

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held in the Conference Room, Municipal Building, 49 State Street, Brockport, New York, March 18, 2002 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Josephine C. Matela, Trustees Morton Wexler, James E. Whipple, Norman J. Knapp; and Peter C. DeToy, Acting DPW Superintendent Harry Donahue, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti, Treasurer Scott D. Rightmyer, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli.

EXCUSED: Building/Zoning Officer Scott C. Zarnstorff

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Edward W. Riley, Fire Chief Gregory B. Wing, Christine Fien (Brockport Post), Robbie Hess (Suburban News), Joan Hamlin, Ray & Jackie Morris, Ed Spade, Giff Mosher, Bob Mosher, Dick Lingg, Inga Songbird, Kathy Snyder, Fred Webster.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Matela. The Mayor led the meeting in the Pledge to the Flag.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Matela called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held March 4, 2002.

➔ Trustee Whipple moved, Trustee DeToy seconded, unanimously carried that the minutes of the meeting held March 4, 2002, be approved as written.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (1st opportunity): None

GUESTS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. PUBLIC WORKS – Acting Superintendent Harry Donahue – No report.

B. POLICE / COMMUNICATIONS CENTER – Chief Daniel P. Varrenti

1. Appoint Crossing Guard – Chief Varrenti recommended that the Board appoint Victor Nideiwodin of Cloverwood Drive as a Crossing Guard. He would have a regular afternoon shift of 2pm to 4pm. Trustee DeToy said he knows him as a neighbor and has no concerns. He asked if all necessary background checks had been conducted. Chief Varrenti said they had and were fine. Chief Varrenti said he would still like one more Crossing Guard to add to V. Niedowodin and Joann Weber to act as a substitute. He asked that the vacancy notice remain open and suggested the local newspaper reporters in the audience mention this if they do a follow up.

⇒ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Wexler seconded, unanimously carried appointing Victor Nideiwodin as a Crossing Guard.

2. Authorization to reconfigure Clinton Street municipal parking lot – Chief Varrenti shared that the 3 mailboxes were moved today from the Clinton Street lot to Water Street along the Canal (behind Jimmy Mac's). He asked for authorization to reconfigure the parking lot in regards to placement of police vehicles. He said they would be gaining two spaces but then losing one public space to a police vehicle. Trustee Knapp asked Acting DPW Superintendent Donahue to have his department re-stripe once the weather permits.

⇒ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Knapp seconded, unanimously carried authorizing Chief Varrenti to reconfigure the Clinton Street municipal parking lot as appropriate.

3. Authorization to hire one officer – Chief Varrenti shared that it is time that the Brockport Police Department participate in the Multi Agency Drug Task Force. This is a narcotics enforcement and major case investigations task force that supplements the small local Police Departments in Monroe County. He was commanding officer of the task force. He would like to send one officer to the task force. There are drugs in Brockport, just like anywhere else. He said it would be remiss not to have an officer reap the benefits of the training. However, this will leave a gap in coverage. Therefore, he requested the Board to grant him authorization to hire one additional full-time officer at this time. He would like to hire one of the part-time officers who has been offered a full-time position with the Rochester Police Department.

Trustee Wexler said he does not question the accuracy of what Chief Varrenti said, but feels the timing is poor since the Board is in the midst of a difficult budget process. He is concerned with the financial ramifications this could have. Trustee Wexler commented on the overtime money spent within the Police Department and said it is obscene and unconscionable. He fears there may ultimately be a need to cut positions somewhere. Therefore, adding positions now would

not be wise. He said additional officer(s) may be needed, but the budget numbers and decisions will not be easy. He asked that the Chief table his request until the budget is settled in about a month.

Chief Varrenti said he can appreciate the Board's work on the budget, but hopes that they recognize sometimes one can trip over quarters to pick up pennies. From his understanding, several years ago positions were cut from the Police Department and a minimum staffing of two officers per shift was instituted. Of course, it would be neglectful to have any less than one officer able to back up one other. He questioned why the Board would want to use overtime spending money at a rate of time and a half to cover shifts. He said by investing one officer to the MADTF, the Village would reap the benefit of 10 plus additional officers of the Agency when needed. Chief Varrenti stressed that he will enforce narcotics laws and do what it takes.

