

**VILLAGE BOARD – WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**Monday, September 27, 2021 7:00pm**

**Location: Village Courthouse, 49 State St., available via Zoom and recorded and posted to the village website.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85225532509?pwd=ZWM1SE1hS1kwUUZnaGJtbjZWV0tRUT09>

Meeting ID: 852 2553 2509      Passcode: 751329

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**All in person attendance is subject to mandatory masking and distancing requirements. No mask shall be removed unless the person is speaking, and only one speaker is permitted at a time.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Margaret Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Annette Crane, Trustee Katherine Kristansen, Trustee John LaPierre, Trustee Shawn Halquist, Manager/Clerk Erica Linden, Chief Mark Cuzzopoli, Recorder Susan Smith

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sgt. Scott Korn, Sgt. Robert Hagen, Invs. Tyler Dawson, Off. Josh Sime and K9 Brock, Off. Kelly McCracken, Off. Geoffrey Catilin, Off. Lucas Vandervort, Off. Camille Harrison, Off. Evan Blodgett, Off. John Vadas Lt. Paul Wheat, Kathryn Stead, Kazimer, Paxston, & Kityana Wheat, Carl & Sharon Wheat, David Wheat, Robin Cuzzupoli, Ret. Chief Dan Varrenti, BPD, Ret., Ann Varrenti, Judge Robert Conners, Sid Wheat, Calean Burroughs, Philip Burroughs, Kathy Burroughs, Judge William Andrews Jr, Fred Webster, Lt. Stephen Mesiti, BPD, Ret., Emma & Gabe Mesiti

**VIA ZOOM:** Superintendent Dan Verace, Deputy Clerk Barbara Krizen, Ed Starowicz, Joan Hamlin, Chris Hamlin

**CALL TO ORDER:** The workshop was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY:** Lt. Paul Wheat, BPD

Chief Cuzzopoli began the ceremony with a few words about Lt. Wheat:

Welcome everyone to the ceremonial swearing-in of Paul Wheat to Police Lieutenant. Thank you to the Mayor, Village Board and Village Manager for their support of the Brockport Police Department and of my recommendation of Paul Wheat to Lieutenant. My apologies go to Lt. Wheat, the many brothers and sisters in blue and to the community members who wanted to attend this ceremony. Obvious health concerns contributed to this decision. I would like to introduce members of Lt. Wheat's family. First, we have Katherine, then we have their 3 children, Kazimer, Paxston and Kityana. We have Lieutenant's mom and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Wheat (Sharon and Carl). His brother David and his sister Mary Karen. Two special Brockport Police Department family members celebrating with us today are Chief Varrenti and his wife Ann.

Some brief background on Lt. Wheat. He is born and raised in Brockport, graduating in 1996. He went on to graduate from SUNY Oswego in the year 2000. In the summer of 2000, he attended the police academy as a part time Officer. Made full time June 15, 2003, Sergeant August 1, 2013, and Lieutenant August 29, 2021.

I wanted to articulate 5 of Lt. Wheat's best qualities. I couldn't do it. That is, I could not limit it to 5. First and foremost, would be his Honesty and Integrity - Whether it is an internal investigation, reviewing policy or day to day decision making, he will give you 100% honesty. He is respectful but does not just tell you what you want to hear. He is not just a "yes person". He always wants the Brockport Police Department to be looked at as extremely professional and held in very high regard. Trust and Decision Making - Many times I have confided with Lt. Wheat and know he can be trusted 100%. When he gives you his word, you know it to be true. Decision Making - probably one of his best qualities. He has excellent perspective and sees the bigger picture. His decisions are very well thought out. In the instance where a decision needs to be made quickly, his instincts are spot on. Loyalty - Not once have I questioned his loyalty to this police department and citizens of Brockport. He had numerous options that he could have pursued but stayed committed to Brockport. Leadership - Lt. Wheat is a natural born leader. He is highly respected by all members of our police department and many members of surrounding agencies. He leads by example and is an excellent coach. Over the years he has trained numerous officers and they certainly look up to and admire him. Humble - He doesn't expect credit or recognition for going above and beyond what is asked of him. This is a man who has received the following awards: Medal of Valor; Life Saving; Excellent Police Service; Platoon Commendation; Distinguished Police Service; Community Service; Employee of the Month; Congressional Medal of Merit. His career is also highlighted by several major investigations. 1.) A major drug investigation that resulted in a significant seizure of Psilocybin Mushrooms. 2.) A major sexual assault investigation that started by observations he made in the early morning hours of a suspicious person. This led to an arrest and conviction of the man that committed a horrific crime. 3.) Lt. Wheat was one of the lead Officers that investigated the triple shooting in the old Lakeside Parking lot. We partnered with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the case resulted in a conviction of a very bad individual. 4.) How about responding and investigating a bank robbery where the suspect was strapped with what appeared to be explosives. I will conclude by noting that he has been a major contributor in the Stetson Club Police Union community events for many years. 1.) The Stetson Club 5K run, to donate money raised for different causes. 2.) The Ice Cream Social for the Challenger Baseball League. 3.) The Start and Selection process of the Annual Clifton Rife Memorial scholarship at Brockport High School. 4.) The Shop with a Cop detail which has been a staple for several years. 5.) One of the lead organizers yearly for the Holiday of Lights Parade. I am excited for the future of this department and am looking forward to working side by side with Lt. Paul Wheat.

Mayor Blackman congratulated Lt. Wheat on his new day job. She commented that, having sat across the table from Lt. Wheat during contract negotiations, he is a fierce negotiator for the Stetson Club. During the past year, with COVID-19, the village board appreciated his detailed weekend reports submitted to them and to the college. Lt. Wheat has set the model for Sgt. Korn to continue, as he is now submitting these reports. The Mayor shared a personal moment of receiving Lt. Wheat's kindness, when he reached out to her after she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016 and offered that he was available if she ever needed to talk. It was a very meaningful gesture

and much appreciated.

Lt. Wheat's family joined him during the ceremonial swearing in conducted by Chief Cuzzupoli. Lt. Wheat's wife, Kathryn Stead, pinned his badge onto his jacket. The platoon saluted Lt. Wheat and the ceremony concluded with congratulations from family and friends.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Approval of the Bills Abstract 9-23-21

A (General fund)	\$ 63,92.13
F (Water Fund)	\$ 3,292.33
G (Sewer Fund)	\$ 140.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,395.18</b>

- Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to approve the Bills Abstract 9-23-21. Motion carried 5-0.
  - Authorize Parade Application for SUNY Brockport Homecoming parade – Parade floats will line up on Clinton St, starting at 9:30 am. Parade begins at 10:30 am, turn right onto Main St, proceed South turning right onto College St, turning left onto Utica St, turn right onto Residence Dr, ending in Parking lots N and N-1.
- Trustee Halquist moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to authorize the SUNY Brockport Homecoming Parade on Sat, October 23, 2021, 10:30 am – 12 noon, with the requirement that SUNY Brockport work directly with the Brockport Police Department to ensure the parade route is secure and SUNY Brockport provide their own security detail where necessary to avoid Brockport Police Department from incurring overtime. Motion carried 5-0.
  - Accept Kellin Senese's resignation and authorize advertisement for part-time court clerk's position
- Mayor Blackman moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, to accept Kellin Senese's resignation and authorize for part-time court clerk's position. Motion carried 5-0.
  - Authorize SEQR Resolution, Determination of Non-Significance for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant – The authorization for the TAP grant application, for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement for the Smith St. bridge, was resolved at the previous village board meeting on 9-20-21.
- Mayor Blackman moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, to authorize the mayor to sign the SEQR Resolution and Determination of Non-significance for the TAP Grant. Motion carried 5-0.
  - Appointment of Joshua Snyder to fill the DPW Laborer position at Step 1 of Union Contract – Trustee LaPierre commented that Mr. Snyder had been working as a Seasonal Laborer, has demonstrated dependability and diligence. Trustee Kristansen also commented that Mr. Snyder has been coachable in learning to care for the potted plants throughout the village.
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, to appoint Joshua Snyder as DPW Laborer, Step 1 of Union Contract. Motion carried 5-0.
  - Authorize excess items at DPW on Auctions International: Commercial Shop Fan; Paint stripping machine; Small army generator; 7 Wooden court chairs; Pre 1970 Galion 10 Ton Roller
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, to authorize excess items at DPW on Auctions International. Motion carried 5-0.
  - Proclamation: Lt. Stephen Mesiti, the proclamation was read into the record at the Village Board Trustees meeting on 9-20-21.
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, to adopt the retirement proclamation for Lt. Stephen Mesiti read into the record at the 9-20-21 Village Board Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
  - Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing for Unvaccinated Employees – Manager Linden reported that because of high COVID-19 transmission in Monroe County right now, unvaccinated people are at a high risk. Different layers of government are requiring proof of vaccination or testing. In order to prevent our departments from having to quarantine, due to COVID-19 exposure, Manager Linden and the village board discussed some of the options available in our community for consideration.
    - Require unvaccinated employees to be tested weekly at CVS Pharmacy. By booking an at the end of their work week, during working hours, this would allow time for the results to be shared with their supervisor upon returning to work after their weekend. Currently, CVS Pharmacy is the closest site that has testing is available in our community.
    - The Village Hall staff did significant research to find alternative solutions to provide testing and, at this point, there is nothing available in our community for the 13 village employees that are unvaccinated.
    - Mandating vaccinations is not a consideration at this time.
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, that any Village of Brockport employee who is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is required to test weekly, at the end of that employee's workweek. Proof of a negative test must be provided to their supervisor in order to return to work the following week. If no results are reported, this employee will be subject to disciplinary action. Motion carried 5-0.

- Face Covering Policy - The current village Face Cover Requirement policy dated August 17, 2020, states:

**VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT FACE COVERING POLICY**

- (i) The Village of Brockport will provide adequate face coverings for all employees, officials, contractors, and staff.*
- (ii) Face coverings provided by individual employees, officials, contractors, and staff will be acceptable as long as they do not have an uncovered ventilator and cover both nose and mouth.*
- (iii) Face coverings will be worn at all times when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained, indoors or outdoors.*
- (iv) Face coverings will be worn upon entering any village building and entering any common spaces shared with multiple individuals where unanticipated overlap may occur.*
- (v) If proper distancing and or face covering wear is consistently disregarded, disciplinary action is possible, and sick time will not be guaranteed in the event of mandatory quarantining due to COVID-19 exposure.*

- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Halquist seconded, to amend the Face Covering Policy by removing the NYS Executive Order 202.16, Public Health Law Public Health Law, Sections 201 & 206 and Executive Order 202.14, amending section (iii) by adding the reference to CDC guidance in an area of high transmission and adding section (v). Disciplinary action will follow a step approach. The first offence will warrant a verbal correction; the second offence will result in a written correction; the third offence will result in a 1-week suspension without pay.  
Motion carried 5-0.

**WORKSHOP TOPIC:**

- Sustainability Funds (SF) – A benefit of the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) are municipal funds to be used to finance future projects in the Village of Brockport. The board had an initial discussion for the possible projects for the CCA Sustainability Funds. In addition to the Village of Brockport, other local communities launching renewable energy programs through Finger Lakes Community Choice (FLCC) are the Town of Geneva, and villages of Honeoye Falls and Lima. Some of the considerations discussed at this workshop included an electric vehicle, electric mowers/trimmers for the DPW, and LED lights. This is an ongoing topic to be continued at a future workshop.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, to adjourn the workshop at 8:12 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

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Erica Linden, Village Manager