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VILLAGE OF LANCASTER

Lancaster Village Board explores ways to downsize

Mayor seeks meeting in August for a vote

By Irene Liguori **NEWS STAFF REPORTER**

Updated: 07/15/08 10:51 AM

Not many politicians in Erie County have willingly agreed to downsize their numbers, but Lancaster's Village Board continued down that track on Monday, as its six members pored over ways to reduce their number to four trustees.

Town attorney Arthur A. Herdzik outlined the steps that will be needed during the next few months to accomplish that goal.

The board, according to Herdzik, can immediately reduce its number to four trustees during the next election in March 2009. Or, it can choose to achieve the same reduction gradually over the course of the next two general elections, bringing the number of trustees down to the desired four after 2011.

"My recommendation is to not jump into this tonight" Herdzik told the trustees.

Mayor William G. Cansdale Jr. suggested the board set aside 7 p. m. Aug. 4 for a special meeting to discuss the merits of both options and vote on the issue.

No matter what option the board elects to pursue, the question of downsizing must still go before village voters in a referendum, possibly as early as the general election Nov. 4.

Voters took the first step toward downsizing their governing body in March, when they abolished the village's ward system of electing trustees — two from each ward. Now village trustees are all elected at-large.

In other business Monday, the board:

- Authorized use of \$1,000 from the Giallanza Foundation to create a permanent memorial honoring the late

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James S. Keysa, who launched the village's historic preservation commission and served for many years as its leader. The granite memorial will be installed near the Lancaster Memorial Building, facing Broadway.

- Was notified that an application for a liquor license had been submitted by an individual who wants to open a restaurant at 99 Aurora Street, site of the former Simme's Restaurant.

Village resident Joyce Bascom objected to the proposal, saying that because 99 Aurora has been vacant for more than a year, that the new owner could not automatically resurrect it as a restaurant.

After consulting village codes, Herdzik agreed with Bascom. Because the property's previous use as a tavern was a "nonconforming use," Herdzik said, the individual seeking to open a restaurant will need to approach the Zoning Board of Appeals before opening a restaurant in that location.

iliguori@buffnews.com

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