Trustee Wexler said the Police Chief inherited the current Stetson Club contract and the growing overtime problem. Chief Varrenti said he will not be a party to continuing the overtime problem. He also stated that when the department invests time, training, and money into a part-time officer, and that officer proves to be valuable, the Village should take advantage of the training time, experience, and expenses for weapons, uniforms and such and promote that part-timer to full-time. This is the greatest return for our dollar. Trustee Wexler again suggested waiting two to four weeks. Chief Varrenti said it is unfortunate, but by waiting more than one week, the Village will lose the officer to the Rochester Police Department. Why should they reap the Village's investment? Chief Varrenti said the MADTF does seize revenue which can be utilized for purchases of related needs, but not officers.

Trustee Whipple said he would like to hire this individual as full-time, but with the potential budget problems cannot see hiring this week and slashing in a couple of weeks. Trustee Whipple said he would agree with Trustee Wexler that the Board wait at least two weeks.

Mayor Matela said she is in favor of sending one of our officers to the MADTF to take advantage of all it has to offer. The health, safety, and welfare of the community is vital. Chief Varrenti said if they have to perform a drug raid tomorrow, the overtime will be high.

Trustee Knapp said it is unfortunate, but it is bad timing due to the budget.

C. BUILDING / ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT - Scott C. Zarnstorff (excused for conference)
1. Monthly Report – previously distributed

D. FIRE - Chief Gregory B. Wing
1. Membership Adds/Drops/Transfers – Chief Wing asked the Board to consider approving the following adds: Robert Beebe of Reed Road to Company 4, and Nathan Coons of Westwood Drive to the Hooks.

→ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Whipple seconded, unanimously carried approving the previously mentioned adds.

2. Part-time Paid Ambulance Staffing – Chief Wing recommended the Board hire Eion Snowden as an EMT – Critical Care and Judy Ann Johnson as an EMT and the Coordinator. This brings the total part-time paid staff to 25. Chief Wing highly recommended J. Johnson for the Coordinator position. She served with Monroe Ambulance for 21 years. Trustee Whipple agreed that she would be a valuable addition to the program. Chief Wing reminded all that this program is funded by Third Party Billing, not taxes. Trustee Whipple further shared that no expense is being added. The 12 hour shifts of 6am to 6pm need to be covered and this group of 25 will share in the coverage. Trustee DeToy said J. Johnson would take calls as well as serve as Coordinator. Chief Wing said yes and commented that she is one of the hardest working people he has ever met.

⇒ Trustee Whipple moved, Trustee Knapp seconded, unanimously carried appointing the above named individuals to the paid part-time ambulance staff.

3. Decontamination Situations – Chief Wing shared that he met with Greece Ridge Fire Department regarding decontamination situations where weapons of mass destruction or chemical manufacturing plants are involved. They will be working with Park Ridge Hospital. Since Lakeside Memorial Hospital is the only hospital between Greece and Medina or Greece and Batavia, Lakeside is likely to be a hot spot if a situation like this were to occur. Therefore, they will be working together to set up a good program.

4. Additional Police Coverage – Chief Wing stated that he agrees with Chief Varrenti's assessment of the need for additional full-time police officers and further stated that one cannot truly put a price tag on public safety.

E. TREASURER - Scott D. Rightmyer

1. Budget – Treasurer Rightmyer announced that the Board, during recent budget workshops, has decided to hold a public information meeting on the budget. This is not legally required, but will serve an informational purpose. This will be held Tuesday, March 26th at 7pm. The actual public hearing was on the Board’s tentative budget calendar as Wednesday, April 3rd. The Board needs to call for said public hearing. Treasurer Rightmyer said he will place notices of both meetings in the Suburban News.

⇒ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Wexler seconded, unanimously carried calling for the public hearing on the budget for Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at 7:00pm at the Village Hall.

