

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, February 8, 1993 at 7:34 P.M.

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

*Theresa L. Cummins, Village Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer
Thomas Troy, Village Attorney
David Laubisch, Supt. of Public Works*

The Administrator read the notice of public hearing being held February 8, 1993 at 7:34 P.M. by the Board of Trustees for the purpose of hearing all persons interested in discussing a proposed local law which would amend Section 103-16 of the Village Vehicle and Traffic Code and prohibit parking on the north side of Milton street from South Cayuga to the west end of the street.

Trustee Kaye stated there presently are "no parking signs" located on the north side of Milton Street. Prior to 1990 there was a section in the village code which prohibited parking in this area and when the Vehicle and Traffic Code was revised in 1990 this section was inadvertently omitted from the code. Right now, even though the signs are in place, the village has no power to enforce the "no parking" in this area. The adoption of this new local law would bring the village code into conformance with the signs that are already posted.

Irv Lorich, 85 Milton Street stated he has been a resident of the village for a good many years. He is the one who brought this to light when he spoke to the mayor. It was brought to his attention that there no longer was a law covering the signs that are on the street. He thinks what we want is to put teeth back into the law. There is one sign that has been knocked down and has not been replaced. Perhaps that has to be replaced in accordance with the signing code. Perhaps the enforcement should be both on the north and the south side because as he came across the street there tonight he found at least two violations within the short distance that is covered by the parking restrictions. The violations were on the south side, not on the north. There definitely needs to be restrictions on the north side or emergency vehicles and snowplows would not be able to operate in an efficient manner should the need arise.

Trustee Lowther stated she knows there have been continuing problems with that particular street, dating back to when she was on Traffic and Safety before she was elected to the board. She is happy to see we are going to be putting it back in the code so we can enforce it and not have a problem with our emergency vehicles.

Mayor Daniels stated there have been several omissions from the reprinting of the code to another. This is just another example of something that it was in the code and somehow disappeared. At one time there was a law that made Milton Street one way on Sunday mornings.

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We eliminated that and maybe in that process eliminated the section of "no parking" on the north side of that street. That could be one of the possible reasons why that occurred. We're glad Mr. Lorich brought this up to our attention so we can put the code in agreement with what the signs say so we can enforce it.

Trustee Kaye stated this came to the Traffic and Safety Committee when someone came from the Cornerhouse Nursery School requesting that we change the signage on the north side to "15 minutes standing loading and unloading" and as we looked we found that there was an omission.

Attorney Troy stated he thinks Mr. Lorich understands there is a distinction between stopping, standing and parking. He gathers Mr. Lorich's objection is not only to parking but also to standing and stopping. Mr. Lorich wants no interrupted travel through this street on that side at all.

Mr. Lorich stated if you want standing or loading and unloading, he thinks the Traffic and Safety Committee should look into that because he thinks it creates a safety hazard. Right now it is forcing the youngsters to be taken across the street and there may be times when they may not be properly supervised. It will be generating a safety hazard from that standpoint. He can't see a good reason for having any parking on that side of the street.

Trustee Kaye stated that is exactly what Traffic and Safety is concerned with, in addition to the fact that that emergency vehicles may not be able to get down the street if there was even a 15 minute period of time. We may have abusers, who even though they say they are only going to stand, suddenly decide to park.

Cliff Horey, stated the agenda doesn't say anything about parking. It says "no standing" on the north side of Milton Street.

Trustee Kaye stated technically the proposed law does say "no standing" which would encompass no parking, stopping or standing.

Trustee Lowther asked if no standing is the strongest verbiage that can be used.

Trustee Kaye stated yes. There is a discrepancy in our code as well. We've had this conversation on numerous occasions with Traffic and Safety, also, that our code lists all of the streets as no standing which is most restrictive; however, our signs posted are "no parking". We haven't resolved this yet but we are continuing to discuss it.

Robert Brown, 81 Milton Street, stated by allowing "no parking for 15 minutes", it would create a greater hazard than now. He goes up and down the street and the mothers jump out of the car. Some cars have almost had the car and the person taken out and that would be a double hazard. It would be the worst thing you could do.

