

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Sweden was held at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York, on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

Town Board members present were Supervisor Buddy Lester, Councilperson Rob Carges, Councilperson Patricia Connors, Councilperson Tom Ferris and Councilperson Danielle Windus-Cook. Also present were Director of Finance Leisa Strabel, Town Attorney Jim Bell, Superintendent of Highways Fred Perrine, Head of Maintenance Jeremy Oakden and Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitors present were residents Tim Bates, Bob Canham, Charilla Conner, Jim Hamlin and Pat Pawlaczyk.

Supervisor Lester called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Lester explained that the Town Board had been delayed due to the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Wal-Mart Supercenter. Mr. Lester asked everyone present to say the Pledge to the Flag. Mr. Lester then acknowledged the presence of the visitors.

Resident Bob Canham stated he was speaking on behalf of COGS (Coalition for Open Government in Sweden). Mr. Canham supplied the Board members with handouts. Mr. Canham and members of COGS asked the Town Board to establish a Board of Ethics to render advisory opinions and consider complaints and conflicts of interest for the Town of Sweden. Mr. Canham proposed an initial selection process for the Board of Ethics whereas COGS would be the organization that would select the initial members for the Board of Ethics and that this shouldn't be objectionable because COGS is not a political group.

Town Attorney Jim Bell reviewed the information provided by Mr. Canham listing the Towns in Monroe County and details provided for each relative to a Board of Ethics. Mr. Bell asked if area Towns had an active Board of Ethics or just the provisions to create a Board of Ethics. Ms. Pawlaczyk answered that some had the provision to create a Board as the need arises.

Councilperson Ferris stated that New York State does not require a Town to have a Board of Ethics. Mr. Ferris added that the Town Board is accountable to the residents. The Town does have a Code of Ethics and the Board is held accountable to that. Supervisor Lester asked Mr. Canham if he (Mr. Lester) understood him (Mr. Canham) to say that COGS is not a political group. Mr. Canham stated that COGS did not have any political interest. Mr. Lester asked if Mr. Canham had written a letter to the newspaper stating that the purpose of his group was to overthrow the town government and oust the current town board. Mr. Canham said he hadn't written such a letter. Mr. Lester then referred to an article written by Mr. Canham published in the local newspapers in November 2006. Councilperson Ferris read the article:

THIS IS A CALL TO ARMS – an appeal to men and women of good will and the resolve to change the Town of Sweden government from the oligarchy it is to one in keeping with the ideals of this United States of America: Open, Democratic and Sympathetic to the widest needs of this wonderful town. For starters, we'll call it the Coalition for Open Government in Sweden (COGS). My apologies for highlights of my life, but some folks want to see credentials before they commit to a significant crusade, so here are mine: Eagle Scout; Albion High grad.; Engineering degree from Purdue; US Army Signal Corps during the Korean War, honorable discharge as a 1st Lt.; employed with IBM in the Rochester area and NYC as a Sales Planning Mgr. For international opns.; lived in the Gallup homestead in the 60's, opened and operated Scandia Barn import business there and in 3 other locations, established the Canham Subdivision there and on Gordon Rd. – one of the Town of Sweden's most beautiful (we've been told); 18-yr member and President of a Rotary Club, heading up many community projects; Paul Harris award; led Rotary District Group Study Exchange team of 5 businesspersons on month-long goodwill trip to Japan; president of Yates Performing Arts Series; raised a family of 4 with Linda, my wife of 47 yrs.; retired after 25 yrs as a Chartered Financial Consultant with American Express Financial Advisors. I am a registered Republican (so this cona't be pigeon-holed as a political junket.) I have no aspirations to public office, only to find a way, with my neighbors, to making the changes necessary for our current town govt. to becoming American – as vigorously as

possible – perhaps to find a suitable replacement for the current supervisor and Board. If you wish to join this process, you can contact me at 391-6717 or 899-9984; e-mail me at bob@thecanhamfamily.com or mail me at 30 Winston Woods in Brockport. Perhaps you're one of the 731 who went to the polls for the 2005 supervisor's election and chose not to vote because you had no satisfactory choice. This will not be a partisan 'witch-hunt'. Let me know if you want to join COGS and I'll let you know when our 1st organization meeting will be held. BOB CANHAM.

Supervisor Lester pointed out the statements of “oligarchy” and “find a suitable replacement for the current supervisor and Board”. Mr. Lester felt that the COGS group was a political group and was skeptical with the agenda of COGS. Mr. Lester stated that he had asked Mr. Canham if he could attend the COGS meetings and was told only if Mr. Lester stated his agenda for attending a COGS meeting. Mr. Lester pointed out that any person could attend the meetings of the Town and not have to state a reason for their attendance.

Charilla Conner mentioned the Town not having a mission statement and added that businesses have mission statements. Councilperson Ferris stated that the Board's mission statements were stated at the time of each member's election. Mr. Ferris added that the Town is ever changing and the Board is publicly elected to respond to circumstances. A mission statement is a general statement and not required by law. Supervisor Lester stated that the Town Boards goal is to offer the maximum amount of services at the minimum cost possible to the taxpayers, and that has been their goal and will continue to be the goal of this Board. Mr. Lester stated that the Town Board works very hard and the public rewards the Town Board at election time.

Supervisor Lester introduced Jeremy Oakden, the newly appointed Head of Maintenance at the Sweden Clarkson Community Center. Mr. Lester stated that Mr. Oakden is doing a great job for the Town of Sweden. Mr. Oakden stated that he was grateful to be a member of the Recreation Department and is looking forward to making a positive impact. Mr. Oakden was a Marine for 7 ½ years and started a residential remodeling business with his father. Supervisor Lester added that Mr. Oakden has a very positive attitude and is aggressive with changes and recommendations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilperson Ferris made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Connors to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held on February 27, 2007 – Local Law 1 of 2007 Aged Exemptions. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Councilperson Connors made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Ferris to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held on February 27, 2007 – Local Law 2 of 2007 Disabled Exemptions. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Councilperson Connors made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Carges to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held on February 27, 2007 – Incentive Zoning application – Highlands at Brandon Woods. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Councilperson Connors made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Ferris to accept the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held on February 27, 2007. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

SUPERVISOR'S CORRESPONDENCE

2007	Received From:	Comments:
*1.	Al Sienkiewicz, MC Fire Advisory Board	Strategic Planning Workshop – March 31, 2007
*2.	Maggie Brooks, MC Executive	Point of Dispensing Exercise (POD) – March 27, 2007

- *3. David Bonacchi, Mayor, Village of East Rochester Request for support to lobby for permanent speed reduction of trains (CSX Transportation)

*Board has copies.

RE: #1 Supervisor Lester and Councilperson Carges will attend the workshop.

RE: #2 Councilperson Connors extended an offer to members of the community to volunteer for the exercise as “mock” patients for purposes of mass dispensing.

RE: #3 The Town Board agreed to send a letter of support to Mayor David Bonacchi.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

February 2007 departmental reports were received and reviewed by the Town Board from the following departments: Finance Director, Leisa Strabel; Building Department, Jim Butler; Receiver of Taxes Sherri Bryant and Deputy Town Clerk, Kathy Roberts.

REPORTS

Councilperson Carges complimented Jeremy Oakden and stated Mr. Oakden is willing to take on new tasks. Mr. Carges reported that the heating/cooling contract for the Sweden Clarkson Community Center would expire March 31, 2007 with the current provider. A resolution would be presented at the next meeting to enter into a contract with AIRCON for services at the center. Mr. Carges stated that the recreation brochure had been delivered and the new look of the program has received several compliments.

Councilperson Connors attended a Point of Dispensing Sector 2 committee meeting with the Village of Brockport, Town of Clarkson and a representative from the county. They discussed incorporating special needs population into the plan and will meet again on April 2, 2007. A letter was recently sent to local community groups from the Committee asking for volunteers to help manage a POD during an emergency situation. An informational meeting will be held in May for the general public. Mrs. Connors stated that the County is looking for volunteer “patients” for a Point of Dispensing Exercise that will be held on March 27, 2007.

Councilperson Ferris reported that he attended a Section Five Basketball event and received compliments on the Town of Sweden recreational facilities and programs. Mr. Ferris felt it was nice to receive unsolicited compliments at non-political events. Mr. Ferris attended the Boy Scouts Arrow of Light ceremony as a representative from the Town. Mr. Ferris stated that when most people come to the Town they look for the Town to help them, but when the Boy Scouts come to the Town, the Scouts ask how they can help the Town; the Boy Scouts volunteer to bring something to the Town.

Councilperson Carges noted a recent article stating that the Town of Webster was looking at a recreational facility for their residents and the cost per household will average \$40 per year for the purchase, whereas the cost per household for securing our recreational facility for Sweden residents was \$0 for the purchase – Sweden’s facility was generously donated.

Councilperson Windus-Cook reported that she has been meeting regularly with the Farmer’s Museum Committee. The committee is trying to finish the front two rooms of the cemetery house before the Harvest Festival. A 3K race around the cemetery is being planned for the festival. The committee is looking for donations to complete the project. Ms. Windus-Cook noted that most of the work completed at the cemetery house (roof replacement not included) had been done by volunteers – Don Grentzinger is building a sign, minor remodeling done by her and other committee members and volunteers. Ms. Windus-Cook met with the new Library Director, Cassandra Guthrie and stated that she will be a great asset to the community.

Supervisor Lester reported that he met with former Town Board member Norman Wright; met with Building Inspector Jim Butler to discuss code violations and requested a meeting with Councilperson Carges and Town Attorney Jim Bell to discuss the violations. Mr.

Lester, the Town Architect David Strabel and Laborer at the Senior Center Steve Huscher toured the Senior Center to go over concerns with the condition of the building. Mr. Huscher would present a priority list and budget plan to the Town Board for items of concern. Mr. Lester met with Walt Eisenhower regarding grant applications for security lighting around the airport. Mr. Lester spoke with Nancy Duff at the Senior Center regarding the lunch program and Mrs. Duff reported that the program was going well. Mr. Lester requested a copy of the list of patrons that are using the lunch program.

Supervisor Lester commented on several articles that have appeared recently in the local newspapers. Referring to the Webster recreational facility, Mr. Lester stated that the Town of Sweden's recreational facility was a gift from an out-of-state benefactor. The building was lost due to foreclosure, obtained by the benefactor, renovated and given back to the community. Referring to an article regarding tax rates, Mr. Lester stated that the Town of Sweden fared pretty well compared to other Towns in Monroe County. Approximately 50% of property in the Town of Sweden is exempt from paying taxes, ie. school district, college and several churches. For comparison, the next highest percentage of tax-exempt property is only 15%. The Town of Sweden is able to offer many services to residents and still able to keep the budget down. Referring to the series of articles regarding FOIL requests, Mr. Lester stated that by law the Town has five business days to respond to a FOIL request and twenty business days to provide the information. After reviewing a report drafted by Finance Director Leisa Strabel, Mr. Lester reported that the average days for the Town of Sweden to respond to a request (using data from 2006 and 2007) is 2.8 days and 5.8 days to provide the information. Mr. Lester felt that was a positive indication of open government. Other examples encouraging open government in the Town of Sweden is the Snapshots, the Town's newsletter and a new link to Monroe County from the Town of Sweden's web site to view assessments. *Note: 2006 assessments available only.

Supervisor Lester mentioned the opening ceremony at the Wal-Mart Supercenter held early this evening. The ceremony was a classy event; the Brockport High School Band and ROTC were present as well as many local officials and board members. Mr. Lester complimented the Sweden Planning Board for taking their time and considering the concerns of the residents, many of which played an integral part in the final structure and aesthetics of the project.

Councilperson Carges stated that residential growth in Sweden has been low for the past several years only 6-7 new homes each year. One business, Wal-Mart Supercenter will bring in more tax revenue than the few new homes bring in for a ten-year period.

Councilperson Ferris added that Wal-Mart has always been a contributor to our community and has worked with the Town of Sweden on many projects. Several checks were given to local organizations at the ceremony including \$7,000 to the fire department, \$5,000 to the Sweden Community Foundation and \$5,000 to the Sweden Senior Association.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 47

Authorize Bids for Acoustical Foam Baffles

WHEREAS, the gymnasium at the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center maintains a high level of use; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Director has reported that sound reverberation in the gymnasium makes holding concurrent instructional programs difficult; and

WHEREAS, the Town Architect has recommended the installation of acoustical foam baffles on the gymnasium ceiling in order to absorb sound reverberation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- Sec. 1. That the Town Architect recommends the purchase of four hundred sixty eight (468) 2” x 48” x 24” open-cell willtec Sonex Valueline double sided acoustical foam panels in **natural white* as per specifications so prepared.
- Sec. 2. That upon receipt of such specifications, the Town Clerk is directed to advertise for bids as required by law.
- Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION for adoption of this resolution by Councilperson Windus-Cook
 Seconded by Councilperson Connors

Discussion: Supervisor Lester made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Carges to amend Section 1 to read as follows:

**Sec. 1.* That the Town Architect recommends the purchase of four hundred sixty eight (468) 2” x 48” x 24” open-cell willtec Sonex Valueline double sided acoustical foam panels in *satisfactory colors* as per specifications so prepared.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD AS AMENDED:

- Councilperson Carges Aye
- Councilperson Connors Aye
- Councilperson Ferris Aye
- Councilperson Windus-Cook Aye
- Supervisor Lester Aye

Submitted – March 13, 2007

Adopted

RESOLUTION NO. 48 Authorizing Spring Clean-up for 2007

WHEREAS, the Town Highway Superintendent has recommended to the Town Board that special spring clean-up days be set for the Town of Sweden.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- Sec. 1. That the Spring Clean-up for the Town of Sweden for 2007 shall be during the week of April 23, 2007 through April 27, 2007.
- Sec. 2. That the Highway Superintendent is hereby authorized to execute said refuse operation in the Town of Sweden.
- Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION for adoption of this resolution by Councilperson Connors
 Seconded by Councilperson Ferris

Discussion:

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

- Councilperson Carges Aye
- Councilperson Connors Aye
- Councilperson Ferris Aye
- Councilperson Windus-Cook Aye
- Supervisor Lester Aye

Submitted – March 13, 2007

Adopted

DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Clerk Karen M. Sweeting stated that she attended a meeting for the Census 2010. The Town would be receiving a formal letter in July 2007 with the opportunity to appoint the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council as the Town's liaison for Census 2010. Mrs. Sweeting will present the Board with more information as it is made available.

Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilperson Ferris would be attending the Sweden Department Head meeting in May to discuss worker's compensation changes.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Councilperson Carges moved to adjourn the March 13, 2007 meeting of the Sweden Town Board at 8:55 p.m. Councilperson Ferris seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk