

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Williamsville held in the Williamsville Village Hall, 5565 Main Street, Williamsville, New York on Monday, March 11, 1991 at 7:34 P.M.

Present: Lawrence R. Brenton, Mayor  
Robert V. Bindert, Trustees  
Ronald Daniels  
Yvonne Kaye  
Richard P. Sweeney  
  
Thomas V. Troy, Village Attorney  
Theresa L. Cummins, Village Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Brenton called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 P.M.

ON MOTION by Mayor Brenton, seconded by Trustee Daniels, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 25, 1991 were approved.

Unanimously carried.

Mayor Brenton reported the Village Clerk was authorized and directed to attend a meeting of various municipal officials which was held recently in Albany. She attended that trip and has provided Mayor Brenton with a report which he read into the minutes.

Mayor Brenton thanked the Village Clerk for the brief synopsis of what transpired. He thinks Clerk Cummins has provided ample evidence of what is taking place in Albany as far as the position of the legislature versus the governor's proposed budgetary cutbacks. Mayor Brenton thinks as far as the Village is concerned, we were very well represented at that conference.

Mayor Brenton also stated that many homeowners have received in their mail this weekend the revaluation of their properties. Mayor Brenton stated he is directing his comments to only those that are residents of the Village of Williamsville. In all instances that he has heard of, the revaluation has created a tremendous increase in the paper value of the individual property holdings. The little discussion he has had with residents outside of the Village seems to indicate that property values in their areas have not increased at as rapid a rate. He talked to one resident this evening, before he came to this meeting who had a 67% increase in his property, which coincidentally has been in the hands of the husband's family for probably 45 or 50 years. He uses this as a stark example, of what he feels to be, an inept or certainly unprofessional method of determining value of real estate solely within the Village of Williamsville.

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He bases his conclusion in the fact that the previously identified property has remained in that person's hands over the years and the only thing that they have done to it is paint it. For it to up 67% in a 3 year period, which he feels is probably closer to a 2 year period, shows a certain degree of inept figures or whatever else is involved on the part of the assessment office of the Town of Amherst. Mayor Brenton feels that anyone, including himself, who does not agree with the values should attend the next town board meeting and express their displeasure with the Town government, who has jurisdiction over assessments within the Village of Williamsville as well as the Town of Amherst. He himself has experienced a 40% increase on another piece of property that he holds within the Village of Williamsville. He thinks there is something drastically the matter with the assessor's office. He also doesn't believe that the average citizen has the ability to go out and find comparable parcels nor does that average citizen have the time to do that. Mayor Brenton thinks the average citizen should go and if they cannot go, call their representatives and make their wishes or displeasure known to the Town of Amherst. He goes back to the individual that has had a 67% increase on a piece of property that has been in family name and in which that individual has resided for 50 years. Something is the matter.

Mayor Brenton reported the Village Board has concluded it's budget preparation as far as meeting together as a group and determining what the tax rate and the needs commensurate with the ability to pay on the part of our citizens will be in the next fiscal year which begins on June 1. We have worked diligently in the face of Governor Cuomo's budgetary cutbacks to arrive at a fair tax rate and still continue the services that we have grown to enjoy and expect from the Village of Williamsville. In addition, we are adding to our costs the recycling program which is definitely going to cost us additional money, at least in the start up stages. Mayor Brenton then read the budget message. (Copy attached). Mayor Brenton stated he asked the Clerk to compile what effect Governor Cuomo's budgetary cutbacks would have on our tax structure. She did so and we came up with an approximate 28% increase if all things were equal. From that increase we have proceeded to our tentative budget and we have reduced that percent dramatically. Mayor Brenton stated that he has discussed our situation with our Albany representatives and they are aware, having come from the grass roots level themselves, of the plight of all municipalities. He thinks they are going to do everything within their power to assist not only our municipality but all municipalities that are so drastically effected by Governor Cuomo's cutbacks.

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Mayor Brenton can also say that this Village Board has done an excellent job and the department heads in particular in formulating this budget. He will emphasize the fact again that if Governor Cuomo had not eliminated the funding for this government, we actually would have had no tax increase this year. He thinks that is something we can all be proud of.

ON MOTION by Mayor Brenton, seconded by Trustee Daniels, vouchers in the amount of \$274,990.91 covering 2/21/91 - 3/7/91 were approved:

|                                 |    |                   |
|---------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| payroll fund w/e 2/27/91-3/7/91 | \$ | 21,547.03         |
| General fund                    |    | 230,165.76        |
| Water fund                      |    | 9,043.65          |
| Sewer fund                      |    | 7,326.68          |
| Glen Park Joint Activities fund |    | 208.27            |
| Trust & Agency fund             |    | <u>6,699.52</u>   |
| *Grand Total*                   |    | <u>274,990.91</u> |

Large Vouchers:

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Town of Amherst (Balance Sewer Bill) | \$106,876.00 |
| Hutchinson Hose (35% Money)          | 76,096.65    |

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Daniels stated the one resolution that he did have along with one that Trustee Kaye is regarding calling for bids for Glen Park Security and we're going to pull those resolutions and discuss the contract term for the bidding for the security service. Those are going to be pulled.

Trustee Daniels reported that next Saturday at 8:00 P.M. in the Meeting House will be a group called the Triminy Singers. It's a vocal octet. They'll be performing sacred and secular baroque and renaissance music. It's a really beautiful sounding hall for vocal music. If you have a bent towards classical fare with some humor put in, they sing the first half in monks robes for instance. You're welcome to join us. The cost is \$6.00, \$4.00 for students and seniors. It's 8:00 P.M. next Saturday, March 16.

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Trustee Daniels knows Clerk Cummins attended the New York state conference on Tuesday and Wednesday. The conference actually began with NYCOM, the Conference of Mayors, which ended before she arrived. So between the two of us, since he was able to attend the conference with mayors, we had a very well rounded representation for the Village of Williamsville. The first day he arrived was Monday and then he spent through Tuesday afternoon. Those 2 days were more or less speakers. So it was an information gathering type of forum. We had all sorts of assemblymen and senators speaking one after another with the same glum \$6 billion deficit message and the reasons for it and not really excusing it but saying it was a definitely real \$6 billion deficit and as in past years people would go and complain and they'd say well okay maybe we can give you this or that. This year doesn't seem to be that scenario. It's seems more the case of who's going to get the burden. Right now the thinking is that the villages and towns will have to raise property tax in order to make up a good deal of that \$6 billion deficit. They are cutting some state programs and some employees and all state programs are suffering. There were several things that really bothered villages in particular. We have 2 months left on the Village budget and if these cuts go in effect in April, then we have April and May without any projected state funding coming in. So there may be a \$60,000 or so short fall in the Village, which we who were there and meeting later with several of the senators and assemblymen, would like to have relief from those types of cuts which we cannot anticipate and which put a big burden on this year's budget which was unanticipated and because of that we would like some sort of formula worked out or mandate relief for those 2 months. That's one real possibility that might come out of all the lobbying efforts that were going on there. As they went through the legislative offices you really had to push your way through groups of teachers. The Blind Association was there and there were dogs in the hall. Just about every group in the state. Every senator and assemblyman was eating lunch at their desks during the day. Their schedule of meetings filled their day. It was all very important because they are aware that there are alot of people upset in New York state, which is the 13th highest taxed state. If you figure local taxes in that, we're head and shoulders above any other state. Something has to be done. We have to rethink the way we've done business before.

Trustee Daniels stated because he was at this conference he was unable to attend the Village Board meeting 2 weeks ago. He would like to review some of the Board minutes of that meeting for clarification purposes, particularly the part that involved Glen Park and the filling of a skating rink, which seemed to be an unanswered question at the last meeting.

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When Glen Park was originally constructed a skating rink was planned off Glen Avenue behind the Nature building. The depression for it is in the ground and there's lighting for it. The thinking was that it would be flooded during the winter and afford skating for the area. After having tried it for several years, the idea was abandoned because the condition of the ice was never good and they had trouble keeping water in there. Recently one of the residents in the community, Bob Krieter who has a great interest in these types of things, consulted with Trustee Daniels as liaison to the Glen Park Board about resurrecting the idea. We would try a different approach and block the drain in the middle of this pond area. We did attempt to block the drain arranged by the Fire Department to bring their fire trucks to the location and they pumped 1500 gallons of water into the depression in the hopes that this would then be a skating facility for the community and especially in time for the winterfest, which was approximately a week away. Our attempts were unsuccessful. Yes, we did lose that 1500 gallons of water. The question that was raised at the last meeting was who was going to pay for the 1500 gallons of water that were pumped in the pond? Deputy Mayor Kaye thought that was a very good question since it had not been brought up to the Board in advance. However, he had brought it up to the Glen Park Joint Board. Trustee Daniels didn't feel it was a subject of great controversy and besides 1500 gallons of water at our current rate is only \$3.54. It's not an item that is going to by any means break a budget. On the other hand, we certainly are against any kind of fiscal waste and he will see that he will make a check out to the Village of Williamsville for \$3.54 worth of water.

Trustee Daniels stated at the state Conference of Mayors we met with John Hasker, the co-chair of the state task force on volunteer fire fighters. He knows that the firemen in Hutchinson Hose are very interested in starting a Service Awards program, basically a pension plan, which would afford volunteer firemen a pension based on years of service and a point system for training sessions and fire calls that they participate in. Through this session he became more familiar with the court case that NYCOM, the Conference of Mayors, has against the state for what they feel is unconstitutional legislation. Also at that conference was a speaker, Ed Hulahan, who has set up more of these programs state wide than any other actuary. He determines costs and pay out for pension plans and knew quite a bit about this program. Presently 23 states have this type of awards program for their volunteers. The thinking is that it is certainly easier to set up a pension plan than it is to start paying the firemen. Apparently there are 40 municipalities in the state of New York that already have the program set up. It appears as if no matter what the outcome of the NYCOM suit, it's in the cards to be instituted in the future, even in Williamsville. He encouraged the Board and Hutchinson Hose to get together and start planning

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options and researching the program for the future when we feel the plan would be a good one for the community financially and also for the firemen.

Trustee Kaye thanked Trustee Daniels for clearing up the water incident in Glen Park. Her primary question was about money but also as liaison to the Fire department, would have liked to have been notified that Trustee Daniels was going to use fire equipment for this purpose. She is glad to see that there were only 1500 gallons used rather than what was initially thought to be many more thousands of gallons. She also had checked with the Fire department to see exactly how many gallons had been metered through the water system. In talking to the past liaison for the Glen Park Committee, it is her understanding there had been much discussion about ponds and how to provide that wonderful service of ice skating for kids in the park. They had never solved that particular problem and were aware of the fact that plugging up that drain was not the answer because it leaked in the past.

Trustee Kaye thanked the community, the DFW and the Fire Department and all the volunteers that helped with the bin distribution for the recycling bins on this past Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday. It was a tremendous turnout and we were very pleased with it. She said a special thank you to BFI who brought the actual recycling vehicle and Biffy Bear with them. Biffy Bear gave out balloons and a variety of other give aways to the kids. The Amherst Youth Board did face painting as well. It really turned out to be a wonderful event. We were very fortunate with the weather, particularly on Saturday. Between the bin distribution on those 3 days and the distribution that has occurred from the condominium owners and the apartment owners who either came to pick up their bins and distributed them within their complexes or that we gave them to the complex and they distributed them, we're about 2/3 of the way through our distribution. We will have all bins distributed prior to the March 19th, which is the start up date of recycling. There will be a combination of volunteers who will be distributing those bins, in particular the Boy Scouts, who did a wonderful job at the distribution. We were thrilled to have them as volunteers. The DFW will also be assisting in that bin distribution. She reminded everyone to mark their calendar for the week of March 19, it will begin recycling and it will be on your regular garbage day. If you do have some questions, please let us know. We will be happy to help. Also, BFI has their number printed on the back of the brochure. They'll be happy to help if you have any questions in terms of what can and can't be put in to your bin.

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Trustee Kaye reported the first meeting of the Ambulance Advisory Committee was held on March 1. This is a new committee which is a joint committee between the Village and the Town regarding the new contract with La Salle Ambulance. The Board is made up of representatives for La Salle Ambulance, the Town attorney, James Nesper, doctors from Millard Suburban, an individual from Erie County EMS, also 3 fire chiefs from Amherst, Ray Braun, the Senior Fire Dispatcher, the Chiefs Association president James Olivieri and also James Zymanek, the first Assistant Chief of Hutchinson Hose, who represents the Village of Williamsville. It was a very brief meeting to discuss how the contract with La Salle is going. So far, it's been working out very well. The only item they did was a change of some wording in the contract, which was very slight and was about response time for the ambulance in the case of automobile accidents requiring extrication. It was just a very technical detail. James Zymanek in his written report said the general concensus of the committee was to give the residents the best possible service and try to maintain enough work and visibility for all the volunteers. The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis.

Trustee Kaye stated her resolution is an appointment of James Maxson to the Parks Committee. He has been an active volunteer who has helped with the Big Toy and with clearing brush from the Lehigh Memory Trail and several other activities. We did have an opening on the Parks Committee and are pleased to have him join us.

ON MOTION by Trustee Kaye, seconded Trustee Daniels, the following resolution was hereby adopted:

RESOLVED THAT James Maxson, 43 Stanton Street, is hereby appointed to the Parks Committee until the end of the 1990-1991 official Village year.

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Sweeney reaffirmed that the recodification project he has been involved with is nearing a completion. Some of the local laws that have been passed by the Village Board take in the neighborhood of 6 weeks to be rewritten by the General Municipal Code Company so we will be waiting approximately another 6 weeks before we will have the latest 3 chapters of our code rewritten and back to us in sufficient quantity to make a distribution. We also have received some additional procedural information from the General Municipal Code Corporation concerning the adoption of the rewritten code.

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Trustee Sweeney also reported, on a rather disappointing note, that at the last Village Historic Preservation Commission Meeting he was advised by one of the long standing members that she will be resigning at the end of this term. It's with some regret that that commission will lose the services of a past Trustee Rosemarie Sugg. He will follow through with a more formal recognition of her service when he does get an official notice that she is resigning. He stated that Village reorganization of the Historic Preservation Committee and other committees will be upcoming in April. There is presently vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission with one resignation about to occur. He therefore would like to hear from citizens in the Village of Williamsville who are interested in Historic Preservation, the heritage of this community so that he can hopefully fill that advisory commission to it's full capacity very shortly.

Trustee Bindert stated he has one resolution that deals with the public hearing that we held regarding the 1991-1992 Community Development Funds. We are fortunate enough to actually be receiving a few dollars more than what we had anticipated. We had expected about \$36,000 in funds; however, we will be receiving \$40,880 which in the whole scope of events is **really** just a drop in the bucket, but at least it's something.

ON MOTION by Trustee Bindert, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, the following resolution was hereby adopted:

RESOLVED THAT the 1991-1992 Community Development Funds are hereby apportioned as follows:

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| \$8,000       | Housing Rehabilitation             |
| 9,180         | Village target area infrastructure |
| <u>23,700</u> | Village Water Planning Study       |
| <u>40,880</u> | Total 1991-1992 Funds              |

Unanimously carried.

Superintendent of Public Works, David Laubisch, reported that the management services or personnel of the following: Williamsville Court apartments, the Carriage House Apartment, the Williamsville Tower Condominiums and the Drexel Hill apartments assisted the Village in the distribution of the recycling containers within their facilities. A number of the residents at these facilities are senior citizens and their cooperation in this matter was wonderful. He would be doing a disservice if he did not thank them in helping the Village institute the recycling program within their complexes.

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He would also like to mention that many residents have signed stump removal releases. The DPW will be starting this stump removal process beginning next week or the latter part of this week. Also on March 1, Friday, the Village of Williamsville experienced 2 water breaks simultaneously within 35 minutes of each other. One was at the corner of Chalmers and Gordon and one was in the middle of Main Street at Main and Mill. David Laubisch complimented both the DPW forces and other personnel. We had a call in to repair these leaks. It was done in a very professional fashion with the least amount of inconvenience to the business community on Main Street because of the location and actually the least amount of inconvenience to everyone concerned. He also complimented our water maintenance man, Don Dehn. We had another water break which was leaking in excess close to 100 thousand gallons of water a day and none of this was coming to the surface. Mr. Dehn was able to locate this leak up on Lakeledge. The leak was dug and repaired at a tremendous savings to the Village taxpayers and it was through Mr. Dehn's diligent efforts that it was found. They are not easy to find when they are not coming to the surface.

Trustee Kaye said a special thanks to Superintendent Laubisch and the DPW forces for making sure that the bin distribution ran well and bins were available as they were needed. She also thanked the distribution coordinator, Mary Lowther, who is here this evening. Thanks for keeping everything organized, and again to Clerk Cummins and the office staff.

ON MOTION by Mayor Brenton, seconded by Trustee Kaye, it was moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of public participation.

Unanimously carried.

Jim Hayes, 160 Farber Lane, stated our Village is in the news today about an incident that happened over the weekend with regard to the upcoming election on March 19. An incident that many might consider politics as usual but he believes a circumstance that's created an opportunity for all of us to do a service to Village residents. He read a letter which he had sent Mary Lowther, the Chairperson of both the Village party and Frank Saviola, the Chairman of the Village Harmony party. "Dear Ms. Lowther and Mr. Saviola, I am writing to strongly protest the political lawn sign abuses that have occurred in this year's Village of Williamsville's campaign. The latest revelation of lawn sign mischief in our Village, see page B-5 of this morning's Buffalo News, has convinced me that the current situation has gotten a bit out of control. While I recognize and respect an individuals right to free speech, I have never been a fan of lawn signs in a political campaign.

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In fact, I believe them to be a waste of money, a form of visual pollution which detracts from the natural beauty of our Village homesites and as we witnessed over the weekend, such signs often create an unnecessary opportunity for mischievous vandalism. Additionally, I believe that political signs do nothing to educate voters on the issues that are involved in the ongoing campaign. Therefore, I'd like to propose that both the Village party and the Village Harmony party agree to a voluntary ban on the use of political signs, both for the remainder of this campaign and future elections. At the town, county and state federal level to make a similar commitment to preserve the quality of our environment. I look forward to your reply." Mr. Hayes asked for the reaction of individuals Board members to that letter. He knows that the Board can't take an official position or an official action on it, but he feels if they would make their views known on it and could use their own personal influence in supporting such a voluntary ban, perhaps we could achieve the objective he states in the letter and that is preserving the quality of our environment.

Maryanne Avery, 64 Garrison Road, stated she doesn't know how long Mr. Hayes has lived in the Village, but it seems to her the Board has been through this before.. She thinks people have brought up campaign signs and whether they should have them or not and how big they should be. This has gone on for quite some time. Many times the signs, especially on the north side of Main Street, have just disappeared completely. They haven't just been moved, they're gone. She noticed walking because shes walks around quite a bit and she can't help but notice they are torn right smack in half or they're just gone, which is unfortunate but that's what happens in a campaign and it happens in every campaign and it happens to both sides. This is the first time the signs have stayed up in front of her house. Generally, they are stomped down. The last big campaign they stomped down many signs. It didn't make the slightest bit of difference if they were republican or democrat. Or they walked off with them. This is part of the fun and games of politics. This is part of the psychology of having tickets because you have your campaign workers and they have to do something. They have to get organized and they have to go up and they put up these signs and they get their relatives to help and that insures that somebody will come to the polls and vote. This is part of the campaign. Mr. Hayes would just take all the fun out of it.

Trustee Daniels stated that the points Ms. Avery made beared very strongly in support of Jim Hayes and his suggestion that if this type of thing goes on, and we know it always does go on, then it is something that should not be condoned.

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Trustee Daniels thinks it's a mess in the Village as the signs blow down into the hedges and he believes there should be some way of controlling this. He realizes it's a freedom of speech issue. However, here we are in fiscal times where everyone is trying to cut back and he knows we spend hundreds of dollars on signs that don't tell you a thing about a candidate.

Mary Lowther, 120 North Ellicott, stated there are certainly some benefits to be had from the statement of banning signs. However, she doesn't believe a sign has ever encouraged or made anyone vote for a candidate or an issue. She thinks that signs encourage people to talk to each other. She thinks that leads to interaction about things that are happening in our Village and campaign issues. She thinks it's always interesting to see who is supporting who. That's one of her favorite pastimes, to look at signs on somebody's lawn and say "yeah, well Joe Smith is supporting this candidate or that candidate". She thinks that signs will always blow down. She thinks that signs will always be vandalized by neighborhood children or other adults who have childish bents during political campaigns. She thinks the Village has done an excellent job in regulating the size of the signs we have by taking a refundable deposit to make sure that our garbage is cleaned up after a campaign. She would certainly hope that the Village would never move to eliminate campaign signs. She thinks they are an integral part of our society and she thinks they serve an important purpose.

Mayor Brenton recommended the Board withhold it's judgement on this question because Mr. Hayes' communication was directed to the chairmen of the parties and he thinks the Board should deliberate over a sufficient length of time before answering Mr. Hayes but he thinks probably to try to remove all signs legislatively would be illegal.

ON MOTION by Mayor Brenton, seconded by Trustee Kaye, it was moved at 8:35 P.M. to return to the regular agenda.

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Sweeney commented he truly agrees with the Mayor. He has tried to resist the temptation to use this platform to address the Village population concerning his political views and therefore he welcomes the Mayor's advice to refrain from commenting on Mr. Hayes' suggestion at this time. He doesn't feel he is being restrained. He feels he is being given some good advice.

Trustee Bindert commented that this suggestion was made when he ran 4 years ago by the Independent People's party. Trustee Bindert is not in favor of restricting someone's freedom of expression.

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Trustee Daniels commented that, in his understanding that this would be a voluntary agreement between the 2 parties. If anyone wanted to put up a sign on their property, get out the paint, get out the crayons and put it up, it's their unalienable right in the United States to do so as a freedom of speech. It can never be taken away from anyone. What happens however is he feels it gets out of control and it's a contest. We have so many other ways to communicate now. Each candidate has in a small area, such as Williamsville, ample opportunity to knock on doors and visit people. There's plenty of time to have their flyers distributed many times over. He doesn't think it's a case of people not understanding the issues. A sign certainly doesn't tell you anything about issues. It may be a lot of fun for some people as Ms. Avery suggests, but Trustee Daniels thinks it is a total waste of money and energy poorly spent.

Mayor Brenton stated as he understands it from Trustee Daniels, Trustee Daniels thinks signs are a waste of money and poorly spent, however you do agree that it is in effect a constitutional right of an individual to place such signs as long as our laws allow for him or her to do so.

Trustee Daniels stated correct.

Trustee Kaye commented in response any individual could take out their paint or crayon and do it so that in fact an individual would really need to come to the Building Department to the Village Hall and secure a sign permit and have it within the constraints and the boundaries of what we require here in our Village code so in fact that could make it very difficult for individuals who wanted to express themselves to be able to go to that point. Her last comment is we all talked about this not being political but it seems to have turned into that by the variety of comments that have been made here tonight. You talk about feeling that signs are inappropriate, that signs are not noteworthy, but yet it's amazing to her that we have these comments when in fact Trustee Daniels chose to show so many signs in a picture and made a definite statement about signs in that kind that you would come out with a statement today that you feel they don't have any value because obviously you felt there was some value in there yesterday.

Trustee Daniels stated he did not place those signs on his lawn. He was not showing those signs. They just happen to be there.

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Mayor Brenton stated he would refrain from discussing that if we possibly could. As he understands it, that matter has been referred to the Amherst Police Department. It's being investigated and should not have public comment until the investigations are thoroughly completed by the agencies that are responsible for those investigations.

Mayor Brenton stated signs don't vote, people vote.

ON MOTION by Mayor Brenton, seconded by Trustee Kaye, it was moved to close the meeting at 8:43 p.M.

Unanimously carried.

Theresa L. Cummins  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

James P. Hayes

160 Farber Lane  
Williamsville, NY 14221

March 11, 1991

Mr. Frank Saviola  
Chairman  
The Village Harmony Party  
8 Brookside Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Mr. Saviola:

I am writing to strongly protest the political lawn sign abuses that have occurred in this years' Village of Williamsville campaign.

The latest revelation of lawn sign mischief in our Village (see page B-5 of this morning's Buffalo News) has convinced me that the current situation has gotten out of control.

While I recognize and respect an individual's right to free speech, I have never been a fan of the use of lawn signs in a political campaign. In fact, I believe them to be a waste of money; a form of visual pollution which detracts from the natural beauty of our Village homesites, and, as we witnessed over the weekend, such signs often create an unnecessary opportunity for mischievous vandalism.

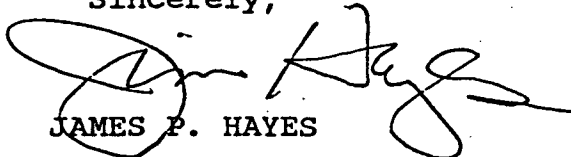
Additionally, political signs do nothing to educate voters on the issues involved in the ongoing campaign.

Therefore, I would like to propose that both the Village Party and The Village Harmony Party agree to a voluntary ban on the use of political signs, both for the remainder of this year's campaign and for future elections.

Hopefully, such a voluntary restraint by Village of Williamsville political parties will encourage candidates for public office at the Town, County, State and Federal level to make a similar commitment to preserving the quality of our environment.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



JAMES P. HAYES

cc: Ms. Mary Lowther