

Mayor Gifford called the meeting to order at 6:10p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

PRESENT REMOTELY: Trustee Cook and Trustee Gray

EXCUSED: Trustee Rizzo

### **SKATEBOARD RULES**

Trustee Cook met with residents that had provided petitions to the board to allow skateboarding in the Village. Trustee Cook would like to develop a Safe Skate Law. Dominic Gallo of Cool Insurance present at meeting to discuss the liability insurance aspect of the amendments. Trustee Cook will continue to work on legislation and provide to the board for review.

### **DISCUSSION OF DOG PARK FEES FOR GLENVILLE RESIDENTS**

Trustee Gray and Mayor Gifford met with Supervisor Koetzle regarding the Town of Glenville providing a flat fee to the Village of Scotia for Glenville residents to use the Village Dog Park without the current \$50 fee.

Town has proposed \$1,000 for first year; reviewed on annual basis.

Trustee Cook would like a estimated cost for the Village residents with maintenance costs and projections for increased usage; Mayor Gifford asked Superintendent Kedzior to provide estimates.

### **APPROVAL OF ROAD CLOSURE FOR MOHAWK TAPROOM**

**MOVED** by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Solotruck to authorize the closure of So. Ten Broeck from Mohawk Avenue to First National Bank of Scotia Driveway on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00a.m. to 10:00p.m; including approval of lifting the open container law for said event.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

### **DISCUSSION OF POLICE GRIEVANCE**

Chief Harrigan stated that the PBA has filed a grievance relating to military leave hours. The grievance was rejected by the Chief and by the Mayor. The Board of Trustees will consult the labor attorney on this issue.

### **JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**MOVED** by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas, funding has been made available under a competitive grant process through the NYS Justice Departments Justice Court Assistance Program for funding of municipal projects,

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the Village of Scotia to apply for available funding to assist with the financing of such projects for the Village Court.

Be it Resolved that the Board of the Village of Scotia authorizes Scotia Village Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2021-22 grant cycle up to \$30,000.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

September 20, 2021

Chief Almy read the following statement to the board:

Mayor Thomas Gifford & Scotia Board of Trustees,

The Scotia Department Heads Association which is comprised of the Clerk/Treasurer, Fire Chief, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Police Chief, and the Superintendent of Public Works would like to go on record regarding filling the Parks and Recreation Supervisors spot vacated by the retirement of Jim Marx.

Collins Park is one of the keystones to the Village. Its resources and beauty bring visitors from all over and it is something we are all proud of. Collins Park would not be what it is without the dedication of the Parks Department, the hard work, maintenance, care and attention to detail is evident. To the outsider it seems like a simple thing to do, but we know different. The interaction with various agencies, standards that need to be met, grant procurement and improvements and dealing with the various groups and masses of people that use the park on a daily basis all make for a dynamic experience and a challenge to the Park Staff.

We are in support of a new Supervisor of Parks and Recreation to be named. This job and the responsibilities are of a critical nature and need to be addressed. A number of years ago the Village had the foresight to make the position of Parks and Recreation Supervisor and Jim Marx gave his all to the Village, why would we want to go backwards and not fill this position? This current scenario presents with an air of a lack of respect for the heads of the various Departments and certainly a lack of knowledge of what our departments do and the responsibilities we have. Some points to consider:

This position is a salaried position, as is all Department Heads and should remain as such

If there are no qualified candidates from within, hire from the outside

Changing job descriptions and duties need to be negotiated for Unionized employees

Currently Parks and DPW are both down one employee, with many projects to be completed

The current atmosphere that exists with the replacement of the DPW Superintendent and now with the Parks Supervisor with the thoughts of combining with another municipality or giving one person both jobs without adequate compensation or replacing a department head with a senior employee that is kind of in charge but has no real authority with the hopes that someone else picks up the administrative load and handles all the problems is ridiculous. The only thing this accomplishes is destroy morale and lets the workers in the Departments realize there is no upward mobility.

That being said the Scotia DHA is committed to helping the Mayor and Village Board find a solution to this.

Like you we Love the Village of Scotia and wants best for the Village its residents and its employees.

September 20, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Cook to adjourn the meeting at 7:35p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees