

Mayor Gifford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Cook, Trustee Gray, Trustee Rizzo, Trustee Solotruck, and Mayor Gifford

PRVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Gifford opened the privilege of the floor at 7:02pm

Amanda Gonzales-Barone of 6 No. Holmes Street; Submitted the following requests for use of ARPA funds taken from online poll of Scotia residents

- #1 request was to lower taxes, which generally falls outside the scope of fund use.
 - Possibly use in such a way to cover expenses that might cause taxes to increase to cover the cost (i.e. abnormal repairs that are not recurring, such as water station that was mentioned in one of the meetings)?
- Small business grant money
 - Scotia businesses have indicated a grant, not a loan, would be most helpful
- Roadway repairs, improvements, repaving and pothole repair
- Sidewalk repairs and additions
- Attract small businesses and improve business district (Mohawk Avenue)

Regarding facilities forum; neighbors and herself have several questions. Agree that better facilities are needed for our civil servants; but the presentation lacked details and was out of touch with the current state of the Village. Concerned with the following:

- Lack of transparency of project details
- Proposal from 2019 does not reflect the needs and financial situation of village today
- Public forum made it clear that this is about the illusion of creating an inclusion of the village residents not the reality of it

Concerned that the board of trustees is not listening to the concerns of the residents.

Presented a petition of February 9th asking the board to provide more information regarding breaking the tax cap this year; response was to dismiss the petition.

Asked the board to reconsider evaluating the current approach to the facilities project.

Loretta Rigney of 117 No. Toll Street; Stated that it is her opinion that a referendum on a new municipal building would be defeated by residents in the midst of inflation increases, increasing gas prices and an expected increase in property taxes. Regardless of the need for the facility, which admits that there is, having the referendum is a waste of time and money. There will be a new Mayor come December and saddling that person with an outdated plan, even if it would pass and no clear long-term plan for controlling spending and increasing non tax revenue is irresistible. Although municipal building is sorely lacking; does not have faith in current administration to effectively address these needs. Not in favor of pushing this agenda item further at this time.

Lynn Trudell Moore of 221 Glen Avenue provided the following statement to the clerk to be entered into the minutes:

The municipal project (Village Hall, Police Station and Fire Station) is once again up for consideration.

I ask the residents what are you going to do this time?

Some people compare this decision to their home budgets. Let me ask.....your roof is leaking. Through no fault of your own. Aging shingles, high winds. Now it must be replaced. But you haven't saved the money in your budget. You try fixing it yourself. Cobbing together repairs that work temporarily. The roof is getting worse every month that goes by. You find out you

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can get a loan at a decent rate. It will allow you to fix the roof, keep your family safe (in this case the comparison is keeping our municipal workers and visiting residents safe). You can pay it off over a long amount of time. But it will add to your budget. More than you really want to. What do you do?

You find a reputable contractor/builder. You look at that they have done for others. You start the project. You watch them as the project progresses. You hold them to the plan and their word. But you start.

Last night we heard from one of the most reputable builders in the state of this type of project. Yet, some didn't want to listen to or believe what he had to say. You asked about details of the project no matter how many times it was mentioned that the meeting was simply to decide on a space so that a plan can move forward.

Over and over he said that there are things that cannot be done until the project has the approval of the voters.

People didn't want to believe him.

I wonder why you don't trust him? You may not trust the mayor or the board, but why the builder? Some decided to believe Google instead of someone who has actually been involved in dozens of these projects. Why not Google the builder and see their reputation?

Some wanted to rehash what has been done in the last almost 20 years. Since 2003. Again, you don't trust him or the original committee or any of the mayors or trustees within that time who reviewed all of those places?

You asked about details of the project no matter how many times it was mentioned that the meeting was simply to decide on a space so that a plan can move forward. They were asking the residents WHERE they would prefer to build. Giving us a choice. But many attendees got bogged down with details that are not even answerable until a location is chosen.

I don't want higher taxes. I don't believe all of the trustees do either. But they are going up. Tax cap disputes, infrastructure repairs, county, state and federal mandates. Like it or not, they will increase. Things can and SHOULD be done every year to mitigate the increases as much as possible. But this one time in a century project should not be one of those things.

So stay involved in the process. Ask questions. Come to meetings. Get clarification. But don't argue just for the sake of arguing or because you have some grudge against the mayor or one of the trustees. That is not productive.

You don't trust the mayor? Fine. You don't trust the trustees? Fine. That is what elections are for. Show your displeasure at the ballot box.

Not moving forward with this process now will only cost us more money. More than a million dollars more. A million more I don't want to pay.

And it will not lead to the Village of Scotia into the 21st century with a municipal project it desperately needs to keep our community safe.

Thank you

Steve Sweeney lives in Scotia (address not provided); Regarding the meeting that was held last night; does not feel there enough information is being provided. Did not feel that the builder provided accurate information; there seems to be a disconnect between the builder, the board of trustees, the website and back to the public. To have the builder say that a traffic impact study is not needed is absolutely ridiculous; required since Route 5 is a NYS highway. Does not have enough information to vote on one or the other. Correct that the grant process is easier once the project is approved; would like to know beforehand the approximate amount of grant monies the Village can apply for.

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Sean O’Sullivan of 4 Red Coach Drive, present remotely; Believes there is 100% support for the need of new Municipal Facilities; believes the referendum would get voted down very quickly due to all the issues that have been previously discussed such as tax increases over last several years and lack of effort to mitigate increases in taxes. Concerned with the size of the proposed firehouse; if the size were to be reduced would one of the other sites that are not being considered may then qualify. If the board were able to provide a budget with no tax increase; the project would be approved.

Mayor Gifford closed the privilege of the floor at 7:22pm

COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas, the Scotia-Glenville School District and the Village of Scotia would like to establish a Community Resource Officer program at certain district schools, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign the Village of Scotia and Scotia-Glenville School District Community Resource Officer Agreement through June 20, 2023, substantially in the form presented, amending the payment period and in a final form approved by the Mayor and Police Chief.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

NYSDOT UNDERTAKING

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that

Whereas, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has installed generators that will be used for traffic signals along NYS highways in the Village in case of power outages, and

Whereas, the Village will be responsible for the maintenance of the generators, and

Whereas, in connection with the generator maintenance, upon the agreement and filing of an Undertaking with NYSDOT, further permits will not be required, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign Undertaking with NYSDOT for said generators.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

CHANGE ORDER #1 TO WWTP CONTRACT #6 -ACM ABATEMENT MONITORING

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Cook that

Whereas, Wastewater Pump Station Project Contract #6 is for ACM Abatement Monitoring by Professional Service Industries, Inc., and

Whereas, additional services are required for technician work, additional monitoring and project designer fees for asbestos removal in the amount of \$1,802.00, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign a change order for the WWTP General Construction Contract #6 to add \$1,802.00 to the original contract amount of \$3,545.00 for a new contract sum of \$5,347.00.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

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Abstentions: None

PAYMENT #1 FOR WWTP CONTRACT #6-ACM ABATEMENT MONITORING

MOVED by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that

Whereas, Wastewater Pump Station Project Contract #6 is for ACM Abatement Monitoring by Professional Service Industries, Inc., and

Whereas, a request has been made for payment #1 in the amount of \$4,172.00, and

Whereas, the Superintendent of Public Works has reviewed the request and approved it, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Payment #1 to Professional Service Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$4,172.00 for WWTP Contract #6 – ACM Abatement Monitoring.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

PAYMENT #2 TO M.J. ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING, PC

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Cook that

Whereas, the Village of Scotia received a grant for the Washington Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Connection Project, and

Whereas, as part of the grant work the Village entered into a contract with M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, PC for engineering services, and

Whereas, a request has been made for PAYMENT #2 in the amount of \$83,359.40, and

Whereas, the Superintendent of Public Works has reviewed the request and approved it, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Payment #2 to M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, PC in the amount of \$83,359.40 for the Washington Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Connection Project.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

VILLAGE OF SCOTIA HISORIAN REPORT FOR 2021

It was a quiet year, with COVID still strong even with vaccines becoming available for all except the under-5-year-olds. People adapted to a variety of levels of comfort with traveling and gathering, depending on their personal family and medical situations. Still, there was time to learn and to work on projects.

The Flint House was not open for office hours or drop-in visiting in 2021.

There were over 20 email inquiries I was able to research and either answer or suggest resources for the person's subsequent research.

The Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) held an online regional meeting in April, and the yearly conference in September was either in person or online. I attended the online sessions.

The yearly broomcorn crop was planted in June and harvested in September, and the hops planted near the shed actually did well this year. Unfortunately, it turned out to be true that they

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are very attractive to Japanese beetles. There were plenty of hops, but more needs to be learned about when/how to harvest before next year comes around.

One good result of the pandemic has been the proliferation of interesting webinars or online talks. Because they are now done on Zoom or a similar platform, it is possible to attend and learn from facilities all over the country. I attended over 30 of these events on topics in the following general categories: Museum education and outreach (including digital); preservation and protection of collections and the building; organization management; and history lectures and book talks, including New Netherland and other local topics.

I've been working with other local historians on a series of lectures for the UCALL program at Union College, to be delivered in the spring of 2022. This has involved online group meetings, reviewing previous research, doing some new research, and gathering notes and photographs for these presentations.

I assisted Scotia library staff to set up an exhibit at the Holiday on the Ave opening of the new library addition, and will be working with them to set up permanent or rotating exhibits in 2022. Looking ahead! 2024 is the village's 120th anniversary. I'd like to see a committee set up this year to suggest a few events to commemorate this. And planning has already started for the US 250th—I'll try to notify the board if I hear of things we might want to join in on, and of course we should also do something just for Scotia as well.

Beverly Clark

Village of Scotia Historian

Submitted February 7, 2022

MAYOR'S COMMENTS TO THE BOARD

Several meetings have been held this month; continuing to work on budget.

CORRESPONDENCE, LIAISON AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Solotruck— DPW – Met with representative from Little League regarding building batting cages in the park. Continuing work on park grants. Thanked Department Heads for work on budget; thankful for the services that the Village provides.

Trustee Rizzo – Special Event Committee will be having a Car Show meeting in April. Reports from the County that there may be discussions on suspending the sales tax on gasoline; State of New York having same discussions – would be helpful to all consumers.

Trustee Gray – Traffic Safety Committee will be held March 15th and Police Reform Committee will be meeting on March 22nd; will have report next month. Spoke with Supervisor Koetzle regarding several issues; hoping to have sign Broad Street Sidewalk Agreement shortly. There will be a meeting Thursday at 7:00 in the Firehouse for the Memorial Day Parade; has traditionally been known as Scotia-Glenville Memorial Day Parade; Town of Glenville contributes financially and Supervisor stated contribution is included in the budget. Encouraged all who would like to volunteer to attend meeting to be sure we have a continued successful parade. Library addition is a great space; hours have also been increased. Encouraged all to attend the meeting to be held on March 22nd regarding the Municipal Facilities. Wished Chief Almy the best in his retirement; thanked him and his department for all the work they do for the community. Congratulated Chief Wood, Captain Phillips and Lieutenant Henery on promotions and welcomed new hires Liam Hilt and Adam Wall. Firefighter Dan Marchand had completed arson investigation training at NYS Academy; member of Schenectady County Investigation Team. Code inspections and rental inspections continuing. Looking forward to the Community

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Resource Officer position being put into place in the Police Department. Appreciates all the work the departments do as a resident and as a member of the board.

Trustee Cook – Attending Zoning Board meeting regarding variance for a deck in backyard; variance approved pending feedback from neighbors.

Police Dept – Attended several meetings with Chief Harrigan; Village is blessed to have a Police Chief that understands close proximity and community policing is the best way to move forward. Thanked Superintendent and members of the School Board for their support of the Community Resource Office. Community Resource Officer will serve as a liaison between the Village and the School District. Thanked Ryan Kedzior, Jim Archibald and all the skilled DPW laborers working on fixing the support beams under Freedom Park stage. Will be attending the Traffic Safety Committee meeting to present proposed legislation for safe skating in the Village.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the February Departmental reports be accepted as presented with thanks.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Solotruck to approve the Budget Adjustments for the month of February.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Trustee Cook that be it resolved that all claims against the Village dated March 9, 2022 be allowed and ordered paid in full in the amount of \$214,032.14 charged to the following funds:

A-General Fund	\$ 165,171.03
F-Water Fund	\$ 40,539.24
G-Sewer Fund	\$ 8,321.87

Further the Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to draw checks in the claimants' favor and in the full amount listed and charge the same to the funds listed therein.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2022

MOVED by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the February 9, 2022 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 21, 2022

MOVED by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that the minutes of the February 21, 2022 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 1, 2022

MOVED by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 7, 2022

MOVED by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the March 7, 2022 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 8, 2022

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray that the minutes of the March 8, 2022 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Cook proposed that the board have discussions on creating a policy that all public meetings are published on website; to set a precedent for future boards in requiring videos to be posted.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Trustee Solotruck to adjourn the meeting at 8:05p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees