

Bi-Monthly Meeting & Hearing

Monday, March 23, 2026

At 6:47 p.m. Mayor House called the Public Hearing to order for Local Law 2 of 2026 – Real Property Tax Cap Override. There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 23rd day of March 2026.

Board Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard Murphy, Trustees Ken Sherman, Mike Hart and Matthew Stevens.

Village Officials/Staff in Attendance: Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz and Police Chief Kevin Birardi.

Public Attendance: Village Residents Tom Rinefierd, Karen and Mark Mezzo. Andrew Veley, DPW Worker.

Meeting Called to Order: Mayor House called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and Trustee Hart led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House – with any luck, we should be done with the snow. The Village DPW will be removing the large deposits of sand on the side of the roads. The street sweeper will then hit the roads in April.

Mudd Murphy – The monthly Mayor's Association Meeting will be held on April 23rd at Steamer's in Oswego.

Mudd attended a meeting last week with the Mayors of Pulaski and Mexico speaking on vacant properties in their municipalities. Both Pulaski and Mexico are looking into passing a local law to adopt a vacant property

registry. Vacant homeowners will be charged 50 dollars the first year with the homeowners explaining their intent on renovating or selling the home. Each year after that, the fee will go up. Also, part-vacant properties (ie: air BNBs or student housing) would also be charged a partial fee. These are essentially rundown properties. John Powers will be sending Mudd a copy of the proposed local law to review.

Earlier today, the Mayor and I looked at everything that needs to be repaired or updated in the current municipal building and decided that it would be best if the job were sent out for a public bid and the Village use a general contractor for the scope of work necessary.

Trustee Sherman wanted everyone to be mindful of potholes. Sherman also stressed the need to keep the drains clear of leaves and debris.

Trustee Hart had nothing to report.

Trustee Stevens had nothing to report at this time.

Police Chief Kevin Birardi reported the Police Department's budget proposal was delivered to the Village Clerk/Treasurer. He has a chance to purchase 10 tasers from the Town of Cicero for \$3,000. The tasers are about 3 years old and still under warranty. Along with the tasers, the price would include two cartridges for each unit, holsters for all 16 employees, training cartridges and training by one of the Town of Cicero Police Department's Certified Taser Instructors.

Police Chief Birardi respectfully requested the Board review the purchase reminding them of an incident that happened a week before he was hired where tasers were used to detain an assailant without having to use deadly force.

Trustee Sherman asked if this would be in the budget and Clerk/Treasurer Cusyck stated that there is money available since there was no chief for a few months. Michele also reminded Board members that the Village's

insurance company did make a strong recommendation for the police to acquire tasers.

Trustee Sherman made Motion to accept the taser purchase offer provided by Police Chief Berardi and transfer the funds from A3120.100 (personnel services) to A3120.200 (equipment), seconded by Deputy Mayor Murphy and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mudd asked Birardi about the security around the building. Birardi is currently composing a grant that would include panic buttons installed at the judge's and clerks' desks. Birardi put these items out for bid along with other items he feels are needed and is waiting for the final quote. The grant application should be open soon and he will be ready when it becomes available. Mudd asked about utilizing the village grant writer, but Birardi explained that law enforcement grants have very specific terminology.

Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato was not in attendance.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck would like to schedule a budget workshop for Thursday, April 2nd at 3:30 p.m.

Citizens' Concerns started with Tom Rinefierd asking about the folks marking items up and down East Ave. The Clerk's office did receive a call from Windstream stating that they would be marking areas in the Village for new fiber optic lines installed underground.

Tom said that he's seeing lots of cracks in the roads. Mayor House acknowledged that the DPW would be evaluating the roads throughout the Village.

Tom asked if the Village could clean out catch basins and Mayor House said that the Village does not own a machine.

Mr. Rinefird also asked if there could be a larger turn radius at the corner of Ruth and Thelma since it's a very tight intersection. Mayor House stated there may be a possibility to add pavement.

Rinefird asked with the SOCRIS (Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer) project, does the Village still need their treatment plant and if so, will the plant need upgrades? Mayor said yes, we are still going to need the treatment plant but needing upgrades is unknown at this time. Mayor House went on to say that there will be many meetings on the SOCRIS project.

Mark Mezzo was wondering when the Village announced the new homes on Carly Court across from him. Mezzo wants to know why the people in the "drop zone" weren't notified.

The Deputy Clerk stated that she did send out letters based on the surrounding homes provided by the Codes Officer.

Mr. Mezzo stated that no one received the letters and that he didn't know about the meetings or he would have been there. Mezzo went on to say that the new homes would affect his house value and his life and wants to know who would be responsible.

Mr. Mezzo then stated that there are sink holes in the road of Carly Court because of the water going under the road. There was additional discussion on the sink holes as well as the removal of additional vegetation around the culverts on the sides of the road.

Old Business

New Business

Local Law 2 of 2026, State Real Property Tax Cap Override

Motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy to approve Local Law 2 of 2026 to override the State Real Property tax cap for 2026-2027, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor

Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

General Fund Budget Modifications: Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) & Insurance Recoveries for Building Repairs

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to increase the Revenue account A3089 by \$3,417.61 and increase Expense account A1110.200 (Justice Court Equipment) by \$2,189.01 and A1110.400 (Justice Court Supplies) by \$1,228.60 to receive and spend grant funds from the NYS Justice Court Assistance Program as well as increase the Revenue account A2680 by \$123,829.30 and increase Expense account A1620.401 (Building Maintenance) by \$123,829.30 to receive and spend insurance funds for the repair of the Village Municipal building, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Hastings Lyons Club Fee & Oswego County Opportunities Head Start Waiver Requests for Use of Goettel Park

Motion by Trustee Sherman to waive the Goettel Park use fees for both the Hastings Lyons Club as well as Oswego County Opportunities Head Start Program, seconded by Deputy Mayor Murphy and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 9, 2026, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Murphy and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Vouchers – March Abstract #20 - \$35,102.17 - General Fund Vouchers totaling \$15,837.73 and Sewer Fund Vouchers totaling \$19,264.44

were approved for payment upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 7:53 p.m. upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart and seconded by Trustee Sherman. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Approved by the Village Board April 13. 2026