

Village Board hires zoning consultant

by KATE MOCKLER Reporter

The Williamsville Village Board on Monday hired Bergmann Associates to act as the consultant for the zoning code revision at a fee of \$35,000, an amount that trustee Brian Kulpa said was in line with both the Village's budget and with the fees of other firms that had bid on the project.

They expect to finish their portion of the project in May 2011.

"They fit the time, they fit the money, and they had an excellent professional profile," said Kulpa. "I'm looking forward to starting with them right away."

Bergmann Associates is based in Buffalo and Rochester. Their portfolio includes the Comprehensive Plan for North Tonawanda and the Lakefront and Downtown Redevelopment Plan for Geneva, N.Y.

Bergmann Associates personnel will attend the monthly meetings of the zoning reform committee. They will do a walk-through of the village with the committee to look at what's working currently and what needs to be changed. They will also hold a public forum or workshop, although no dates have been set yet.

Trustee Jeffrey Kingsley also announced that the request for proposals for the Williamsville Water Mill will go out this week. Kingsley stated that it will go to a number of developers that had expressed some level of interest, including Iskalo, Benderson and Bruce Benson. It will also go out to industry publications, and will be available to other developers by calling Village Hall.

In other business, the Village Board also:

- Approved the issuance of \$140,000 in serial bonds for the purchase of DPW equipment, and authorized the village administrator to advertise for sealed bids for a new front loader, stump cutter and drum chipper.
- Discussed traffic issues related to the closure of Wehrle Drive between Garrison Road and Aero Drive. The road will be closed until Monday, Nov. 8.
- Discussed the use of social media to promote the village. Kingsley stated that he started a Facebook page for the village as an experiment, and that it had already garnered around 100 friends. The board will develop stronger policies around its use and designate an administrator for the page.
- Reminded the public that the next meeting will feature a public hearing on the proposed smoking restrictions in parks. The proposal is to ban smoking within 100 feet of any athletic field or playground equipment, and to make any event held in any of the parks smoke-free.

The next Village Board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12. The day of the week has been moved due to Columbus Day. A work session, which is also open to the public, will precede the meeting at 6 p.m. Both will take place at Village Hall, 5565 Main Street near Cayuga Street, Williamsville.