

Work Session of the Village Board of the Village of Brockport was held in the Village Hall Conference Room 49 State Street Brockport, New York, July 25, 2016 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Margaret B. Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor William G. Andrews, Trustee Katherine J. Kristansen, Trustee John D. LaPierre

EXCUSED: Trustee Annette M. Crane

ALSO PRESENT: Timothy Murphy, Hanny Heyen, Linda Ketchum

This was a work session, not a regular meeting. No public comment.

- **CALL TO ORDER:**
- **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / REVIEW:**
 - 200 State Street –
 - Guest:
 - Tim Murphy, Monroe County Director Real Property Services
 - Parks maintenance, equipment installation & inspections -
 - Guests:
 - Parks Committee Chair Hanny Heyen & Vice Chair Linda Ketchum
 - Tree Surrounds on Main Street -

Trustee Andrews asked that the following that he shared with the Village Board be included into the record:

I have serious reservations about this motion. I cannot oppose it, because that might be construed as a lack of appreciation for Pam Ketchum's many valuable volunteer contributions to this community. In fact, I value them very highly. I was pleased that she was the first recipient of the Monika W. Andrews Creative Volunteer Leadership Award, believing that no one was more deserving.

However, neither can I support it if it is viewed as setting a precedent for converting volunteer positions to paid jobs. Where would that logic lead us? I can think of several other volunteers whose contributions to this village are comparable to Pam's. Are we to be consistent and reward them similarly? If we were to be consistent, all volunteers would receive some monetary compensation.

If we are not consistent what are we saying to those other volunteers whose contributions are comparably valuable? I have been told by a professional expert in this field that once you convert volunteer positions to paid jobs, other volunteers drop out, thinking, "Why should I do for nothing, what others are getting paid for?" If that feeling were to spread it would undermine the vibrant volunteer culture in this community, our most valuable human resource.

I can support the motion if we make it clear that this is a temporary solution to deal with a problem that requires urgent attention and that once the immediate problem has been resolved, we will ask Pam to help set up a volunteer program as a permanent solution for maintaining the tree surrounds in good condition. So, I ask my colleagues if they agree that this is the intention of the motion.

Trustee LaPierre read the following into the record:

While a few of the "Tree Surrounds" look OK due to attention by a few people, for the most part, the "Tree Surrounds" need significant improvement. The downtown area would be a lot more attractive and appealing to shoppers and others with flowers and plantings appropriate for the space. There are 26 "Tree Surrounds" along Main Street, from the bridge to the Baptist church.

→ Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 4/0 to ask Pamela Ketchum to bring these areas up to acceptable levels using her talents as a Master Gardener. In recognition of the amount of work involved to accomplish this, I include in this motion that we give Ms. Ketchum a stipend of \$1,000 for this work and allow an expenditure up to \$1,000 for plants and fertilizer, etc. as needed for the "Tree Surrounds". Further, I ask that Pam give the Village Board a report this fall (in October) of the progress and further steps needed to bring these "Tree Surrounds" to be objects of splendor in Brockport's business district.

This is an effort to get the "Tree Surrounds" in a better state and is intended to be for this year alone. It

would best if, by next spring, an effort to find volunteers to tend to these "Tree Surrounds" so that the condition does not deteriorate again. I hope that Pam would continue helping this new cadre of volunteers to learn what is needed to keep downtown looking great.

→ Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, carried 4/0 to authorize \$1,500 next year (April to October 2017) for materials for tree surrounds and gardens.

ADJOURNMENT:

→ At 8:35pm, Trustee Andrews moved, Mayor Blackman seconded, carried 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned.


Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk
from notes of Margaret B. Blackman, Mayor