

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Williamsville held in the Williamsville Village Hall, 5565 Main Street, Williamsville, New York on Monday, September 29, 1992 at 7:39 P.M.

*Present: Ronald Daniels, Mayor
James Hayes Trustees
Patrick Kelly
Mary Lowther
Yvonne Kaye*

*Thomas Troy, Village Attorney
Elaine Smith-Honan, Deputy Clerk
David Laubisch, Supt. of Public Works*

Absent Theresa L. Cummins, Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

The Deputy Clerk read the notice of public hearing held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Williamsville at 7:35 P.M. on Monday, September 29, 1992 in the Village Hall, 5565 Main Street, Williamsville, New York for the purpose of hearing all persons interested in discussing a proposed local law on the water rate increase.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kelly, the public hearing was opened at 7:39 P.M.

Unanimously carried.

Mayor Daniels stated this is an overview of the Water Authority's proposal. It's basically about a 14% increase in their service water rate which they charge the user. We are a gross user and pay at the meter that's coming into the village then charge the customers in the village through the Williamsville Village Water Department. This is the third increase in as many years and hopefully will be the last. They have set up a system of improvements and justifications for why they need the increase and it has to do with infrastructure improvements, the zebra muscle and some increase in capacity that they would like to implement. Erie County, although they went through several years of non improvement are now tackling the whole system and upgrading and improving it in this 3 or 4 year plan. They also have added on a summer surcharge of .51 per thousand gallons based on how much water you use in the summer months as opposed to the winter months. There's a very complicated and convoluted type of charge, especially for people who may not be in Buffalo. Let's assume someone is retired and has a condo in Florida and doesn't use any water during the winter months. Then they come back in the summer and immediately as they use the water, anything over 20% more than the winter usage is charged .51 per thousand gallons more. So if you are not here during the winter and you use water in the summer, you're going to pay .51 per thousand more on top of the already increased 14% that they are adding on. Mayor Daniels does have all the figures and they are available if anyone wants any specifics. This water rate increase will have to be reflected in some way in the village rate increase and adopted on the next meeting day of the village board which will be October 13th.

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Henry Stroman, 116 Eagle Street, stated he just heard the Mayor announce that this is a 14% increase?

Mayor Daniels stated yes.

Trustee Kelly stated to the Village of Williamsville it is 15.52%.

Mr. Stroman stated we hear continually from our government that there is no inflation. He would like to hear from the Water Authority how they justify at 14 % or 15% increase when we are told there is no inflation. This past week we were surprised with some school tax bills who also feel there is no inflation but none the less there is an 8 1/2 % increase in our school taxes. Along with these increases we also see a decrease in interest rates. There are a few of us who are seniors and it looks to him as though the seniors are getting squeezed to death. The Water Authority is notorious for the publicity they receive frequently on their salaries, on their retirements, on their various benefits and so on. He would like to hear that the village takes exception to some of these things, particularly the increase and ask how they verify it. True, they are trying to improve the infrastructure. It seems to him there has to be some sort of justification for these tremendous increases. Perhaps the board can find something out.

Mayor Daniels stated in previous years the brochures put out by Erie County Water Authority were very glossy, very professionally done, very expensive representations of the Erie County Water Authority. This year, this is the largest increase that they are asking for but they knew if they came out with a glossy summary again, people would certainly hit on that, he certainly would of and he did last year when it came out very glossy. Other than the colored piece of paper on the front and back, it's as basic as you can get. The thrust of this summary is a defense of all of the things that they have been doing productively in the Water Authority to give the village a good value for the money and also it shows how their personnel is very carefully selected. Most of the positions are competitive, 65% are competitive positions. In regular New York State government only 39% are competitive. They have all kinds of tables and charts showing how Erie County Water delivers the water to residents cheaper than almost anybody else. Then they pick out all of the municipalities in the area and show that the Erie County Water Authority is very economically staffed and how the \$22,500 salary each commissioner receives is just .3 a year for each customer. They went way out of their way to defend this increase before it was ever announced. It's still something that the village doesn't have a lot of ability to fight.

Mr. Stroman stated it should be noted that this is a very substantial increase.

Mayor Daniels stated they have a chart that shows the water rates of all the municipalities in and around Erie County. In Akron, for instance, the cost for 25,000 gallons of water in 1991 is \$145.00. In the Village of Williamsville for that same amount of water is \$84.75. We are about in the middle some place in there. Kenmore, who does not use Erie County Water, they use Buffalo water, that same amount of water is \$32.20. We don't have the luxury of using either source.

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Mr. Stroman stated he wants to emphasize he knows it's not the board's responsibility.

Mayor Daniels stated if we refuse to raise the rates we are in big trouble.

Trustee Kelly stated last year when they passed the water increase we sent a strongly worded unanimous resolution to Governor Cuomo and to our State Legislators in Albany. We plan on doing it again this year to ask for an abolishment of the Water Authority or something to that effect and have it changed to a board of users, which he thinks would be more representative. Trustee Kelly wants to point out that although they publicize it as 14%, to the Village of Williamsville it is 15.52% plus the surcharge. We're going to have to figure out some way to make sure that the village itself is protected on the surcharge. We still have a small deficit of \$1,500 - \$1,600 as of the beginning of this fiscal year, June 1st that we inherited from 2 or 3 years ago and we've been widdling down. There's a number of things that have to be done in the village and we have to make sure that we are protected and we're not taking our general revenues and putting it towards the water. So we're going to have to make sure we are protected in our water rate increase. Unfortunately, this is something that is going to have to be done. We can't take the situation that we ran into a number of years ago when it wasn't passed and that's how we got into a deficit situation. We shouldn't dip into our general fund to pay for water because our previous board didn't pass the increase quick enough. All we can do is rant and rave and hopefully the state government will do something about it. Technically, it's not a government subdivision, it's technically a private corporation under government control. Most of the state organizations aren't like that but we don't have a right to vote people in. Something should be done to change that.

Trustee Hayes stated he thinks it's good to go back each year at this point when the Erie County Water Authority tries to raise the rates to review just what the Water Authority is, what it's comprised of and what our role and position should be because he thinks it is very easy for us to brush it off and say we can't do very much about it. Last year he was outraged at the increase proposed and did quite a bit of research with the assistance of Attorney Troy. On how the Water Authority was established and how, in fact, it is run. Rather than considering it a nameless, faceless organization, it is an Authority that is governed by a three man Board of Commissioners. They are Joseph Crangle, former Chairman of the Erie County Democratic party, Vincent Sorrentino, the current Chairman of the Erie County Democratic party and Edward J. Rutkowski, Republican. He's the one that gave us the 8% sales tax. The three of them have been sticking it to water users across the county ever since they took control of the Authority. Patronage jobs, big payroll, big cars and glossy reports are all documented. There have been State Assembly inquiries in to the matter. The fact of it all lies in that the governor has the power to appoint the people to those positions and the State Legislature has the power to abolish the Authority and could if it decided to replace it with a Board of Managers. That's what he did last year in sending a strongly worded letter both to Governor Cuomo and to our local representatives in the State Assembly and the State Senate and then the leaders, the majority and the minority leaders of both houses asking them to consider the legislation. To date, he has received one response to his request. It's the mouse that roared in the face of the State Legislature.

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He received one response from Assemblyman Rick Anderson, who Trustee Hayes noticed recently in the face of this increase, is calling for additional reforms at the Water Authority in general. Trustee Hayes thinks the correct approach that this board and other municipalities across the county indeed across the state where there are other agencies of this type need to do is to continue to focus the direction and the outrage of citizens squarely at the feet of the governor and the legislature and until they get the message, we are going to be forced to put up with these type of behaviors. If the Authority was changed to a Board of Managers, you could have several municipal officers, several mayors from across the area making those decisions who would in turn be accountable as elected representatives to people who actually pay the bill. These three fellows are not accountable to anyone and so that's how they can get away with these kind of rate increases. They go through a very long list every year trying to justify the rate increases with everything from the zebra muscle problem on down but the fact of the matter is if you look through the reports and read them carefully as he has, the increases are not substantiated. They could take a good lesson on running things right here from the Village of Williamsville, where we take a look at our budget every year and last year we were able to come across with a no tax increase budget. Trustee Hayes is going to continue the fight to be the mouse that roared to send the letters to the State Legislature and try to get as much attention on it as possible. He thinks citizens in the Village of Williamsville and across the county should do the same thing.

Trustee Kaye stated in addition to the 15% increase, is the .51 per thousand surcharge. It appears that the Water Authority really didn't take a look at how that really impacts people. Trustee Kaye stated she had asked Administrator Cummins if she would call the Water Authority and find out how they had planned to bill their individual users for that charge and they have not made a definite decision. They have 2 methods that they are considering in terms of how they will bill that surcharge. They are is really, as they say, trying to cut back on user consumption of water. Trustee Kaye has a real concern that she doesn't think that necessarily just increasing the price of water cuts back on the consumption of water, that there is no education program planned to go hand in hand on how to teach people how to conserve water. All we are really doing is gouging people when they use more water and particularly those people who go out of town during the winter. When they come back they have had no winter consumption, so suddenly they become well over the 120% increase of water usage immediately. She has a real concern that the Water Authority has not sat down and really analyzed this properly before they turned it over to the municipalities and now we are stuck with looking at how do we do this fairly to our residents, particularly those who are on fixed incomes, the seniors who many times go away during our cold winter months and come back and will, unfortunately, be hit with this kind of an increase. She has a real problem with that in addition to what has already been said on this board.

Mayor Daniels stated increases of this sort, if they do cause people to conserve, work against the rate increase because that means they are actually taking in less money and then have to increase the rate again because people are using less water. That happened with the gas rates one year. Any product you raise the price of, you will be selling less of and that makes everything from paying the employees to upkeeping your system more difficult, so it's a spiral that never ends. It's the wrong way to look at this.

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We should look internally for dollar savings, things that in the long run will be improvements that will save us money. On the one hand in their report they say that they are encouraging people to use less water, yet in the end of their report they are encouraging other municipalities to join in their system because they have more than enough capacity to include five or six new communities in the amount of water that they process. It's double talk.

Trustee Lowther stated her problem is with the surcharge also. She feels that by saying if you use more water in the summer, which you normally would, especially if you are someone that goes away during the winter months, to her it amounts to saying the gas company should charge us a surcharge because we use our furnaces during the winter, which is when we are cold and when we need heat. It's basically, to her, the same thing and she thinks it is very unfair and she agrees, she doesn't think they thought it through other than looking at the bottom line and seeing that they can make a big killing on that. She thinks there will be a lot more study on this before we finally do, unfortunately, pass the increase because we haven't got much choice. She certainly agrees with Trustee Hayes that we need to continue to petition the State Legislature and the Governor because she thinks this is a situation that is really unfair to our residents and unfair to everyone in this entire community.

Mayor Daniels stated because we do control the rates in our own system and our costs of running the system internally are reflected in our water rate, the thing that we can do and we are going to begin looking into now are ways to make our operations more efficient. There are a lot of ideas out there that will be explored in the near future. Everything from the way we read the water meters and who reads them and remote meters to the possibility of an extra employee in the department to keep our leakage down to a reasonable amount that will save us money and then be reflected in lower water rates internally. That is one thing we are going to address immediately. This new increase by Erie County that is by no means modest is going to spur on this effort for us to be more efficient.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kelly , the public hearing was closed at 8:01 P.M.

Unanimously carried.

Elaine Smith Honan
Deputy Clerk

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, September 29, 1992 at 7:38 P.M.

*Present: Ronald Daniels, Mayor
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Yvonne Kaye*

*Thomas Troy, Village Attorney
Elaine Smith-Honan, Deputy Clerk
David Laubisch, Supt. of Public Works*

Absent Theresa L. Cummins, Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Daniels called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:38 P.M.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kaye, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held September 14, 1992 were approved.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kaye , the minutes of the public hearing of the Board of Trustees on a proposed local law to adopt an employee Retirement Incentive Program held September 14, 1992 were approved.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kelly , it was moved at 7:39 P.M. to open a public hearing for the purpose of hearing all persons interested in discussing a local law on a water rate increase. (The public hearing was closed at 8:01 P.M.)

Unanimously carried.

Mayor Daniels stated the fencing, discussed at the last meeting, is up on the Main Street bridge. When he walked there he agreed with Mrs. Schlifke and the next day or so the fencing was installed. It's a good safety feature now.

Mayor Daniels stated regarding the question Ms. Avery had on the widening of Main Street, he called the Department of Transportation and talked to Peter Negli, who has just been assigned the design phase of this project. There are a lot of questions still to be answered on the project. They haven't even gotten to the point of calling a meeting of the municipalities involved, which would be Amherst and Williamsville to discuss the scope of the project.

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Mayor Daniels understands from talking to him that not only is Garrison to Youngs being explored but also from the thruway entrance, the I-290 exit to Forest Road. Both of these projects look like they are slated for 1996, as well is the bridge restoration at Main Street. A fellow named Jim Weld is the regional bridge engineer who's in charge of that and that will be within a year, one way or the other. These dates that they seem to point out seem to be very flexible. Generally speaking, it's never before that, it's always after that. Peter Negli's number is 847-3225 and the bridge engineer, Peter Weld is 847-3205. If you're interested in asking anymore questions of these people, they are more than willing to talk and give us information.

Mayor Daniels stated he also mentioned last week about the telephone book collection. We had an Eagle Scout do it as his project when the Talking phone book came out. Now the next series of phone books are being distributed which means there are more phone books to be discarded. He cannot find another Eagle Scout wanting to undertake the project of collecting the next set of phone books. At this point, the only thing he can suggest is if anybody has phone books that they would like to be recycled they can bring them to Village Hall. He will deliver them to the town in a fashion where we can take them to Tops market at no charge. He had also mentioned that during that collection we had received phone books not only from this area but from Utica, Oneata, Oswego and had mentioned that we don't have a song for the Village of Williamsville and he is not aware of anyone that Amherst. It turns out that the Village of Williamsville does have a song and so does Amherst. A fellow named Tony Shebetta, a past local musician, in 1950 he wrote "On the Banks of Old Ellicott Creek", the Williamsville sesquicentennial song. Mayor Daniels read the lyrics. "Lets go down to old Ellicott Creek where we can reminisce and maybe steal a kiss down by the Mill in Williamsville. We'll go walking down through the lanes, I'll hold your hand and mine. We'll be happy and gay and that will fine. Hurry, hurry we don't want to be late, let's not worry whether we're home by twelve or quarter to eight. Let's all go right after the ball. We'll meet there every week on the banks of Ellicott Creek". That won an award. He was quite a talented fellow. Our Town, Amherst, New York official sesquicentennial song, this was in 1968. "Here's to our town, Amherst, New York, raise your voices high. Though our history has been glorious, we have better days before us as the next 150 years go by. So loud and clear, it's Amherst, New York. That's where the action will be. So come on, let's celebrate for our future will be great as we go on making history".

Mayor Daniels stated he just received notice that Tops is not doing the phone books now. We'll go through the town and just drop them off there.

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ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Lowther, vouchers in the amount of \$85,553.21 covering 9/11/92 - 9/25/92 were approved:

Payroll fund w/e 9/23/92	\$ 22,967.41
General fund	42,298.89
Water fund	609.80
Sewer fund	50.74
Glen Park fund	955.80
Capital fund	3,450.00
Trust & Agency fund	<u>15,220.57</u>

Grand Total \$ 85,553.21

Large Vouchers:

Occidental Chemical	\$7,025.23
Comprosec Corp.	\$ 7,895.13

Unanimously carried.

Mayor Daniels stated his second resolution has to do with the assessed valuation on New York Telephone Company. Years ago they split up so that it was no longer the monopoly. They use to be able to do an assessment not only based on the value of the building but also on the equipment inside the building. When they went independent into various sections, we lost the ability through a court case to assess the contents of the building. There was a formula by which they would remove a portion of that assessment. He thinks it is 25% a year from the tax rolls as it progressed. When the Town of Amherst sent us the assessment, which we base our assessments on for village taxes, they neglected to deduct almost 2 million dollars from their assessed valuation. Basically, instead of the village tax being \$18,414.46, our tax bill to them should only have been \$9,207.23. Basically, the general fund is going to be \$9,000 short of what we projected because of the mistake from the town assessor's office.

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

WHEREAS the 1992-1993 assessment for New York Telephone Co., 50 N. Cayuga Road, SBL #80.08-2-6./A was to have been reduced from \$3,634,193.00 to \$1,817,097.00, and

WHEREAS the 1992-1993 tax roll did not reflect this downward adjustment, and

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WHEREAS the New York Telephone company has filed an EA554 form requesting the correction per Chapter 416 of the Real Property Tax Law,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the assessment on parcel 80.08-2-6./A be reduced to \$1,817,097.,00 and the taxes reduced from \$18,414.46 to \$9,207.23.

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Hayes asked Attorney Troy if there is any liability on the part of the town assessor's office when an event like this happens because we are dependent totally on them for establishing the assessed valuation of properties for which we tax. When they make an error, in this case, is there any liability that they are under?

Attorney Troy stated no.

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Kaye stated she has no resolutions for this evening. She had hoped to bring forward a resolution for the new recycling code. We worked on it quite a bit with Superintendent Laubisch and Administrator Cummins and Attorney Troy. We still have some questions that are unresolved yet and so rather than bring it forward not in it's full entirety that she is waiting until it is completed. She has a couple of questions for the board after this meeting in terms of the amount of penalties that they would like to include in the recycling code. We will be discussing that after the meeting.

Trustee Kaye stated the Traffic and Safety Committee met last Thursday and the committee has decided that they would like to take on a project of reviewing the sidewalks and lack of sidewalks in the Village of Williamsville and they would like to look at the sidewalks for citizen protection. There were some concerns brought forward in Traffic and Safety that there are sections of our village that still have no sidewalks where we should have them. There has been some construction in recent years where sidewalks were to be installed according to our code and the Traffic and Safety Committee are concerned about those areas. So they will be doing a survey of those locations and analyzing them to see if, in fact, they are going to recommend to the board that there are sections of the village that should have sidewalks for citizen protection.

Trustee Kaye stated about 20 days ago we received the technical review for our recycling grant which we submitted two years ago to the Bureau of Waste Reduction. So we just completed the technical review. There were some questions about our requests and how it had changed since we awarded the contract to BFI. When we first wrote the grant, we anticipated the Village of Williamsville would be picking up their own recyclables.

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After we got the bids back from the waste haulers we felt that it was more cost effective to go with BFI so we answered some of those questions for the DEC on what we are doing now versus when we first submitted our grant.

Trustee Kaye reported on the composting status. About six months ago, she requested the Town of Amherst to let the Village of Williamsville use their new composting facility so that the village would have a place to take our leaves or chip brush or grass clippings. Presently the Village of Williamsville has and still has the ability to dispose of our chippings and our leaves at no charge to the village. So we have no dump charge whatsoever for those. There's been a question raised whether, in fact, that we'll continue to have that luxury or not. So looking forward, she has asked the Town of Amherst about using their compost facility. She recently followed up on that again to find out the status. Right now, the Town of Amherst is waiting to complete their CRA, Comprehensive Recycling Analysis, that needs to be submitted to the DEC prior to their requesting a permit amendment to allow the Village of Williamsville to utilize the composting site. That's what is really taking so long. The other question is that the village and the town have to enter into an intermunicipal agreement which is something that the attorneys have to work out in terms of what Amherst will take, how they will take it and what kind of charges, if any, there will be. Superintendent Lucey, from the Town of Amherst, has indicated to Superintendent Laubisch that that amount would be very minimal and we need to discuss some prices but she is pleased to hear that that cost would be very minimal. They would be charging on the truck load, at least that is what they have anticipated versus tonnage, which would be to our benefit because many times we pick up leaves or brush, particularly in the fall and winter months it's very wet and very heavy. So that would be very beneficial to us to have them charge us by the truck load rather than tonnage.

Mayor Daniels reported we had a petition circulated on Columbia Drive between Wehrle and Brookside and turned into Village Hall. Mrs. Marjorie McKeegan had phoned him and asked him, seeing the new street lighting on Cadman, if their street could also have street lighting. Mayor Daniels suggested if she would circulate a petition finding out what type of interest there was on her block that we would discuss it on the board. We received the petition. Mayor Daniels thanks Mrs. McKeegan for circulating it. At present, there are basically only a few areas in the village without street lighting. In addition to the short section of Columbia Drive, there is the Creek Drive area, Danburn Lane and as far as he knows that's the only area that has no street lighting of any sort. A suggestion by Trustee Lowther was that we might look to combining the remaining areas that need that utility provided and ask for engineering proposals to get some idea on costs involved. We can then make a determination on whether to do them all and save money or else if it's cost prohibitive, possibly just do the Columbia section. This would be a fairly inexpensive project and only maybe requiring 4 lights or so. We do have a few remaining lights from the Cadman Drive project. So it would basically be the engineering and excavation and Niagara Mohawk hookups. Mayor Daniels will keep the public informed with the progress.

Trustee Kaye asked about the extra light poles from the Cadman project. How did we get those?

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Mayor Daniels stated he ordered extras for 2 reasons. 1) The original engineering called for more posts than we ended up installing. 2) There are poles in the village that are in horrendous shape and he thought since we got a good price on these and we're going to need rehabilitation on existing poles of that type, we could take advantage of that bond and purchase a few extra ones. If you look at the old posts in the Monroe, Columbia, Highland, Scott, Oakgrove area of the village, they are all leaning and in pretty bad shape. Sooner or later we are going to have to figure out what we are going to do with them. We either let Niagara Mohawk slowly replace them with their poles and charge us for those or we replace them on our own. They all have to be converted to high pressure sodium as it is. The 2500 watt incandescents that are in those old posts now are becoming difficult to find. Manufacturers are not even manufacturing them anymore and the new codes call for this HPS lighting.

Trustee Kaye stated she didn't realize that we had purchased extras. Are they stored at the DPW?

Superintendent Laubisch stated he is not aware of where they are located.

Trustee Kelly reported the Planning Board is making a review of the sign code. Anyone having any thoughts or concerns about business signs along Main Street or how they would like to see it changed or whether they like the way it is, should contact him with their input.

Trustee Kelly stated, as he announced at our last meeting, our Building Inspector will be resigning shortly. At the present time we are attempting to determine whether to hire a full time person or a part time person. He believes we are going to end up advertising it both ways. Anyone who is interested in a job, please apply and anyone who would like to have some input on what's being done in that area, should submit their thoughts on it. One of the thoughts about a full time inspector would be to relieve the DPW of some of it's burdens and inspections. That properly, he believes, should be under the Building Department instead and there is also some thought that having a full-time Code Enforcement Officer may help us a little bit more with the parking situation. The inspection could add a little bit of help with the parking problems as he is going from job to job. Trustee Kelly and the Village Administrator are trying to determine whether it would be feasible to have a full-time inspector and that's something that is going to have to be decided in the next couple of meetings.

Trustee Kelly reported on the Local Government Advisory Board. We had a meeting this past week and we've broken down for the next two months into 2 subcommittees, one studying our cable system, which is up for renewal next year. A lot of people don't realize that the cable system actually pays the village for the right to come through our land and hook into the various parties. The Amherst Committee is also presently going through their review with a little bit of input with respect to programming, a little more local programming and whether there is some relief for senior citizens. The other subcommittee that we have been broken into is the Water Study Subcommittee. They are doing an in-depth study of our whole water department, it's system.

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They are waiting, as we all are, for the report from our engineers that were hired a number of years ago to do a study, whether it's advisable to join the Erie County Water Authority and once we have that information, we'll be able to study it a little more in depth. This is a good hard working committee that meets a lot on it's own as opposed to the once-a-month normal committee meeting. Trustee Kelly wants to thank them publicly for all the hard work that they have done and the hard work that they have in front of them.

Trustee Lowther stated the date for the next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting is listed as the 17th on the agenda, it is actually the 22nd, which is our normal meeting date. The 17th is just an error. the Environmental Advisory Committee has gotten together and is having a collaborative effort with the Town of Amherst. On Saturday, October 17th, we're going to be working with the Town of Amherst Solid Waste Citizens Committee and the Amherst Conservation Citizen Advisory Council sponsoring an event at Glen Park at the Nature Center called LeaFest '92. The purpose of LeaFest is to let people know what they can do with their yard waste other than put it in a plastic bag and put it out to the curb. We are going to have some different companies there who are going to be demonstrating equipment that will mulch leaves and chip yard waste. We're also going to put in our plunk for composting. The Environmental Advisory Council here in the village has been working very hard to get information to each household to try and convert some people to the compost way of thinking. We're looking forward to October 17th. That will be from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. We're going to have refreshments and we're asking anyone who is interested in coming, bring a bag of leaves and we'll turn it into mulch and show you what wonderful stuff it is when it's done. She's happy to be working with the other committees in the Town of Amherst. She thinks it is going to be a real positive event.

Trustee Lowther reported our Glen Park Joint Board will be meeting in Town Hall on October 6th at 7:30 P.M. They were kind enough to allow us the use of the Glen Park Nature Center for that particular day. Hopefully we'll have good weather and a nice fall day. She hopes to see everyone there.

Mayor Daniels stated a few weeks ago we finally received the report on the Schrader proceedings. Has Trustee Lowther had a chance to look through it?

Trustee Lowther stated she has looked through it and has distributed it to the citizens who had actually testified at the hearing and invited their comments and she has not heard from any of them. She is going to give them a call and see if they have any additional comments.

Mayor Daniels asked if she had any comments now.

Trustee Lowther stated she had some questions as to the proceedings that she thinks probably wouldn't be appropriate addressed in public without talking to the parties involved first.

Mayor Daniels asked if that would be something we would do as a board.

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Trustee Lowther stated certainly.

Trustee Hayes reported he has several calls in the community about the Halloween parade this year and announced that the Youth Committee has scheduled that for Saturday, October 31st. There may be some controversy involved with this because the children like to go trick-or-treating and ringing doorbells on that night. That is the night that we have the traditional parade and then the party at Saints Peter and Paul with free pumpkins and donuts and candy for the kids. He thinks that there was some back and forth confusion in the community. The actual date is Saturday, October 31st at 6:00 P.M.

Trustee Hayes reported the Parks Committee had a meeting since we last met as a village board and received a very detailed report from Chairperson, Carolyn Schlifke, about proceeds received from the Savor the Flavor event and the Craft Fair. It turns out that both events combined netted approximately \$3,200 for the village parks. That's quite a sizable amount less than last year but nevertheless, \$3,200 is \$3,200. Any money that can be used to help beautify the parks that aren't taken from taxpayer funds are certainly appreciated. Trustee Hayes gave a special thanks to everybody that was involved and just hope next year we have better conditions, better weather and that our park is ship-shape in order for us to have the events. Trustee Hayes let the board and the public know that we are in the process of preparing specs to have the work done in the Island Park lavatories to bring them up to handicapped accessibility. Carolyn and Parks Committee member, Karl Steuwe, have done some extensive work in taking a look at the existing structure and meeting with contractors to determine what needs to be done. They will be in touch with Clerk Cummins and Attorney Troy in drawing up those specs and bringing them to the attention of the village board, so hopefully we can get that moving. Since our last meeting we have had a chance to evaluate our summer season in the parks. Trustee Hayes thanked Superintendent Laubisch and his staff for all of their attention to requests that we gave them over the year, over the season. He thinks in terms of the pool attendants, we had a good crop this year. There were some problems, there are problems every year. It seemed to be a group that was pretty responsible in terms of showing up for work, especially when it got down to the bitter end. Trustee Hayes thanked all the people that were involved in managing the parks, making sure that they were staffed and the security companies that were there. The Parks Committee did discuss security rather in depth and have had some criticism and some disappointing scenarios play themselves out with the security company. Hopefully we can bring those into play next year when we are deciding who the company should be for the future.

Trustee Hayes reported on the ongoing work of the Williamsville Southeast Amherst Traffic Task Force. This week he sent a letter to Mr. Richard Tobe, who is Commissioner of Environment and Planning for the County of Erie, to communicate information about the traffic study including the fact that a consultant had been selected and that we were coming down to the final days of the work of the Task Force and hoping to receive the draft of the study any day now.

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Trustee Hayes highlighted some of the sections of a letter that he sent to Mr. Tobe because he did, in a sense, put him on notice that we've been working on this project and reminded him of his commitment in the past to assist the residents in the Village of Williamsville and the Town of Amherst with the traffic problems. (Copy attached) We're hoping that the county will take it's responsibility seriously and that the state will as well since they have ownership of much of the work that the Traffic Task Force do in the representation of the committee. There's been a lot of attention paid to this and he knows residents in that area, many of whom he has talked to over the past several months have some tremendous ideas about how we can relieve some of the traffic congestion in that area. All of the suggestions, or at least 99.9% of them involve the active participation and cooperation of the County and the State of New York. As soon as we receive the draft report he will again report on this matter to the public and share the information. He had originally hoped that this would have taken place by the end of this month. We had a Traffic Task Force Meeting scheduled for this week which was postponed due to the fact that the consultant's study was not prepared or was not completed in time to allow all the members to have it in advance and study it before the meeting. He had a letter from Council member Woodward stating that she expects the study to be done by the middle of October and wanted to postpone the meeting so that all the members had at least 2 weeks in which to review the draft report before we came together to discuss it. She also knows that the Mayor has had some correspondence from the Supervisor on this topic and Trustee Hayes appreciates his continued confidence in this committee and the work that this Task Force is doing. He will keep the public posted.

Superintendent of Public Works, David Laubisch, reminded village residents that October ends regularly scheduled trash pickups. There will be trash pickup on the weeks of October 13th and October 27th and after that you will have to call the DPW. We can make arrangements, weather permitting and work schedule permitting to pick up debris. The reason we do this is the leaf season occupies about 98% of the work force almost for the entire month of November and partial month of October and December. Also, during the winter, if we have a bad snowy winter, which we have not had the last few years, the work force is occupied with snowplowing but we do pick up trash but it is upon request. You can call either the village office or the village DPW and make arrangements for trash pickup. He knows we will be getting into the middle of leaf season in October so he would like to remind village residents that the leaves are to be piled at the curb, not in the street. If you do not have a curb, the leaves are to be piled at the road's edge. Please refrain from mixing other debris in the leaf piles because it is very difficult to pick up leaves with our leaf vacuums if there is brush, wood debris and pieces of 2x4, etc, mixed in with the leaf pile. Please reserve the pile of leaves just for leaves and it will make the DPW's job easier and expedite leaf removal.

Trustee Kelly asked Superintendent Laubisch to review the tire pickup. He's noticed that there has been some tires left out at the curb recently.

Superintendent Laubisch stated the Village of Williamsville does not pick up tires any longer. We do take them at the DPW between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. The only charge involved is what it costs the village to have those tires disposed of.

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We will transport them to the disposal facility. At Integrated Waste where they are shredded up. It's \$1.50 per passenger car tire. That's what it costs the village to have those tires processed.

Trustee Kaye asked if the people who have tires out now are being notified.

Superintendent Laubisch stated yes. He knows of 2 locations of where we had notified the people that we do not pick up tires. There may be more.

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

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Avery, 64 Garrison Road, stated in regards to Mr. Tobe, she wrote him this spring and he said he is getting constant reports about the committee's doings from Mr. Convoy who is on the committee with the Department of Transportation. Last year she wrote Mr. Tobe and he said he was telling her the same thing he had told the town which was that the county would consider turn lanes, shoulder improvements and reviews designed for signalization if it was financially feasible. In other words,, they didn't promise a darn thing. They left themselves leeway. He also said if they would actually come in and do the job, it would cost between four and six million if they were to widen Wehrle and Youngs Road or they would just do this little bit if they could find the money. She doesn't think you can hold them to anything because they are very careful not to commit themselves to anything except to consider doing it if, in fact, they could find the money to do it. She is glad Mayor Daniels found out about the state and the fact that they put it off another 2 years. They were supposed to start in November 1994, now they got it to 1996.

Mayor Daniels stated is sounded like it was dependent on federal money as well as state money. The bridge especially, they said gee, if we get any federal money, they were talking about the easements that were required. So they are still looking for the funding for these projects, which is one of the reasons the dates are varied.

Ms. Avery asked if they were going to widen the bridge.

Mayor Daniels stated no. They are actually going to restore the bridge and cantilever after a fashion the sidewalks over the water.

Ms. Avery asked if they are going to put any more lanes in.

Mayor Daniels stated it's going to be dismantled and put back together. Right now we have the gas and water lines that go along the top and they have a plan to put those either in the creek bed, which isn't a very good idea because of the creek shale being very sensitive to erosion there or suspending them underneath the new structure, which means they still have to be insulated but the good part about it is that they can be serviced very easily if they are still exposed but out of sight.

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In other words, they would run underneath the structure instead of on top which is a real eye sore right now.

Ms. Avery asked if that is financed differently. Bridges are always top priority, are they going to do the bridge before they do anything else?

Mayor Daniels stated it's all part of the same project. The gas and water line they will do when they do the bridge. The widening of Main Street is a separate project.

Ms. Avery stated then they would be more likely to do something with the bridge than they would with the street.

Mayor Daniels stated the impression he got was that they had 1001 projects. They weren't even going to let the bids out until such and such a date and then they assume so much time between that and the actual construction. He really couldn't pinpoint a date. He said that they just changed engineers. There was another fellow in charge of this widening until a few weeks ago.

Ms. Avery asked if Mayor Daniels had asked him about any particulars such as widening in front of the Little White House.

Mayor Daniels stated he asked him how many lanes there were there. Mayor Daniels said there were 4 lanes plus 2 parking lanes.

Trustee Kaye stated she spoke to the DOT also. She stopped to talk to them on the corner of Garrison and Main. Basically, they said if you stood at that corner and you look towards Transit for a line of sight, that you would see whether or not trees would be removed. He said basically the same thing to Mayor Daniels and that they still had approximately 2 years of planning to do. There was a third engineer on the project who had just begun and there were about 2 years after that before they actually start the project and it was based on whether or not they were going to receive the funding for it. So they weren't sure yet. They just finished all the topography maps of Main Street at that point. They plotted all the trees and everything that was on it. They weren't sure at this point what was going to happen. She was told also that they would come to the Village of Williamsville for our input before they finished the design.

Mr. Henry Stroman, 116 Eagle Street thanked the DPW for putting the parking signs up. We appreciate the fact that the DPW got them up very shortly after the board did authorize them. One thing that has not taken place is the fact that the Amherst Police Dept. doesn't seem to know that they are there. Various people are parking between his driveway and the corner. His neighbor parks his truck so half of his truck is covered by the parking sign and the other half is not. Therefore, his truck overlaps his driveway and his ladders on top which overlap by 3' to 4'. We would appreciate if someone would clue in the Police Department. He thinks this is a reasonable request because yesterday he had occasion to be in the Village on Rock Street.

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A police car came down Rock Street, into the Amherst Bee parking lot, checked out all the cars in the Amherst Bee parking lot, when he got done with that, he proceeded down Rock Street just north of Spring Street there at which time he also checked all the cars parked along the VFW parking lot. He thinks if these people can get a little attention, there's no reason why citizens in the Village can't get the same amount of attention from the Amherst Police Dept.

Trustee Kaye stated she would call Captain Moslow.

Trustee Hayes asked if there was some automatic mechanism when the Village Board passes a change to the code for parking enforcement whereby the police are notified as a matter of routine or does personal notification of that have to happen everytime it goes through?

Trustee Kaye stated it has been personal notification. There is no regular mechanism. In this situation 20' from the corner is in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic law. Anyone who would have been parking in front of the house should have been receiving a ticket from the Amherst Police Dept. What we did was make it 65' which encompassed just a little bit more in front of that house, about 20 additional feet plus Mr. Stroman's driveway of 5' over. Technically, the Amherst Police should have been in the situation or have been already ticketing it, even before we passed this code.

Trustee Hayes stated perhaps that is something our Clerk could send out as a matter of routine after those things are passed by the board.

Mayor Daniels stated there have been quite a few changes on Reist Street and all over that maybe we can just bunch together right now and memo the department.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kaye, it was moved to return to the regular agenda.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kelly, it was moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kelly, it was moved to return from the Executive Session to the regular agenda.

Unanimously carried.

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ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kaye, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

Unanimously carried.

Elaine Smith-Honan
Deputy Clerk