

PRESENT: Town – Supervisor Broderick; Councilmembers Bax, Ceretto, Geiben and Morreale; Village - Mayor Collesano; Trustees – Sutherland, Gibson, Conti and Eydt. Also in attendance – Town Attys. Seaman and Catalano; Village Atty. Leone; Recreation Director Dashineau; Chief Previte; Grant Writer Rotella, 2 residents, 3 press and Clerk D. Garfinkel

The Supervisor welcomed and thanked all for attending. This is an informal meeting, with hopes to have an agenda for future meetings.

Collesano said in the past meeting were held quarterly. All agreed this is a good timeline, if not more often.

Broderick asked the Trustees if there are any issues they wished to address with the Board.

Collesano said the main pending issue is the lack of an updated Police contract between the two municipalities. The consolidation goes back to a general agreement between both parties in June of 1992. The general agreement was, in theory, that there would be a joint commission.

There was a consolidation back in 1995. All have been based on the same contract, except for an amendment in 2002.

It started with the Village having its own Police force. There were two cars and five police officers, 2–full time / 3-part-time. The Town had one car and two constables. The Town wanted to create its own police department. The powers that be, on both sides, felt it would be cheaper to joint forces.

There was a contract created that saved both municipalities money. It started with the Village having two cars, radios, and all the equipment. The Town had cars but they were using their own personal cars.

When the Police Commission was first created there was the Chief of Police and three Commissioners, Town Supervisor, Village Mayor, and one official Commissioner. This individual had to have a police back-ground. They were to be an elector of either the Town or Village, and not a member of the Town or Village boards. They must have a college degree in Police science or related area of at least 5 years experience in supervising in an administrative capacity in law enforcement. There have been two Commissioners over the years.

Under Supervisor Reiter things changed. Both Boards agreed, on the recommendation of then Councilmen Winkley and Palmer, that a Commissioner was no longer necessary.

However, the Village has seen what has happened in the last three years. Trustees feel the Village does not have a say in what goes on anymore, and are very concerned. Trustees have to answer to their constituents, as well as the Councilmembers to theirs.

Collesano said the Village does not know what goes on with the police. If there is a new-hire or the purchase of a new vehicle the Village knows nothing and finds out second hand. The reason for three Commissioners was, the Supervisor and the Mayor where appointed to address budgetary issues. The Commissioner, which had police backing, was the person, if there was trouble with the Chief, that is who he would go to. This would keep politics out of the force.

This needs to be ratified and corrected. Collesano suggests meeting with Town and Village attorneys and have this rectified within the next three to four months.

Geiben said when Fred Newlin was Supervisor; did the Village not ask the Town to have the percentages changed, to have the Town accept a larger chunk of percentages? The only thing the Village gave up was personnel. Collesano said there were several things done over the year that the Village was not aware of. Geiben believes this had nothing to do with the Commission, which was to still stay in place.

Geiben believes the only thing the Village gave up was the right to select the next Chief of Police. Collesano believes that is correct.

Collesano is unsure of what happened to the Commission. The Village has been searching the records and it is not clear. There are no records to show this.

Bax believes there were a lot of different issues with the Commission. Another political body was added to the Commission. The Commissioner did not have much authority other than to suggest things to the Town Board. Bax asked Collesano if it is the communication the Village is trying to alleviate. Collesano said as well as the structure. The Village would like to get back to feeling like they have equal footing with the Town on what is going on.

Collesano said the Village was paying twice a year, \$264,000. \$23,600 is now paid on a monthly basis. For the \$23,000 a month all the Village is getting is the service of the Police. Collesano said the contract states it is to be a joint effort.

The Clerk presented minutes from a Town & Village Joint meeting which took place in March, 2012. It states a motion to terminate the Police Commission, by a vote of 9 – 0. The Town appointed Supervisor Reiter with Ernie Palmer as an alternative, and the Village appointed Mayor Collesano.

Bax feels this concept could work, if it is put into action.

Broderick asked Chief Previte his opinion. Previte recalls, it was a decision of the Town.

Geiben asked if the Village is paying a set amount every year and has it increased? Collesano said the amount has not increased in the last couple years. The Trustees understand that it will increase, and are willing to pay the increase, but at the same time the Village needs to have a voice. The equalization rate between the Village and the Town is not fair. The Village is paying more, almost double, per person than the Town.

Eydt said there is no transparency, in regards to information flowing from the Town to the Village. The Village finds out about a new police car when it pulls in the parking lot. There is no notification of it. There is no notification of the hiring of new officers. The Village is basically writing a check.

Ceretto asked if the Mayor, Supervisor and the two municipal attorneys got together and discussed this, is this what the Village wants. Collesano said it needs to go back to the original contract.

Broderick has no problem addressing this.

Trustee Sutherland has a list of items to possibly discuss at future meetings. What is going on with the LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Project) as far as the Village goes and the new designations; repair and update of the dock; kayak and fishing addition; finish Center Street brick sidewalks; brick walk around Academy Park; comfort station at Academy Park; replacement of street light bulbs; discussion on the Frontier House; storm and sewer repair and upgrade in the Village; discussion on partnering with the Town on solar energy; ice rink; Toohey playground.

Gibson said the Town has been using Occustar for physicals for the Fire Company. This has since stopped. The Village does not know who the new company is or why it even happened. Trustees requested the Village Clerk receive a copy of the contract.

Ceretto said Lewiston #2 was not happy either. The physician would go to the fire hall, which saved a lot of time. Councilmembers were not informed this was a privilege given to the volunteer fire companies; they were just given dollar amounts. The Board made the decision on two facts, cost and location.

Geiben asked Sutherland, in regards to his list, if he contacted Grant Writer Bernie Rotella. The Town is looking into leveraging as much grant money as possible. If the Village has a project, and thinking of a grant, touch base with Rotella. The Village needs to prioritize.

Geiben asked Rotella what dollar amount is left from previous grant. Rotella said there is a DOT grant for about \$82,000, from the Mohawk trail project.

Collesano said many of Sutherland items would qualify through Greenway.

Geiben said the Village delayed putting in the sidewalk on Mohawk Street. As the path comes down Lewiston Hill, into the Village and hits Mohawk St. to along the Parkway, it is thought it will go from Mohawk to Lower River Road. This piece needs to be finished. Is this more important than another? Rotella needs to be informed of which grants have been secured, and what money is left for the others.

Sutherland said this is beautiful; this is what these meetings are for.

Geiben asked what the delay is on the Mohawk project. Collesano said the sewer and waiting for whether the Town was going to put the path through.

Geiben has heard talk about changing the stadium seating at Academy Park. Collesano said this has been discussed for years.

Rotella said since the Village has the LWRP in place, we could leverage Coastal Resources money towards these types of projects. All the projects being discussed are within the LWRP border.

Sutherland said the LWRP has not been revised. There will be a public meeting on March 10th. This is a ways away. In updating the LWRP they will include all the items/places.

Geiben spoke on the kayak issue. The Stella preserve people have discussed a kayak launch also. Will it be necessary to have two? Bax believes the concern is having somewhere else to pull out or launch before getting to Youngstown.

The Town has a comfort station on Lower River Road. Stella preserve has been asked to look at what can be done on their property to enhance the Town property. All groups need to work together. Geiben doesn't want the Town to spend money that it doesn't have to.

LWRP presently encompasses Artpark, 1st Street, Water Street, and along the river. The Village has received grant money for a boat ramp, moving the village garage. By extending the LWRP, which is being done with a group of 8 people from the Village and Town, it will cover a good portion of Center Street and south to Artpark. This will encompass the historic districts, cemetery, Academy Park. This will open it up to many more grants.

Geiben said the Supervisor has been adamant about not burdening future Town Boards with operation and maintenance on projects that can't be afforded down the way. The walking/bicycle path is very low on the list.

Broderick spoke of the ice rink. This was originally intended to be by the river. There is thought of putting it on a promenade, which would go over the parking on Water Street. This could be a seasonal use building. Geiben said this would be a long way away.

Everything done at Academy Park for the ice rink would need to be done again. This is very expensive.

Geiben asked if it is the plan to continue to rip up Academy Park twice a year and repair it or look for an alternative sight that can be beneficial to all. Expensive in short term, not as expensive in the long term. When the rink is taken down, thousands of dollars are spent putting in new soil, seeding and cleaning up the area.

Dashineau said the 5-year plan for the Greenway money is up. It will need to be reintroduced, and to reintroduce it at Academy Park, it will require the Village Board's support.

The Town owns the ice rink. Quite a bit of material is rented. The rink is custom made to be at Academy Park. Power and water were brought to the park. Custom made to fit in this spot. Anything being done differently will have upfront costs.

Collesano asked Dashineau if he felt it would be less expensive if it was set-up on a parking lot or paved area. No matter where this goes there will always be up-keep costs.

Morreale feels that where it is now, it brings life to the Village. The charge for things could be increased to cover the cost of this.

Dashineau said the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee has discussed this. It has been suggested the Village Recreation Committee and the Town Recreation Committee meet.

Broderick asked the Trustees if it is their thought to get the rink out of Academy Park. Trustees said “yes”, it just tears the park apart. Geiben said both Boards need to work together and understand what the long range plan is for the rink.

Ceretto asked the Trustees if they had a place in the Village they would prefer it to be. Trustees would like it on the promenade at the water. Rotella said this has been reviewed with the people at Coastal Resources and they thought it was a great idea.

Geiben questioned the Trustees about the traffic light at 8th Street. This has been turned down by the State. It is part of the Ellicott project, and submitted with the SEQRA.

Geiben is concerned with the interest in the property directly north of the Village. 8th Street is narrow, and it would be better if it doesn’t go all the way through.

It is difficult to get out of 8th Street from the CVS Plaza. It was proposed to put a stop light at 8th Street, keep the light at Portage but turn to a blinker. It will still be feasible for Artpark and other festivals. 8th Street, north and south do not align at Center Street. Geiben suggests the Village re-cut 8th Street and put in a retaining wall with a railing.

In regards to the sewers, Sutherland said they are tied in with the Elliott Development and the Fairchild Development. This is being addressed in the I & I study.

Discussion on the drainage ditch near Kiwanis Park. This is one of the drainage points for this whole area. Sutherland said the Town Highway department was looking at putting in drainage pipes. This is the area from Kiwanis Park, along the back of Historical Square turning north along the Parkway. The ditch along the Parkway needs to be cleaned out. There are large trees growing in it.

Geiben suggested a joint letter to the State requesting this be addressed.

Conti spoke on research being done on solar energy / solar wind for the Village and possibly in conjunction with the Town. Village and Town codes need to be looked at to address this. A block of land, which is unusable for anything, in the Town needs to be designated.

Residents would purchase a solar panel through an agreement, put it on the designated land, attach it to a remote meter, and the power goes to their home. The solar panels will be on one piece of land.

Broderick thanked all again for coming. This is a great opportunity to discuss items affecting both the Village and Town.

Meeting closed.

Respectfully Transcribed and Submitted by:

Donna R. Garfinkel
Town Clerk