

Village of Central Square Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2025
Hearing 6:30 PM
Hearing 6:45 PM

At 6:37 p.m. Mayor House called the Public Hearing to order, and Trustee Hart led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Local Law No. 2 – Real Property Tax Cap Override. No one in attendance had comments or concerns. The Hearing was closed at 6:40 p.m.

At 6:45 p.m. Mayor House called the Public Hearing to order regarding Local Law No. 1 – Reducing Speed Limit in the School Zone on Co. Rt. 12. Matthew Stevens began by requesting that when changing the speed zone on Co. Rt. 12 by the school, to also change the speed limit to 25 MPH throughout the Village (not US Rt. 11 or 49). Eleanor Peavy also mentioned the corner of North Ridge being an issue as well with speed concerns. Carol Johnson lives on Co. Rt. 12 and has seen vehicles fly down the road past her home and even past a stopped school bus. Johnson would also like the sidewalks extended to the Village end so that children can safely walk to the school.

Deputy Mayor Murphy held up a picture of a solar sign that the Village would like installed in the school zone area. The sign would flash during school hours and an upgrade would show vehicles how fast they were traveling. The Village Grant writer informed the Board that there is also a NYS DOT TAP grant program that the Village can apply for titled Safe Sidewalks to Schools. This grant would address sidewalks, signage, etc. The Village will need to involve an engineer to develop the scope and cost summary for the project.

Additional discussion regarding flashing signs and school zone ahead or a mobile gas powered "Your Speed Is" sign continued. The Hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m. and the regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order by Mayor House.

Board Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard Murphy, Trustees Ken Sherman, Mike Hart & Jim Turo.

Village Staff in Attendance: Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, Police Chief Ed Carroll. DPW Superintendent Alex Nielsen and Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato were absent.

Public Attendance: Village Residents: Matthew and Heather Stevens, Rebecca Gomes, Debbie and Lou Bilello, Eleanor Peavey, Carol Johnson, Leo Schumaker, Vincent Buttiglier and Pat Sidlik. June Kraus. Rod Campbell from NorCOG.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House had nothing to report.

Trustee Murphy Good news in the Palladium Times...the Central Square Winter Drumline competed in the World Championship in Dayton, Ohio...what an accomplishment!

Mudd announced that the Hillside Cemetery is open and there is still a lot of winter debris to be cleaned up. With Memorial Day approaching, the DPW is trying to get things completed as soon as possible.

The next Tug Hill Mayor's Conference will be on May 15th beginning at 5:30p.m. at 916 in Central Square. Joe Nehme from Micron will be speaking.

Trustee Sherman There has been lots of activity in the Village. The NYS DOT is doing more studies at Central Square Middle School. The community needs to keep the momentum going on the speed zone issue through the school zone on US Rt. 11 with the NYS DOT.

Sherman wanted to remind people that potholes on US Rt. 11 and 49 are up to the State to fix. The Village can't fix these and our DPW is short staffed.

Trustee Hart wanted to take a moment to mention that the Board did hire a new DPW Superintendent, Alex Nielsen. Many of you may not know, but Alex's family owns Country Glazed Donuts and Alex's father passed away recently. The Country Glazed family has done a lot to support this community and the community should support them during their time of loss.

Trustee Turo Potholes are a hot topic.

DPW Superintendent Nielsen is on bereavement leave until next week.

Police Chief Carroll is beginning to search for a new SPO (Special Police Officer) for the schools since one of the officers is retiring. With new NYS laws, this will take additional time to complete the background checks required.

Chief Carroll told the Board that he and his officers need to know what is happening with the Village Court since the Town of Hastings follows a different protocol. His officers are currently writing tickets into May and if the officers have a petty larceny charge at Walmart, they will need to send that person to Fulton to appear in front of Cap Court to plead then back to the Town of Hastings. May 31st is Judge Wildrick's last day, and Judge Avery's term is up at the end of June.

Pat Sidlik stated that NYS will provide a judge, but there are people interested in sitting as a judge for the Village Court.

Trustee Sherman said that replacing Pat would be harder than replacing a judge at this point with all her knowledge.

Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck had nothing to report.

Citizens' Concerns

Heather Stevens announced that the United States is celebrating it's 250th Anniversary and with that, historians are highlighting Revolutionary War veterans buried in local cemeteries. Hillside Cemetery in Central Square has a Revolutionary War veteran buried in the cemetery which Stevens was unaware of until recently. His name was Nicholas Yordan and he was barely over 16 when he fought in the war.

Stevens explained that Patriot Burials Marker Grant Program is available and provides markers to be placed in locations where Revolutionary War Patriots are buried. The paperwork is due on Wednesday (4/16) and Stevens requested that Mayor House sign the paperwork to begin the request and keep the Board posted on updates.

Debbie Bilello of Webb Ave. had snow from the adjacent "old school" roof (located at 642 S. Main Street) dump onto her fence and the fence was damaged and/or destroyed. Bilello is rebuilding the fence but asked the Board if they had any ideas on how to prevent the damage from happening again. Trustee Sherman said that stops on the building's metal roof would prevent the snow from sliding down in one large pile. Sherman urged Bilello to contact the other insurance company now and not wait on the issue.

Vincent Buttiglieri is still having drainage issues on North Ridge Drive in North Country Heights. The water continues to go over the roadway instead through the pipes under the road. Trustee Turo stated that the water "shortcuts" the pipes and goes through Buttiglieri's property instead of through the intended pipes. Trustee Sherman said that the National Grid lot next to his property is the problem and that the pipe is probably pinched on that side. Buttiglieri said that the 2- 12" pipes are not large enough to handle the water flow and would like a 35-75' of larger diameter pipe to replace the existing pipe and the new pipe dug deeper in depth and down into the gully. Buttiglieri is concerned that the continued water flow will damage his newly installed fence or destroy it and has deterred him from making additional upgrades to the property.

Buttiglieri reached out to National Grid and a foreman that he spoke to said that the Village needs to contact Grid. Mayor House said that the National Grid property is in the Town of Hastings. Buttiglieri spoke with Jason Burns from the Town of Hastings and said the Town would help if the Village received approval from National Grid to proceed. Mayor House stated that the Village will do what it can.

Continued discussion on changing speeds to 25 MPH in North Country Heights and having the area patrolled for speeding and motorists running stop signs. Police Chief Carroll was made aware of the situation and would follow up with his patrolmen.

Residents wanted to thank George McCormick for everything he did while he was DPW Superintendent in the Village. Everything was done in a timely manner with a friendly smile. Thank you, George!

New Business

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to hire new DPW Laborer Jamie Kratz at \$26 per hour starting as soon as possible, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Additional DPW assistance is needed, and Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to hire Michael Avery for summer help as needed at \$26 per hour and catch Avery up on his back pay, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to appoint Marian Yerdon and Penny Faulter as Election Inspectors and Shirley Morkovin as a Poll Clerk for the upcoming election in June at \$150 per day, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2025, entitled "A Local Law Reducing the Speed Limit Near Paul V. Moore High School" to 25 MPH, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to adopt Local Law No. 2 of 2025, entitled "A Local Law to override the 2025 Tax Levy Limit", seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor House and the Board announced the Little League Parade on Saturday, May 3rd at 9 a.m. Police Chief Carroll and the Central Square Fire Department will block off the necessary streets to help keep everyone safe.

Rod Campbell from NorCOG reminded the Village that New York State is requiring all municipalities over 1,500 to have a ".gov" website by June 19th. The next NorCOG meeting will be on June 26th at 7 p.m. held at the Constantia Town Hall. And lastly Paul Baxter's retirement party is on June 27th.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The minutes of the regular meeting on March 24, 2025, were approved upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Vouchers - Trustee Hart made motion to pay the Vouchers on Abstract #20 as follows: General Fund in the amount of \$48,032.60 and Sewer Fund in the amount of \$13,863.03 for a total of \$61,895.63, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Abstract #20	
General Fund	\$48,032.60
Sewer Fund	\$13,863.03

Adjournment

At 8:18 p.m. Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved April 28, 2025