F. CLERK - Leslie A. Morelli

1. Parade / Procession applications – Clerk Morelli reviewed the following:
 - a. Saturday, 4/13 10am – SUNY Social Work Walk for Youth
 - b. Saturday, 4/27 10am-11:30am – Max’s Mardi Gras Parade
 - c. Saturday, 5/25 9:15am-11am – Memorial Day Parade

⇒ Trustee Wexler moved, Trustee DeToy seconded, unanimously carried approving the foregoing parade / procession applications as submitted.

G. ATTORNEY – Edward W. Riley / DEPUTY ATTORNEY – Frank A. Aloï - No report.

SUPPORT BOARDS REPORTS:

- A. PLANNING BOARD – Chair R. Scott Winner (absent)
- B. LIBRARY BOARD – President Leslie Zink (absent)
- C. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - Chair Richard L. Aldrich (absent)

VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:

- A. Vice Mayor Wexler
 1. Monroe County Fire Police – Trustee Wexler shared that he attended the swearing in of Al Way as President of the Monroe County Fire Police.
- B. Trustee Whipple – No report.
- C. Trustee Knapp – No report.
- D. Trustee DeToy
 1. Contamination – RGE – Erie Street and Perry Street – Trustee DeToy said as liaison to this project, they were scheduled to begin remediation efforts March 11th. They wanted to do this while the canal is empty. However, they have been held up by NYSDEC not reviewing their work plan in a timely fashion. Mayor Matela sent correspondence to DEC requesting they move forward.
- E. Mayor Matela
 1. Local Development Corporation – Mayor Matela shared that the formation of the Greater Brockport Local Development Corporation is in its infant stages. It will give tax exempt status and grant opportunities for projects. They have found an attorney to work on the paperwork and Chris Trento has agreed to do the financial portion of the paperwork. Mayor Matela asked the Board to authorize contracting with the attorney and accountant. Trustee Whipple said this has been discussed with the Canal Revitalization Committee. It was agreed that the Village can not do a lot until the LDC is formed. Attorney Riley asked if they had considered an IDA (Industrial Development Agency) as well as the LDC (Local Development Corporation). He said the powers of each are different. Mayor Matela said both were considered, and Development Consultant Ben Kendig said the LDC will give us all we need. Attorney Riley suggested the Board remain open to whichever would be the most advantageous.

⇒ Trustee Whipple moved, Trustee Wexler seconded, unanimously carried authorizing the Village to proceed with pursuit of establishing a Local Development Corporation (LDC) or Industrial Development Agency (IDA), whichever is most advantageous, and authorizing the contracting of an attorney and accountant.

2. Read Across America – Mayor Matela shared that she participated in the National Read Across America campaign at the Brockport Central School District’s elementary schools recently. Police Chief Varrenti and Treasurer Rightmyer also participated.
3. Navy Club – Mayor Matela shared that she participated in the de-commissioning and commissioning of commanders and members of the Navy Club recently. She promised the Village’s support of veteran’s organization.

4. Senator Clinton – Mayor Matela shared that she participated in a luncheon with Senator Hillary Rodham-Clinton in Niagara Falls today regarding the economic recovery of Erie and Niagara Counties. She will be the commencement speaker at SUNY College at Brockport on May 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2nd opportunity):

1. Back to Police Chief's request to hire one officer – Dick Lingg of Candlewick Drive – said as a retired Brockport teacher and recreation director, he knows there IS a drug problem in our community. He thinks the Board should consider promoting the part-time police officer to full-time. Otherwise the investment in training, weapons and uniforms is lost.

Inga Songbird of Park Avenue said she hates speaking under public comment but does so only when it is important. She said she is a quantum leap thinker and can get a lot done that way. She has been attending Village Board meetings for the last year and a half and does not understand how a decision can be made without all of the voices to really discuss a request. She said she is sure Treasurer Rightmyer has all of the budget numbers lined up, but asked the Board to further consider Chief Varrenti's request to hire one full-time officer this week. I. Songbird said the community was very excited when the Board hired D. Varrenti as Police Chief. He has wonderful credentials and is already doing great things. She asked how the Board can just stop him in his tracks. She suggested the Board "think out of the box" and create an hour this week to give due consideration to his request.

Trustee Wexler said this item was added to the agenda this morning. Again, he is not against the request, just the timing of it. Chief Varrenti said he did just add it to the agenda today, but discussed it with the Board at a budget workshop last Thursday.

Joan Hamlin of Park Avenue said she would rather see the cost of an additional police officer than special lawyers at \$220 and more per hour. Inga Songbird asked if the Village has tallied up the cost so far of special attorney Parrinello. Treasurer Rightmyer said the Village has not been billed yet.

Joanne Marcello of Havenwood Drive commented that since September 11th, it would particularly be a disgrace if the Brockport Police Department and Brockport Fire Department were not kept up to snuff.

Inga Songbird said the Board should take into consideration what the public has to say. The preceding were comments from some of those most often in attendance at Village Board meetings and should be taken seriously. Trustee Wexler said he is retired and regularly walks and frequents the downtown coffee shops and hears other members of the public as well. The Board takes into consideration all who pay taxes in the Village of Brockport.

Giff Mosher of Frazier Street asked if the part-time officer were made full-time, if another part-time officer would need to be hired to fill that part-time spot. G. Mosher said overtime needs to be reduced or eliminated.

Chief Varrenti stated that he has had a good working relationship with the Board and has enormous respect for the work the Village Board does and the difficult decisions it often has to make. He said he was hired to do a job and knows he can manage the Police Department unequivocally. He also knows that Brockport Police Department is no different than any other. Part of the job is to deploy personnel appropriately. He said he fully intends to send one officer to the Multi Agency Drug Task Force and to be proactive instead of reactive. If not, the Village is going to continue to dole out overtime pay instead of appropriately addressing the staffing issues. He further shared that in his budget requests to the Board he included the proposal of hiring 3 additional full-time police officers. He believes two will reduce the need for overtime and the third will be so he can send an officer to the Task Force. Chief Varrenti reported that he accepted the Chairmanship of a Narcotics – Metro committee.

Ed Spade of Brockport-Spencerport Road reminded everyone that the New York State Police are no longer in the Brockport area. He further stated that response time for Monroe County Sheriff's can be slow depending on where they have a car stationed. He said Brockport should be looking to better the department and take advantage of investments already put into its part-time officers.

Dick Lingg of Candlewick Drive questioned the cost between a part-time and full-time officer. He stated that as a taxpayer, public safety is a necessity.

Treasurer Rightmyer said the budget proposals, if approved, were to start at the beginning of the new fiscal year, June 1st. Chief Varrenti said he is talking about one officer two months ahead of that. Trustee DeToy commented that a brand new officer is of no real use for 6 months due to training requirements. Chief Varrenti said he has to see if the part-time officer can get through the appropriate Civil Service hoops.

Mayor Matela thanked the public for their useful comments. She asked the Board if they wished to bring this matter to a vote or wait until the budget is resolved.

⇒ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Wexler seconded, Trustee Knapp opposed, Carried 4 to 1 in favor of hiring one additional full-time officer at this time.

- 2. Bill Weber of Main Street asked if the new Crossing Guard would have the morning or afternoon shift. Chief Varrenti said the afternoon shift. Bill Weber further commended the Board for appointing Harry Donahue as Acting DPW Superintendent. He has served the Village for over 20 years and will do a good job.

AUDIT:

➔ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Wexler seconded, unanimously carried that the bills be allowed and paid upon audit.

<u>Village</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2/26	165176	8.00
2/27	165177	240.00
3/6	165240	174.00
3/18	165281-346	45,535.91
<u>Fire</u>		
3/18	165255-280	40,016.40
<u>Ambulance</u>		
3/18	165244-254	1,267.55
<u>Capital Projects</u>		
<u>Third Party Billing</u>		
3/18	59-60	5,337.28

ADJOURNMENT:

➔ Trustee Wexler moved, Trustee Knapp seconded, unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50pm.

Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk