website and creation of a parks brochure. The proposed Parks chapter of Village Code is awaiting the Village Attorney since the December 2015 public hearing.

Village Attorney Mastrella said he would get his work completed on this so it can return to the Village Board this summer to hold a public hearing to adopt via the local law process.

- Special Election / Dissolution referendum – Trustee Crane reported having met with Clerk Morelli and Mayor Blackman and Monroe County Board of Elections representatives 5/10 for final plans as to the appropriate set up of the Village Hall conference room / court for the 5/24 polling.
- NYCOM – Trustee Crane reported having attended the 5/10 NYCOM presentation on dissolution.
- NYS DPS – Trustee Crane reported having attended the 5/12 information session presented by the NYS Department of Public Service on the proposed Clean Energy Standard which is a framework for utility companies and ESCOs to procure significantly larger percentages of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.
- Low Bridge High Water – Trustee Crane reported having helped sell tickets at the craft beer and cider big tent event and attended the mural dedication in Sagawa Park. A good time was had in spite of intermittent rain and wind. She looks forward to the interpretive panel that will accompany the mural.

○ Trustee Katherine J. Kristansen

- BISCO – Trustee Kristansen reported having attended the 5/3 BISCO meeting held at the Seymour Library. Discussion included the Arts Festival and other general business items. BISCO donated \$1,000 for the Sagawa Park mural.

- Planning Board – Trustee Kristansen reported having attended the 5/9 Planning Board meeting in which a new business, Aromantium, was approved. Congratulations to the proprietors.
- Low Bridge High Water – Trustee Kristansen said she was unable to work at or attend the craft beer big tent event as she was attending her son's graduation from the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She did help clean up Saturday afternoon canal side events.
- NYCOM – Trustee Kristansen reported having attended the 5/10 NYCOM presentation on dissolution. Trustee Kristansen read the following statement into the record:

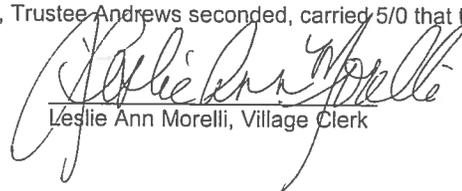
The question was asked at the May 10th Tuesday evening presentation by NYCOM's Wade Baltramo how many services and departments are there that are provided and/or supported by the village government...here is a partial list that I came up with off the top of my head: HPB, PB, ZBA, museum, library, public safety which includes police, police explorers, code enforcement, code review committee, housing council, village court, DPW, water, sewer, street lighting, sidewalks, street maintenance, brush pick up (which includes delivery of an individual truck at residences upon request), parks, farmers market, welcome center, the downtown business district, the College at Brockport, the Town and Gown Committee, tree board, the various festivals during the year. I know that this is not a complete list but it does give one the idea of the vibrancy of our Victorian village.

And lastly, I would like to thank Rhett King for his comment about the board and landlords at the Dissolution Informational meeting with Wade Baltramo last Tuesday evening ...his comment brought out the fact that there are many landlords in the village (myself included in this group as the one board member he referred to) who recognize, understand and welcome the need for strong local village government and public safety within our village. His comment distinctly brought the point home once again that there are a select few individuals including some landlords, not all, who do not appear to be in support of the public safety and high quality of life that our village residents deserve and currently have under the existing village government. In this village, there needs to be continued strong, directed public safety along with all the other components of local government for the benefit of all our residents whether they own their own home or not offering them the highest quality of life and safety possible.

- Trustee John D. LaPierre
  - LBHW – Trustee LaPierre shared that he audited the craft beer and cider big tent event.
  - RFP re ESCO – Trustee LaPierre reported that he participated in the mandatory pre-conference today in which 2 companies participated.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

→ At 8:23pm, Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Andrews seconded, carried 5/0 that the meeting be adjourned.



Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk