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Trustee Kaye stated Traffic and Safety feels that as well. The 15 minute standing it would create a greater hazard and they denied it.

Trustee Lowther stated this has cropped up before where we have had a difference between what's actually posted and what's in the code. She wonders if Traffic and Safety, or perhaps through Trustee Kelly and the Building Department and our Building Inspector, we might want to take a street or two at a time and physically compare them, the signage versus the code. This has happened two or three times since she has been on the board, that the law is not in agreement with the actual posting. She thinks we really need some type of a plan to consistently go through the village on a per street basis and make sure we are in compliance.

ON MOTION by Trustee Kaye, seconded by Trustee Kelly, it was moved to close the hearing at 7:44 P.M.

Unanimously carried.

Theresa L. Cummins
Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

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Thomas Troy, Village Attorney
David Laubisch, Supt. of Public Works*

Mayor Daniels called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7: 33 P.M.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Lowther, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 25, 1993 were approved.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kelly, the minutes of the public hearing on the Cable Franchise Renewal of the Board of Trustees held January 25, 1993 were approved.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Trustee Kelly, seconded by Trustee Lowther, it was moved at 7:31 P.M. to open a public hearing on a proposed local law which would amend Section 103-16 of the Village Vehicle and Traffic Code and prohibit parking on the north side of Milton street from Cayuga Road to the west end of the street. (The hearing was closed at 7:44 P.M.)

Unanimously carried.

Mayor Daniels reported this past Sunday a very successful Winterfest was held in Glen Park. Mayor Daniels thanked the Youth Board and volunteers who helped make the event such a great success. Many families enjoyed the snow. The last few Winterfests have been more like mud fests and the weather has not cooperated, but this Sunday we were very lucky. It looked like everyone was having a pretty good time. Lots and lots of hot chocolate were consumed. To tie in with the 175th anniversary of the town, the Septquicentennial, some of the workers wore costumes from the 1800's which were borrowed from the Amherst Museum. That added a little color to the event too. Mayor Daniels thanked those people who were involved with that particular event.

Mayor Daniels stated a couple of projects will be starting in the village. Right now we have about 89 of the old style converted gas light incandescent acorn style lighting fixtures in the village. Niagara Mohawk is in the process of phasing those particular lights out so it's becoming increasingly difficult to find bulbs to replace those that burn out.

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They recommend that all the lights be converted to their high pressure sodium units within 5 years. We have received a proposal from Niagara Mohawk on their converting those units and we're in the process of looking that over to determine when we want to do this, how we would pay for it. The power company will be replacing just the globes on top, the light source itself. There's some rewiring that will be done and this will raise our lease costs or the charge by Niagara Mohawk by about \$4,000 a year for the 89 lights. The bigger expense depends on our decision of what to do with the actual poles which are owned by the village. Those are the green cast iron poles that you see in the village. Some are in pretty tough shape because they were converted from gas lights about 80 years ago. The bases are not bolted down anymore. They've rusted through and are not very secure. The question is if the power company is going to replace the light source up on top, would it be wise for the village then to go and replace the poles as well. Then the question is do we own the poles or do we use Niagara Mohawk poles. They do have the old style lighting available that is reminiscent of the poles we have and are in the process of replacing those in other parts of the county and in the Snyder/Eggertsville area. If we do buy new poles that's an added cost and we will be discussing that in budget meetings. All of our budget requests will be coming in from the Trustees by February 16th and we will start to schedule the budget talks. As you recall last year, we did not raise taxes. We hope to hold the line again this year.

Mayor Daniels reported on a problem that has evolved with the operation of the dam across Ellicott Creek. Originally that channel was dug in 1932 as a WPA project. The original Ellicott Creek Channel is the smaller one that is closer to this building. Due to flooding in the twenties, they decided to deepen the channel and then constructed the dam to regulate the flow of water. It then created the island that we now have which is a really nice park. At that point, the owners of the Water Mill across Main Street were concerned that they would not have the water power to run their mill. There's a gate in the main channel that, when open, channels water underneath Main Street and runs the Williamsville Water Mill which grinds the flour, the corn or whatever the mill operator wants to use that for. Warren Miller, the present owner, has also indicated an interest in running his mill by hydroelectric power and he has the turbans and generators to do that at this point. In 1932 a request was made by the then owners of the mill to the courts to have the power to regulate the dam gates. They wanted the authority to lift or lower the gates to be assured that they would always have water for their mill operation. They requested that in 1932. In 1946 the Supreme Court issued a decision that said yes, indeed, the owners of the mill do control the operation of the dam. Normally that is not a real big problem except that in the winter months the village has, for quite a number of years now, left the gates out. The reason is that if the gates are in and the water freezes around those wooden panels and you get a quick thaw, they become very difficult to pull out and the upstream properties may get flooded. Just recently, the owner of the mill has brought this whole issue up again. Apparently there is some corn that he wants to have ground into flour and insists that we leave the gates in the dam as the Supreme Court decided in 1946. That, of course, is something we would rather not do. In 1978 there was a situation where we could not remove those gates and actually had to have a crane brought in from the Darling Company to remove those so that we could relieve the flooding. Apparently, Ed Youngs parking lot was completely flooded over with water.

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When the dam was built another obstruction was built at the point of the island so that even less water would flow through the original channel because there was also a sleuce in the dug channel for a second channel that was operating and they wanted to make sure there was always water in the main channel. Mayor Daniels called the Army Corps of Engineers and Albany and got the original plan. He is meeting with a gentleman from the Army Corps of Engineers at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday morning to see what can be done with that situation in order to try and accommodate the owner of the mill yet not put any upstream properties at risk. One of the options might be to alter the flow by removing that artificial dam that was built at the point of the island. It's an interesting situation and a lot of things have changed since 1946 and also the flow in the creek has changed quite a bit since then. It's going to be resolved one way or the other fairly soon.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Lowther, vouchers in the amount of \$104,317.77 covering 01/23/92 - 02/06/93 were approved:

Payroll fund w/e 01/23/93	\$ 23,217.15
General fund	43,132.35
Water fund	30,281.82
Sewer fund	401.00
Glen Park fund	247.39
Trust & Agency fund	<u>7,038.06</u>
 Grand Total	 \$ <u>104,317.77</u>

Large Vouchers:

Erie County Water	\$28,452.64
Niagara Mohawk.	\$9,390.21

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Kaye, it was moved to suspend the rules for two resolutions not on the agenda.

Unanimously carried.

Mayor Daniels stated both resolutions involve water line projects in the village that are being engineered by TVGA, Engineers. The one is for a Swan Alley waterline replacement. We had requested bids or proposals on replacing the Swan Alley waterline and there were 6 requests sent out and TVGA, Engineers, who are already doing the Garrison Road, Willowbrook, Castlecreek waterline work, sent in a proposal based on doing that work at the same time as the other project. This will cut costs and their proposal is the least expensive of the six that were received.

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

RESOLVED THAT TVGA, Engineers, Orchard Park, New York, are hereby appointed to provide professional engineering services for the proposed replacement of the swan Alley Waterline at a cost, not to exceed \$4,080.00, per their proposal of February 3, 1993. This award is based on their cost breakdown No. 1 and will add the Swan Ally project to TVGA's existing contract for waterline replacement on Garrison Road and Wehrle Drive.

Trustee Lowther wants to note for the public that this money has already been appropriated and this will not be included in the bonding that will be done for the Garrison Road/Wehrle Drive line. Trustee Lowther asked Administrator Cummins if this is in the community development area and are those community development funds from last year that are being expended to do this?

Administrator Cummins stated yes.

Unanimously carried.

Mayor Daniels stated the next resolution involves the work on Garrison Road. In order to run that new waterline, they want to do some test borings to determine what is under the ground and how much bedrock they are going to hit, etc. They recommend SJB Services to do eight borings to determine actual rock elevations and what they are going to hit when they dig the new waterline for that project.

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

RESOLVED THAT SJB Services, Inc., Buffalo, New York, is hereby appointed to perform a geotechnical investigation of the Garrison Road, Willowbrook Drive, and Castle Creek area in order to determine actual rock elevations, at a cost of \$850.00, per their proposal of January 29, 1993.

Unanimously carried.

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

Unanimously carried.

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Trustee Lowther reported on the Winterfest this past weekend. She was there for a couple of hours. There was a very heavy turnout and it was a wonderful afternoon. She thinks everyone who was there really enjoyed it and she especially liked and appreciated the costumes that were borrowed from the Amherst Museum. They really looked wonderful on the members of the Youth Committee who were sponsoring the event.

Trustee Lowther reported the Environmental Advisory Council will be meeting on February 25th at 7:30 P.M. in Village Hall. Last month's meeting was canceled because we had a number of people who were ill and a couple people who couldn't make the meeting. We didn't have a quorum so at the last moment the meeting was canceled.

Trustee Lowther reported the Glen Park Joint Board will also be meeting on March 2nd in Town Hall at 7:30 P.M. Per the request of the Village Administrator we are now working on our next year's budget.

Trustee Lowther stated her resolution calls for a public hearing on the 1993 Community Development monies. We did have allocated to us this year \$42,350 in Community Development funds. We will be expending those on waterline replacements and there will be some done for residential improvements in the target areas of the village. We're looking at an estimated funding of \$50,890.00 for next year but it is our understanding from our discussion from the Village Administrator that every 10 years due to the census figures, we have to redo our target area. When it was done 10 years ago, the cost at that time was \$15,000. So being 10 years later, she is sure it will be considerably more. Unfortunately that will have to come out of our funding that we are going to receive for next year. We should have more information from the Administrator within the next month or so as to how we are going to be handling the survey and a redetermination of the target area.

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

RESOLVED THAT the Village Clerk publish notice of public hearing to be held by the Board of Trustees on Monday, March 8, 1993 at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Hall for the purpose of hearing all persons interested in discussing proposed uses for the 1993 Community Development funds.

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Kaye commented in terms of the study that needs to be done next year for the new boundaries, is it possible that this is something a committee could take part of? She realizes it was quite in depth last time but maybe we could use that as a model to go forth with rather than spend the whole \$15,000. Maybe we could have at least part of it if not all of it done.

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Trustee Lowther stated she understands it is quite extensive; however, maybe we could get some of our work done by some of the existing committees. Perhaps this would be the time to have a Community Development Committee, for a couple months, for the sole purpose of conducting this survey and saving the village some of these funds.

Trustee Hayes stated he would like to reiterate some of Mayor Daniels' comments about budget negotiations again this year and note that we have received our budget request forms for 1993-1994. He's been looking over the budget request that he'll be submitting from the Fire Department, the Youth Board, the Parks Committee and the Senior Citizens Committee. He wants to urge his fellow trustees to try to submit their budgets also with no net increase in expenditures this year except where absolutely necessary. Last year he made a very strong point and a very strong case about trying to hold the line in expenditures that weren't absolutely necessary so that we could attack the tax rate here in the Village of Williamsville. We were successful in doing that due to the cooperation of the trustees and the efforts that were put forth in budget negotiations. There is no reason why we can't do that again this year. If we take the same cooperative approach and if we look over the budget forms as they are presented, he believes the board can continue to offer the services that village taxpayers expect at no increase in taxes. He would hope that the board would take that as their charge as it heads into those very difficult negotiations.

Trustee Hayes reported there was a meeting here in Village Hall that was conducted by the Town of Amherst Southeast Williamsville Amherst Traffic Task Force Group. We heard a summary of the report from the traffic consultant that was hired by this task force, Bergmann and Associates out of Rochester, New York. They did a very comprehensive study of the area, looking at some of the traffic congestion, some of the situations that exist in our residential neighborhood and made a series of suggestions as to how both government and private sources could go about attacking those. He thinks it is a tremendous first step. He thinks it was wonderful that we had a good turnout, a good public discussion on that plan and it's going forward. It's by no means in it's final form although it is very close to it and the members of the task force will be meeting once again later this month to try to put a final stamp on it and then begin the arduous task of going after the other levels of government and private agencies and developers to get some relief from the traffic situation in that sector.

Trustee Hayes stated since our last meeting he has had the opportunity as the liaison to the Youth Committee to attend, with eight other members of the Youth Board, the twentieth celebration of the Town of Amherst Youth Board. That was held on January 28th and it was a wonderful affair because we have several people here in the village who participate in that Amherst Youth Program. We also have the Cayuga Road Youth Center which many of our village youth utilize. So it was good to see the turnout for that twentieth anniversary celebration and people celebrating the fact that we have a terrific youth board and a lot of great volunteers here in the town and in the village who are committed to fostering a better quality of life for young people.

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Trustee Hayes reported he has received an updated report that involves the airport project facility and the continued development over there. He's been placed on a mailing list by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and he gets monthly updates about what's happening at their demolition and preconstruction meetings. He knows many of our residents are very concerned, many of them living under the flight path of the airport, just what that expansion is going to mean. If there are people in the community that are interested, copies of this report are available and can be obtained here at Village Hall.

Trustee Hayes noted that the village has lost a long time resident and long time member of our volunteer fire company. Anthony Corpus was buried on Saturday. The flag is flying outside the fire hall as we mourn his loss, our loss with his passing. At the next meeting Trustee Hayes will introduce a Proclamation of Commendation for his years of service and he asks the public to keep Mr. Corpus in their prayers.

Mayor Daniels stated the latest update on the airport expansion only slightly mentions the meteorological tower and still says they have not settled on a location for it. He has not heard yet any news of a meeting to discuss the effects of the microwave signals that are emitted from that tower but as soon as he finds out anything he will let everybody know.

Trustee Kaye stated she whole heartily agrees with Trustee Hayes in terms of our upcoming budget discussion and also feels very strongly that with full cooperation we can have a second year with no tax increase to the taxpayers. She too has looked over her budget sheets and is planning no increase in requests and actually sees several line items that she will work at to decrease since the monies for these items that were specifically earmarked have already been taken care of and therefore not needed.

Trustee Kaye commented Traffic and Safety is continuing to work on the sidewalk survey. It should be finished as soon as the weather becomes clement, hopefully in the next month or two. The Traffic and Safety Committee is looking at all the areas in the village to see where there are and are not sidewalks at the present time. We will then be looking at areas that do not have sidewalks to see where a safety problem results from the lack of sidewalks and where they possibly should be installed. In conjunction with that we will be looking at a variety of possible grants that would help fund those sidewalks so there would be little or no increase to the costs to the tax payers to put those in.

Trustee Kaye reported we received a request from the Business Association to change parking on Main Street from one hour to two hours. At the last meeting, Traffic and Safety concluded that there wasn't yet enough information to move forward with that kind of request and present it to the board. She will be addressing the Business Association and let them know what additional information will be required for them.

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Mayor Daniels stated on the sidewalk study, he had asked also if Traffic and Safety could look at the corners for ramping because one of the things that all municipalities are required to do now is accessibility to handicapped and disabled people. Ramps on sidewalks are going to be required as well as all kinds of other things in all of our buildings. Mayor Daniels stated there may be a way to access some money for these ramps. On the positive side, we don't have a lot of curbs on some of the side streets so we don't need as many ramps.

Trustee Kelly stated it's nice to see after two years of harping, finally everyone is getting the message of no more taxes. He's glad to see other people joining in that message. To the other board members, today will be his last call for their wish lists for the Local Government Advisory Board to review for potential grants.

Trustee Kelly reported we did have a hearing regarding the Cable Franchise Renewal at our last board meeting. That is really the opening steps to negotiating the cable contracts. If there are any residents that have any comments regarding the cable and the type of service they are getting, they should feel free to drop a message directed to his attention in Village Hall and we'll make it part of our discussion with the Cable Franchise Company.

Trustee Kelly reported there is a Planning Board meeting on Monday, March 1st. In addition to the regular agenda, we are going to be talking in depth concerning whether there will some changes in the sign code for signs along Main Street. Anyone interested in that is free to attend.

Superintendent of Public Works, David Laubisch, reported the DPW is removing stumps in the Village of Williamsville. It is a service that we have offered village residents as long as he has worked here. If there are any village residents that have tree stumps they would like removed, they have to come to the Village Clerk's office and get a stump release form. A foreman will then go out and assess the stump to be removed to make sure that the equipment can get into the yard. This is something we would like to conduct when the ground is frozen. It minimizes damage to the lawn or any landscaped areas around the stump. If there is anyone that needs a tree stump removed, please come to the Village Clerk's office within the next week or two and fill out the stump release form.

Trustee Kelly asked what are those restrictions? Is it just along the roadway?

Mr. Laubisch stated it is any place in the yard, on your own property.

Mayor Daniels stated it has to be accessible.

Mr. Laubisch stated right, that's why we have the stump release form. The site has to be inspected to make sure that the equipment can get at the stump to be removed.

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

Unanimously carried.

Carolyn Schlifke, 192 Evans Street asked if the Swan Alley waterline is being replaced because of poor pressure or deterioration or size.

Mayor Daniels stated the size is small and also there have been four breaks in that waterline in the past six years. It's been a constant problem for water loss.

Ms. Schlifke stated this has been a confusing point to her and she knows it has all come about since the new code was written but Trustee Kaye did state again this evening that "no standing" is the most restrictive for vehicles on the street. She believes that is the way it is written in the code but in as much as our signing must conform to New York State's standards, is that the New York State standard at this time? Years ago, it always was understood that "no parking" meant that a vehicle may not be placed on the street and left unattended. "No standing" meant that a vehicle could not be placed on the street with a person, a driver in the vehicle so that it could be removed if requested. Therefore, she finds that two different things. If you are saying that "no standing" is the most restrictive, "no standing" has the driver in the car, what happens when the driver leaves the car?

Trustee Kaye stated it also covers "no parking" as well. They neither may stand nor park if the code is written as "no standing". It would cover it.

Ms. Schlifke asked if New York State says that signs must say "no standing" or must they say "no parking"?

Trustee Kaye stated that is what we are trying to determine.

Ms. Schlifke stated if the signs say "no parking", she herself might pull up and wait for someone to come out of a house in a "no parking" zone. This could affect what is happening on Milton Street.

Trustee Kaye stated our code says "no standing", however, the signs clearly say "no parking". So technically, if someone pulled out and looked at the sign they would assume that they could stand and be in their car and pick someone up. However, the code states "no standing" so according to the code they could not be in their car, stand there and wait, nor could they park there.

Ms. Schlifke stated if the village leaves the signs at "no parking", it certainly cannot expect the public to be aware of what they can do and cannot do in that area.

Trustee Kaye stated she and Attorney Troy are trying to find out how that differentiation came about.

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Attorney Troy stated there is an additional problem in that many of these places where we have no standing, this could have been the publisher's error. He can't believe that we are forbidding standing on, it looks like, about five pages of streets. It borders on the absurd because you know and he knows that standing is sometimes a necessity and that we are more concerned about parking more than anything else. He would like to see some consistency as she has been suggesting here. Trustee Kaye and he have been working to bring some resolution to this issue.

Ms. Schlifke stated she doesn't remember where that company was based that did the new code.

Attorney Troy stated they are in Rochester, New York.

Ms. Schlifke stated she thought perhaps they were confusing the state that they were located in with New York State because when you are going back about eight years, when she was with the Traffic and Safety Committee and they first rewrote that traffic code, those all said "no parking", they did not say "no standing".

Attorney Troy stated he believes that is the intent. He thinks ultimately we are going to have to confront the situation and bring "no standing" into a separate section. That's the function of this public hearing tonight

Ms. Schlifke stated the board must present to the public what the public understands. You can't have your signs saying one thing and say it's written in the code another way.

Ms. Schlifke stated you may have noticed in the newspaper articles in the Town of Amherst and the Village of Williamsville that the Town of Amherst has a great bearing on what happens in the Village of Williamsville. A few weeks back at a town meeting there was an approval of another office building in the Centerpointe area and one of the council persons was concerned about this and cited the fact that it would produce more traffic on Evans Street and perhaps make the intersection of Evans and Essjay a more dangerous than it already is. Another council person stated there hasn't been any accidents there. She hates to report this evening that on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 P.M. she observed the first serious accident at Essjay and Evans. She didn't witness it.. The records would be with Hutchinson Hose and the police department. Three people were taken to the hospital. She prays they are not seriously injured. She's very concerned about that intersection and has been before it went in and since it's gone in. Living in such close proximity to it, she observes some horrible things that happen there every single day and she thinks the things that bother her the most is one of the cars jumped the curb and was stopped by a very large Christmas tree. It passed right in front of a house two doors down from herself where two boys live and who play outside quite a bit. We get a lot of pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk on Evans Street and she's afraid if somebody had been on the sidewalk when this occurred, from what she sees of the damage to the car, which indicated the speed perhaps that the car was traveling when it hit the tree, we wouldn't only have three people in the hospital, we would have had a fatality.

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She doesn't know what the village can do about it. She knows the town has taken the attitude that it had to be to relieve a traffic condition that was not caused by anything that happened in the village but was caused by things that were occurring in the town and she thinks the board should be aware of it. She thinks it is going to be the first of more and she hopes there will not be any fatalities and there will not be anymore smashed up cars but it was inevitable. It has started and it is going to continue. She thinks it is something the village has to be aware of and perhaps look into and see if there is anything that can be done. She doesn't think that intersection can be made any safer and we have to live with it. She does think they have created a monster and she is afraid the people of Evans Street and the Village of Williamsville are going to have to live with it.

Trustee Lowther stated she has spoken with Captain Hegelberger from the Amherst Police Department about two weeks ago and he told her that there have not been any reportable accidents at that intersection. She doesn't understand why there are no accidents being reported unless they are so minimal.

Ms. Schlifke stated there is a lot of horn blowing because the people that are traveling Evans Street are aware of that street and constantly blow their horns. People are trying to sneak out since there is hardly enough break in the traffic for them to get through. Saturday, there was no ice, the street was just barely wet and this occurred. She sees a growing number of cars coming out of that intersection, even on a Saturday. She doesn't know where they are all coming from, if they are using it as a cut through so as not to get the left hand signal at Evans and Sheridan.

Trustee Lowther stated she doesn't think it's a question in anybody's mind that the traffic is going to continue and it's going to increase as they continue to build out. They are only about 50% built out on the lower portion and more and more people are finding it to be convenient. Her concern is somewhere down the road we are going to end up with a signal there because it's going to be needed. She knows it is a bad solution.

Ms. Schlifke stated something has got to be done to make it safer because it is not safe now and it's going to get worse. She, herself personally, does not use the road. She would rather go through the signal at Sheridan and Evans than take her life in her hands and come out of Essjay.

Trustee Kaye asked Ms. Schlifke if she had a suggestion for the board in terms of how to make it safer.

Ms. Schlifke stated you could probably put stop signs there. People love stop signs. You could stop the traffic on Evans Street and on Essjay and let them go through the same rigmarole that they go through on Evans and Eagle. Who's turn is it next? Who's going to come out next? That's only a prelude to a stop sign. A stop sign isn't going to benefit her living there at all because when the cars stop, then she is blocked in her driveway. Now she can take her life in her hands and try and get out at some time or another. It just shouldn't have been there but it is and we have to live with it.

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Trustee Kaye stated Amherst Traffic and Safety requested the four way stop sign on Eagle and Evans to be removed. Trustee Kaye attended that Amherst meeting and so did Mr. Horey to voice their concerns that it really needed to stay. She asked them what their feelings were and their answer to her was that the traffic flow would be swifter and quicker and there would be less congestion by removing the stop signs. Trustee Kaye also asked them if they had something planned at the corner of Essjay and Evans. Amherst is in control of that intersection and their response was they had no plans for that intersection.

Ms. Schlifke stated she sat through the public hearing about Rinewalt Street and there seems to be a lot of discussion in the last couple of meetings about traffic and parking and all these various things that the village is being faced with. She had written a letter to the Amherst Bee hoping to not only reach the people in the Village of Williamsville but the Town Board and some of the members of the Amherst Traffic and Safety Committee. For whatever reason, the Amherst Bee did not see fit to publish it. Ms. Schlifke read the letter to the board. "The village board has heard both sides of the Traffic and Safety's Committee's recommendation to remove parking 90' east from the intersection of Rinewalt and Main Street due to parked cars. One of the proponent's objections is cars parked on the sidewalk. In as much as this is a violation of village code, it should be enforceable without removing parking. It would behoove the village board to move carefully on such a precedent setting vote. Anyone familiar with the village could name a half a dozen other intersections that are difficult to make left turns out of. Have you ever tried to make a left hand turn onto Main Street out of the town parking lot. The village streets do not offer perfect traffic safety. We have narrow intersections with buildings located near intersections. Businesses suffer from lack of sufficient parking but to suggest that an owner spend a hundred thousand dollars plus to obtain an adjoining piece of property for additional parking is ludicrous. As a resident of Evans Street across the Essjay intersection, she must confront a dangerous situation every time she tries to exit her own driveway. The whole of the village is being inundated with more traffic than it can safely handle. The recent suggestion by the Town of Amherst Traffic and Safety Committee to remove the stop signs at Evans Street and Eagle may sound like a good idea to transient drivers using Evans Street but to the residents of the northeast section of the village, it could prove to be a tremendous hardship. The above is not intended to be a criticism of either the Village or the Town Traffic and Safety Committees. Their suggestions must be based on standards. Unfortunately, the 150 year old Village of Williamsville can't always meet those standards."

Maryanne Avery, 64 Garrison stated in regards to Essjay and the most recent rezoning, they had to rezone a corner of Essjay near International. Mrs. Santillo attempted to tie the monitoring of the intersection so that it would get a light sometime soon because they have just approved four office buildings there plus the condominium. So it's perfectly obvious that there is going to be a lot more traffic generated simply right in that immediate area and they wouldn't do it, they turned it down. They wouldn't say particularly whether they are going to have sidewalks or not. She was going to suggest to Ms. Schlifke, if she is concerned about the town's attitude on the traffic that Hal Collier has a seat open on the Traffic and Safety Board and he wants a woman with experience. If that isn't made for Ms. Schlifke, she doesn't know who it is made for.

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Trustee Lowther stated it would be good to have a village resident on the town board. She thinks we wouldn't be seeing proposals like removing the stop signs on Eagle and Evans if they had some input from a village resident.

Ms. Avery asked if the Supreme Court ruling is available in the village office.

Mayor Daniels stated he can give her a copy.

Mr. Lorch, 85 Milton Street stated along with paying his town taxes he noticed that the town portion of his taxes in the village is 50% higher than what the town residents are paying. He only hopes, if this is true, that we, in the village, are paying 50% more on our town portion than the town residents are paying that we are getting proper value for the dollars that are being taken out of this village. He thinks along with the board's budget and with their tax assessment, they better look at that particular item. Look at the town rate in the village as well as the town rate in the town.

Mr. Lorch commented on how things would have to be handicapped accessible. Is the elevator within this building working?

Mayor Daniels stated it is not working well. We have plans to replace it as per the requirements of the new legislation. It was not a good unit when it was installed. It's never worked well. It's probably a bigger hazard. It's functioning but it sticks and it only has a 250 lb capacity. That's one of the problems with having voting up here as well because people that are handicapped have a heck of a time with that elevator. That is scheduled for replacement along with the door which will be replaced as well. Now you need a special door for any kind of public building that can be operated from wheelchairs.

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

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Daniels, seconded by Trustee Hayes, it was moved at 8:37 P.M. to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

Theresa L. Cummins
Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer