

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, June 11, 2013 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor M. Connie Castañeda, Trustee William G. Andrews, Trustee Margaret B. Blackman, Trustee Kent R. Blair, Trustee Carol L. Hannan, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Ketchum, Sri Ram Bakshi, Pam Ketchum, Susan Smith, Francisco & Linda Borrayo, Nancy McCann, Kevin McCarthy, Hanny Heyen, Brian Winant, Joy Levandowski, Norm Giancursio, Fred Webster, Kristina Gabalski, Geoff Redick, Kathy Snyder

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE: to honor those that 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."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Sri Ram Bakshi of Evergreen Road read the following prepared statement into the record:

People expect transparency from their government. Thanks to the whistle blowers who are informing the public about the shady things the governments are doing. Recent revelations: IRS targeting Tea Party applicants, Associated Press revelation of tracking a news reporter, Edward Snowden's revelation of how we are being spied on.

It seems that Brockport Village Board is not immune to such criticism. A whistle blower says: "Brockport voted to increase water rates and re-impose sewer fee on already overburdened taxpayers!"

Will the Board please explain why the additional tax burden is laid on already suffering residents and driving them to bankruptcy?

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

I am very pleased with the efforts of the trustees to reduce the tax levy this year. They are working hard on further reductions.

Trustee Blackman spearheaded a festival to bring people to downtown and help with economic development. At last year's budget hearing on April 10 she added the grant writer to the budget. The only one opposed to this measure was the mayor. If you read the minutes from April 2012 you will see that pattern throughout. The mayor was forced to sign the contract to hire the grant writer.

Thank you, Trustee Blair, for helping right the ship that former administrations allowed to flounder.

Trustee Hannan has been making sure our water and sewer department are on track. Radio-read meters and reinstalling the sewer fund saving homeowners money. Her work on rehabbing houses helps all taxpayers by improving neighborhoods and adding properties back to the tax roll.

Thank you, Trustee Andrews, for continuing your work on grants for economic development.

Lastly, I would like to thank Clerk Morelli and all the office staff for their hard work and dedication to our Village. Without them our Village would not run as efficiently. They find new ways to save taxpayers money.

- Nancy McCann of Carolin Drive said she is an RN, is somewhat disabled with fibromyalgia, has master gardener status and used to run a tree service. She walks through Corbett Park regularly and is concerned with the condition of many of the trees, particularly ash trees. She knows some local tree services that might be willing to help the Village by donating their services to prune or remove the bad trees. It is important to keep the healthy trees healthy by weeding out the bad trees. Many of them are in standing water. She said she spoke to DPW Spt. Donahue who indicated that their time and resources are limited and he would welcome donated services. He told her he has a database of Village trees but that it is not easy to print off. She said she learned the Village has a Tree Board and contacted Chair Ian Blount. She said she was disappointed with their interactions as she felt he shot down her suggestions. She said she learned the Tree Board meets monthly on a night she is unavailable and that the Tree Board has to approve planting and removal of all Village trees. She said this puts DPW at a disadvantage and makes them a weakling in the process. She said she obtained 2 college degrees here and stayed in part due to good DPW and PD – has lived here for 31 years but has seen DPW services continue to be lost. She said she doesn't know how DPW keeps up. She said

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Tree Board offering input is excellent, but DPW should make the decisions. The tree services she contacted indicated that for the donation of their services they would be satisfied with a charity letter for their taxes and mention in the Village record and local media.

Mayor Castañeda thanked N. McCann for sharing her thoughts and for her time. She suggested she write up a simple proposal and provide it to the Tree Board.

N. McCann said this is as far as she wishes to take it. She will wash her hands of it and turn it to DPW Spt. Donahue and the Village Board.

Trustee Blackman indicated that she is the Village Board liaison to the Tree Board. She clarified that DPW does not need Tree Board approval to plant or remove every tree. She also clarified that the tree inventory can be easily printed out and that she would be happy to provide her a copy if she wished. She said DPW does have a heavy workload and the Village is always appreciative of donated services.

N. McCann suggested Tree Board Chair Blount be provided with more education on the role of the Tree Board as it was he that said the Tree Board has to approve tree plantings and removals.

Mayor Castañeda said she would discuss this with DPW Spt. Donahue at their upcoming Department Heads meeting.

CONSENSUS ITEMS:

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Hannan seconded, carried 5/0 that the minutes of the 05/28/13 meeting be approved as amended.

• **APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID**

→ Trustee Blair 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>	6/7/13 (5/31 FY)	\$87,565.61
	6/4/13	\$32,270.09
	6/7/13	\$19,228.64
FUND (F): <u>Water</u>	6/7/13 (5/31 FY)	\$17,431.25
	6/7/13	\$36,820.35
FUND (G): <u>Sewer</u>	6/7/13 (5/31 FY)	\$670.00
	6/7/13	\$228.96
FUND (H): <u>Capital</u>	-	-
FUND (T): <u>Trust & Agency</u>	6/7/13	\$166.00
		\$194,380.90 grand total

CLERK REPORT:

- Clerk – Leslie Ann Morelli
- Village Elections – Clerk Morelli reminded everyone of the Noon-9pm 6/18/13 Village Elections and encouraged those registered to vote.

• **PERSONNEL ITEMS:**

- Welcome Center Drops/Adds -

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Blackman seconded, carried 5/0 to appoint Chris Gonzalez as a volunteer Welcome Center Greeter.

- Emily L. Knapp Museum & Library of Local History Committee – adds

→ Trustee Blackman moved, Trustee Blair seconded, carried 5/0 to appoint Sarah Cedeno and Sue Savard as members of the Emily L. Knapp Museum & Library of Local History Committee.

Trustee Andrews commented that Sue Savard is devoted with a passion that is unprecedented and the Museum is very fortunate to have her involved.

- Search Committee hiring recommendation for 4th DPW Summer Laborer - DPW Spt. Donahue’s memo to the Board explained that Christopher Avery who was approved at the 5/14 meeting

will be unable to take the position. Therefore, the recommendation is to hire applicant Joshua Carlson.
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→ Trustee Blackman moved, Trustee Hannan seconded, carried 5/0 to hire Joshua Carlson at \$8.50/hour with no benefits as Seasonal (summer) Laborer with the Department of Public Works to begin as soon as possible pending successful completion of required pre-employment testing and background check.

• **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Concur – SUNY Brockport as Lead Agency under SEQR re improvements at E.K.

Shriver Stadium –

→ Trustee Blackman moved, Trustee Blair seconded, carried 5/0 to consent to SUNY College at Brockport acting as Lead Agency pursuant to the provisions of 6 NYCRR Part 617 as it relates to improvements at E.K. Shriver Stadium.

- Morgan Manning House – July 4th parade/procession & street closure applications -

→ Trustee Blackman moved, Trustee Blair seconded, carried 5/0 to approve the Western Monroe Historical Society's July 4th street closure application submitted 5/28 and parade application submitted 5/29 allowing temporary street closures for:

- the portion of South Street from the driveway of the Morgan Manning House to Main Street from 10am-3pm
- Union Street from 10:15am-10:45am
- Park Avenue from Union Street to South Street from 10:15am-10:45am
- South Street from Park Avenue to the driveway of the Morgan Manning House from 10:15am-10:45am

Clerk Morelli will notify the applicant, include the feedback received from the Department Heads, notify affected property owners of the temporary street closures, and post the notice to the Village website.

VILLAGE BOARD REPORTS:

- Mayor M. Connie Castañeda

- Clerk – Mayor Castañeda shared that Clerk Morelli's work anniversary was June 7th and congratulated her on 14 years of service thus far.

- CGI Communications – Mayor Castañeda shared that CGI Communications are pleased with efforts so far and have got commitments from several area businesses including but not limited to Weinstein Dental, Klafehn Heise & Johnson, Tender Loving Care, Dollingers) and possible Danielle Windus Cook Realty, First Niagara Bank, Brockport Federal Credit Union, East Avenue Animal Clinic, etc.

- Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester – Mayor Castañeda shared that she received an e-mail inviting her to meet to sign the agreement and receive the grant award regarding the project of a canal themed mural on the DPW building that Trustee Blackman is working on.

- DPW Truck – Mayor Castañeda followed up on the DPW truck matter discussed at the last couple of meetings. The Board heard back from Treasurer Hendricks who shared “In regards to purchasing the truck for DPW, as funds for the purchase of the truck were available in Contingent Budget Account #A1990.4000, \$85,000 was transferred from the remaining balance of \$102,889.20, an additional \$10,000 was transferred from the Salt Budget Account #A5142.4010 from the remaining balance of \$16,967.00. My recommendation is to purchase the truck rather than do a lease is based on the availability of funds. Purchasing is prudent as no interest costs will be incurred.”

- Trustee William G. Andrews

- Lois McClure Schooner – Trustee Andrews shared that the Lois McClure, a replica of a 19th century schooner will be in Brockport 6/27-6/29. It will be open to the public for tours 10am-5pm on 6/29 and GBDC will act as host and have a lunch cookout at the Welcome Center with music by Bill Hullfish and the Golden Eagle String Band. The Lois McClure stopped here in 2007 with a celebration and stopped very briefly in 2012.

- Parks and Trails NY – Trustee Andrews shared that Parks and Trails NY is doing a count of canal users and he has been asked to help supply them with Brockport data.

- NYS History Association – Trustee Andrews shared that he presented a paper last Saturday at the NYS History Association meeting in Cooperstown regarding his upcoming book about Brockport’s role in the Civil War.

- Brockport Community Museum – Trustee Andrews reported on having attended a

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recent Brockport Community Museum meeting.

- Consider rescission of the 5/14 motion to require hold harmless agreements at the Welcome Center -

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Blackman seconded that this Board reconsider and rescind its resolution of May 14 to “Approve hold harmless agreement re Welcome Center”.

Trustee Andrews said he has standing under Roberts’ Rules of Order to make this motion in that I voted for the May 14 motion.

Trustee Andrews read the following prepared statement:

I will support my motion with a two-part argument, first, with respect to the document that I understand is supposed to be used to implement that resolution and, second, with respect to so-called hold harmless agreements in general.

When the motion was made to “Approve hold harmless agreement re Welcome Center” on May 14, I understood that it referred to a document similar to this one [hold it up] that has been used for bicycle lenders at the Welcome Center for the last several years. Instead, I now understand that we are expected to ask boaters to sign this three-page “Property/Facilities Use Agreement” that includes as clause 13. B. a hold harmless agreement.

To say that I was appalled when I received this document is a gross understatement. It contains 16 clauses, most of which have nothing to do with the Welcome Center. Other provisions are adequately dealt with in the welcoming letters we provide to all boaters. This document bristles with hostility and inhospitality.

Our Welcome Center was intended to be a means of attracting canal travelers to Brockport in the expectation that they would provide a stream of revenue for our downtown businesses during the slack season when college is in recess, that they would shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants, and patronize our services. It has amply fulfilled our expectations. Our canal visitors spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in Brockport every season. They do so, boaters tell us, because we have the finest facility and the finest staff of volunteers on the canal. They say that the log books in all of the house boats say, “Be sure to stop in Brockport”. Among the 233 communities along the canal, they say, Brockport is number one.

This document, in one fell swoop, would turn us from the most welcoming port on the canal to the most hostile. I spoke to Sharon Leighton, an administrator with the Canal Corp. She told me that no other port on the canal requires a hold harmless agreement, much less a document such as this. She also believes that no commercial marina has such a requirement. She expressed concern that we would set a precedent that could undermine her organization’s efforts to attract travelers to the canal.

I personally will not ask any Greeter at the Welcome Center to require our visitors to execute this document and will discourage them from doing so. If the Board does not rescind this resolution, it may well end my usefulness in the canalfront program.

I turn now to the so-called hold harmless agreements in general, including clause 13. B above.

It is a well-established legal principle that no person can sign away his or her right to sue for damages in a court of law. Every reputable law school teaches that. Every qualified lawyer knows that. Most educated members of our society know that. Yet, hold harmless agreements purport to require that. They ask the impossible. They ask a person to sign away a right that, legally, he or she cannot do.

In my opinion that is fundamentally dishonest. It is unworthy of a lawyer to recommend that we require what cannot be required. It is unworthy of insurance companies to say we must ask people to do what they know cannot be done. It is unworthy of us to accede to their illegal recommendations. This is a matter of honesty, of integrity.

They may say, “Well, if they sign this agreement they will think that they cannot sue us.” Such deceit is

equally dishonest. They may say, "Well, if they take us to court, we can wave this agreement and the judge will think that they cannot sue." I doubt that they can find such ignorant judges.

We are told that, if lawyers and insurance companies tell us to do something, we are bound to do so. I disagree. I believe that we are bound by our oaths of office and by common sense to exercise our own judgment. Lawyers and insurance companies have the duty of presenting worst-case scenarios, to make us aware of the risks attending any of our decisions. We should take seriously the advice of experts such as they are, but we should not feel bound by it. We must weigh those risks against the
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likely benefits of a decision, to make an informed cost-benefit analysis. In the case of the decision on the hold harmless agreement for the Welcome Center, I submit that the risks and costs of not requiring such an agreement are far outweighed by the benefits of not requiring it.

However and more importantly, in my opinion, we are also bound by our oaths to protect the integrity of the offices we hold. We cannot do that by adopting policies that we know are dishonest. We cannot honestly require people to do what we know they cannot do legally. We cannot require hold harmless agreements.

This concludes my argument in support of my motion to rescind our resolution to "Approve hold harmless agreement re Welcome Center". Thank you for your patience in indulging me in an argument that may have much too long, but was required by the character and importance of the matter.

When we have completed action on the motion now before us, I intend to make a motion that we also cease requiring bicycle lenders to sign hold harmless agreements.

I now submit a motion to rescind our requirement that bicycle lenders sign this hold harmless agreement [hold up agreement form] based on the argument I have just presented on the general invalidity of such agreements.

Discussion:

Mayor Castañeda reminded the Board that requiring a hold harmless was the result of the Village's risk control audit done by the former insurance carrier in 2012 and former Village Attorney Leni.

Clerk Morelli said she thought it would result in a simple one-page document, similar to the one the Welcome Center uses for those that borrow bicycles. However, Attorney Leni felt it best to modify the Village's existing facilities use agreement to include the Welcome Center amenities. She thought it would be met with dissatisfaction at the 5/14 VB meeting as the draft was included in the packet. It wasn't until she made copies for the Welcome Center to begin using, that Trustee Andrews asked that this be placed on tonight's agenda.

Trustee Blackman said she spoke with Spencerport Mayor Joyce Lobene and they do not use any hold harmless agreements. Trustee Blackman said the Village of Brockport uses hold harmless agreements for borrowing bicycles at the Welcome Center, for vendors at the Farmers Market, and sometimes for volunteers doing work on Village properties. Clerk Morelli said they are also part of the Village Code to be required for Sidewalk Café Permits.

Trustee Blair said even the attorneys have said they're basically useless. It might give someone pause to think about suing, but can't prevent someone from suing.

Call to Question:

→ Carried 4/1, Mayor Castañeda opposed, to rescind the resolution of May 14 to "Approve hold harmless agreement re Welcome Center".

→ Carried 4/1, Mayor Castañeda opposed, to rescind the use of the facilities use / hold harmless agreement for any/all Village properties, for borrowing bicycles at the Welcome Center, for the Farmers Market vendors and for volunteers doing work on Village properties.

- Trustee Margaret B. Blackman
 - Monroe County Fair location – Trustee Blackman shared that she attended the 6/5 meeting at the ski lodge at Northampton Park called by the Democratic caucus of the Monroe County Legislature to hear the public on the issue of North Hampton Park as a venue for the Monroe County Fair. Sweden Supervisor Connors and Councilperson Carges were also there. Impassioned, sometimes angry area residents spoke up. The main concern was that belief that this was a done deal with no public input. Even the legislators who have to vote on it have not seen the entire plan. Fear is that although current plan is for an agricultural youth fair, not for a midway, demolition derby, tractor pull,

and other noisy and polluting activities, that there is nothing to prevent these activities from occurring down the line if the Monroe County Fair Board runs the show. Points made included the lack of infrastructure for a fair, traffic concern, loss of wildlife habitat and camping areas, impacts on activities (ski lift, trails, etc.) that occur there, and the legality of taking public park land for profit making venture. The legislators indicated they would move to table the June 11 vote. Meantime, petition signatures to urge legislators to vote no have been gathered and the group has raised \$20,000 and hired an environmental lawyer who will take the county to court if the measure is passed.

- Farmers Market - Trustee Blackman reminded all that the Farmers Market opens for the season this Sunday, 6/16 8am-1pm. All vendor positions (11) have been filled which means the **MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD June 11, 2013 continued.....page 6**

market is self sustaining. Last fall she and the Managers met with Fire Chief Henry to talk about placement of barricades and parking and those directives have been followed. They discussed possible

expansion of the market as they have had inquiries by more vendors. They do not want more of the same, but are looking for cheese, meats, organic products, plants. Possible expansion area would be the parking lot near the market owned by Ross Gates.

- Grants - Trustee Blackman shared several meetings re grant opportunities:
 - Rowing - 6/6 meeting with SUNY College at Brockport's Mike Andriatch and John Bernfield regarding bringing rowing to the western section of the canal as college phys ed activity/club sport, high school phys ed activity/sport and as an adult community activity. As VP for Planned Giving and a member of the BCS board, Mike is well positioned to help in this endeavor. Looking into cost of a floating dock and storage facility for the boats. Facility would be at commissary park on college grounds.

She said she had a conference call with Village grantwriters today re same. Canalway grant (CFA) would be the most appropriate but this project will not be ready in time for this year's cycle. Those grants are \$150,000 with up to a 50% match.

- Canalfront Improvements – Today's conference call also included discussion on a transportation enhancement Program grant (Federal thru NYS DOT). This one would cover enhancements to canalfront welcome center including lighting, landscaping along both sides of the canal, and possibly an upscaled bicycle lending program. \$200,000 minimum and 20% match which can be in labor, service, in kind, etc.

- Canal mural on DPW building – 6/7 meeting re Stacey Kirby mural with selection Committee and artist. Reviewed initial submission, offered preferences, reviewed proposed contract with artist. When finalized the contract will come before the board for approval.

- Historic Preservation Website - phone conference with Clinton Brown re Historic Preservation website. Discussed general outlines of the website, how we want it to serve the HPB and what audiences we want to target with it. Some of the items: 1. feature landmark buildings (pointed them to Brockport's Historic Houses website with Trustee Hannan's house histories); 2. Be useful to building owners in historic downtown and owners of landmark houses re guidelines for altering, rehabilitating, painting; 3. educational—schools studying local history and architectural styles; potential property buyers, real estate agents--marketing Brockport. We want something striking, aesthetic--something that could be a model for an improved village website. They will come before the HPB with proposal that HPB have its own URL with a link to the village website. They suggest using Word Press for web construction. It is easier to manage, and changes can be made directly with minimal training.

- Parking Tickets – Trustee Blackman shared that she had a conversation with Dennis Farrell of Fundamental Business Service (FBS) re parking tickets. In February 2012 she recommended a solution to the boxes full of delinquent village parking tickets that the Sweden Town Court held but did not wish to pursue. That solution was to contract with FBS out of Hempstead, NY which works exclusively with justice courts as a collection agency. It took many months to put this into effect, requiring an MOU between the village, the court, and the town of Sweden. There were many bumps along the way, all of them having to do with the court's record keeping. 4,181 tickets, dating back to April of 2007, were turned over to the agency by the court as delinquent. Finally, letters to ticket holders went out in April 2013. The court was inundated with phone calls from angry recipients saying they'd already paid their ticket. Turns out record keeping was so bad that paid and unpaid tickets were mixed in together. So, it now appears, after FBS cleaned up the data, that there are some 3,000 actual delinquent tickets. Now the system is working and payments in response to the initial letter have been reported for the month of May. \$14,000 was taken in, 389 paid tickets. This good news and serious non-tax revenue which will continue.

- Trustee Kent R. Blair

- Village Elections – Trustee Blair said this is his 2nd to last meeting as a Trustee. He encouraged registered voters to vote 6/18 and believes voters have a clear choice. He referred to just the Board reports this evening showing sitting Trustees as being proactive, involved, and working non-stop for the betterment of the Village. He said he worked closely with Trustee Blackman and while

she came into office against creation of a Fire District, she researched it fully and it became obvious to her that it was the solution best for everyone. She didn't just stick to her guns. She made a well-informed decision. Trustee Blair said the two tickets have different agendas. Trustee Blackman's is for the Village to thrive. Mayor Castañeda's is for the Village to dissolve. She announced at a recent Village Board meeting to expect a petition for a referendum on dissolution again.

Trustee Blair suggested citizens ask Brockport Fire District officials how the Town of Sweden is holding up on their end of the bargain regarding construction of a fire station. He suggested citizens ask Brockport Ambulance officials how the Town of Sweden and Town of Clarkson contracting with Monroe Ambulance has hurt them. He referred to the debacle of the Town of Sweden Court handling of Village parking tickets. He said he believes if the Village dissolved, the entire greater Brockport community would be run by one political party instead of being independent and making decisions on facts and research. No action is still an action. Trustee Blair said the platforms are as different as night and day. **MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HELD June 11, 2013 continued.....page 7**

- Paws for Rochester - Trustee Blair referred to having spoken to Matt Piccone regarding this mobile vet clinic. They would be interested in providing vaccines in the area.
- Antique Fire Equipment - Trustee Blair referred to a letter recently having been sent by the Mayor to the Brockport Fire District and Firefighters Association leaders regarding the two pieces of antique fire equipment owned and insured by the Village but in the possession of the Firefighters Association. It costs the Village approximately \$255 per year to insure the two pieces. He said the Fire District cannot own the equipment as it is museum apparatus. He said the Firefighters Association does not have funds to purchase the equipment from the Village as they raised funds years ago to purchase the pieces and did the restoration work themselves. He said the Firefighters Association would likely be willing to cover the cost of the insurance and hopes the Village doesn't sell or auction off the equipment.

Trustee Andrews shared that New York State Law allows two types of museums. One is municipal and one is chartered. To his knowledge, the Capen Hose Company Fire Museum is not chartered. The equipment may be able to come under the purview of the Emily L. Knapp Museum and Library of Local History. Trustee Blair suggested Trustee Andrews discuss museum options with the Fire Museum folks and possibly have them to a future Village Board work session.

- Police Department Call Box - Trustee Blair shared that the Police Department call box outside 1 Clinton Street has been non-functional since the recent change in phone service providers. A new dialer is being purchased and it will soon be up and running. The Welcome Center call box that was non-functional is now working.
- Police Department Officer to Drug Task Force - Trustee Blair suggested the new Village Board add a Brockport Police Officer to the area drug task force. The Village is missing out on asset forfeiture monies. He reminded all that a couple of years ago such monies covered the cost of moving the Code Enforcement Office from Village Hall to the Police Department as well as the construction of the Lt.'s office and a police records room.
- Code Enforcement - Trustee Blair suggested the new Village Board move the Code Enforcement Office from Village Hall back to the Police Department.
 - Trustee Carol L. Hannan
 - Police Department – Trustee Hannan said the Police Department has endured many accusations and she has been remiss in not defending them forcefully enough. She said the Village is extremely fortunate to have Dan Varrenti as Police Chief. His character is above reproach and his law enforcement experience is second to none. He is also one of the nicest people you'll ever meet. She said she regrets and deplores efforts to discredit Chief Varrenti and the Brockport Police Department. She has complete faith in them and knows them to be objective, fair and unbiased. Chief Varrenti follows the letter of the law and wouldn't have it any other way. She is thankful for their dedicated service to the community.

Mayor Castañeda responded that it is the responsibility of elected officials to represent all taxpayers and provide necessary services at the most affordable price. It is not appropriate to grandstand, boast about what they've done or twist the truth. She said she proposed applying for a grant that would study where efficiencies can be achieved and that would share the results. It is the voters that decide on dissolution. The people petition for a referendum on dissolution. The voters decide, not the Mayor.

Abandonment of Kenyon Street – Clerk Morelli referred to the documents from SUNY today and

asked if the Board wished to act on the matter this evening or at the next meeting. Board would like it on the 6/25 agenda and in the packet.

Real Property Tax Exemption -

Before adjourning, Trustee Andrews proposed going into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter as to possible pursuit of NY Real Property Tax – Title 2 – Section 421-M Exemption of Certain New or Substantially Rehabilitated Multiple Dwellings. All agreed this did not qualify for Executive Session and should be discussed in public.

→ Trustee Andrews moved, Trustee Blackman seconded to instruct the Village Attorney to prepare the necessary paperwork via the Local Law process for the Village Board to consider adoption New York Real Property Tax – Title 2 – Section 421-M Exemption of Certain New or Substantially Rehabilitated Multiple Dwellings from Local Taxation – in regards to district defined by the Clark Patterson Lee Clinton Street Master Plan – the area from the south side of Clinton Street to the Canal including the buildings on the south side of Clinton Street.
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Multiple Dwellings from Local Taxation – in regards to district defined by the Clark Patterson Lee Clinton Street Master Plan – the area from the south side of Clinton Street to the Canal including the buildings on the south side of Clinton Street.

Discussion:

Trustee Hannan asked Trustee Andrews to expound.

Trustee Andrews shared that he recently attended a local government workshop and attention was called to this new provision providing for tax exemptions for certain types of properties. After 15 years of trying to save 60 Clinton Street, there is now a developer seriously interested in acquiring the property which would get the currently tax exempt property back on the tax rolls. The developer asks for only two things: this tax exemption and that a sidewalk be built. In talking to DPW Spt. Donahue, a sidewalk is already planned.

Mayor Castañeda asked how long the tax exemption would last. Trustee Andrews said during construction (maximum 3 years it is 100% then following completion 100% year 1 through 12 then 80% years 13-14 then 60% years 15-16 then 40% years 17-18 then 20% years 19-20.

Trustee Andrews said the Clinton Street area has the lowest assessed value in the Village. It can be restored and made a valuable asset. However, it depends on an anchor like 60 Clinton Street. Then other Clinton property owners like Duane Beckett would step in. The work to revitalize this area started under the Mayor Mary Ann Thorpe administration some years ago.

Mayor Castañeda said authorizing the Village Attorney to work on this would likely be out of the scope of services. Board concurred.

Trustee Blackman said this is considered through the Local Law process. Trustee Andrews said yes. The main jurisdiction, the Village, must adopt it then the Town/County and School can consider such.

Trustee Andrews said the Village would not be losing tax revenues on 60 Clinton Street since it is currently tax exempt under GBDC ownership.

Call to Question:

→ Carried 5/0 to instruct the Village Attorney to prepare the necessary paperwork via the Local Law process for the Village Board to consider adoption New York Real Property Tax – Title 2 – Section 421-M Exemption of Certain New or Substantially Rehabilitated Multiple Dwellings from Local Taxation – in regards to district defined by the Clark Patterson Lee Clinton Street Master Plan – the area from the south side of Clinton Street to the Canal including the buildings on the south side of Clinton Street.

Clerk Morelli will relay this to the Village Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT:

→ At 8:05pm, Trustee Blackman moved, Trustee Blair seconded, carried 5/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk

