

Bi-Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2026

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 27th day of April 2026.

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

Village Officials/Staff in Attendance: Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, Police Chief Kevin Birardi, Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato

Public Attendance: Village Residents in attendance included: Becky Phillips, Judy Geis, Cathy Smolnik, Mary Wescott, Tina Freeman, Clark and Debbie Graves, Greg Watson, Jake Spencer, Alan English, Debbie Bilello, Michael Sperling, Bob Drake, Emilie Edwards, Tom Rinefierd, Linda Burrows, Carol Johnson, Karen and Mark Mezzo, Dave Wescott. Scout Ryan Christensen was also in attendance with follow-up information on the Ada Powell Park project.

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

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House welcomed everyone in attendance. Mayor and Mudd drove through the Village recently noting streets with potholes and then spoke with the Village DPW on filling or patching them.

Mudd Murphy – last Thursday the Oswego County Mayor’s Conference was well attended. There was a presentation by Ben Gephard of Oswego County Soil & Water that included wetland areas; specifically, where parks

were concerned, adding that more people wanted walking trails or nature trails, biking trails, etc. Mudd thought that Ada Powell Park and Crossroads Park are very nice pieces of land for these.

Another presentation was on websites, and the speaker was Tino Amodei. During his presentation, Tino offered his research where 40–50-year-olds typically review area websites before moving to a community.

The Village will be working with Tino on changing our website as more of a tool for not only online bill paying but for more informational purposes.

Trustee Sherman – wanted to bring attention that the school board is being held right now with over 100 people in attendance.

Thank you to the citizens in the community on Earth Day for the cleanup initiative throughout the Village.

Trustee Hart had nothing to add.

Trustee Stevens asked the Board if there were any updates from National Grid regarding Vinny's property. Mayor House stated that there wasn't. Matt also mentioned that the Minutes from the March 30th meeting need to be addressed/approved as well.

Police Chief Kevin Birardi continues to update policies for the police department. The patrol officers are logging their miles and averaging 40 miles per shift.

Kevin has been monitoring social media posts and addressed the concerns about sex offenders; noting the difference between offenders on supervised release and those without restrictions.

Linda Burrows asked if there was a police report accessible to the public. Burrows would also like a breakdown of the police department budget and a revenue document on the court.

Chief Birardi's plan is to update police policies and fix them to be within the confines of the law. After these are completed, he will be able to provide these reports.

Mayor House explained to Chief Birardi the way Past Chief Harland Fox ran the department; giving statistics at meetings (number of calls, arrests, etc.).

Birardi is working with the Board on the new website so that there will be information available to the public regarding the police department.

Carol Johnson stated that the vehicles speeding in the school zone on Co. Rt. 12 continue and would like to have more police presence. She also asked about the lights/radar that was spoken about last year. Deputy Mayor Murphy explained the problem with getting a contractor to install them, but they would be done as soon as possible.

Ms. Johnson then asked why there were no sidewalks yet past the old bus garage on Co. Rt. 12. Mudd Murphy answered that a grant for the sidewalks was put together, but the engineer the village uses is not on the "state approved" list. An engineer on that list would have cost much more.

Discussion on repairs to Rt. 11 and Rt. 49 sidewalks was had and the mayor reminded everyone that these are state owned roads.

Mayor House also mentioned the possibility of roundabout "peanuts" in the middle of the village that is in a concept phase. House stated that 2028/2029 is the last estimate for the "peanuts" and that it's federally funded since the village center has above-average accidents.

There is no money for land acquisitions for the "peanuts". Sidewalks will be installed if there is room around the light poles; which will not be placed underground since that is also not budgeted for with the federal funds.

Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato provided a list of building permits issued from March 1st through April 27th. Ed also provided the Board with a list of all fire inspections and property maintenance violations noting 2 court cases scheduled for 4/29/26.

Oswego County Planning updated our Zoning Map and it's available on our website.

A reminder to residents that all property complaints need to be provided in writing and submitted to the Village Offices. The form is available on the Village website and hard copies are available in the Village offices.

Linda Burrows asked how many hours Ed was paid for per week and if he did drive-arounds through the Village. Cusato responded that he is paid 20 hours per week on the payroll but said he works well over that with the paperwork that needs to be completed but can be reached by phone. Burrows asked about the property on Hickory behind her with tires in the yard. Ed noted that it's been in the court for the last 2 months and is in the Courts hands.

Mark Mezzo asked how extensive the building codes are for new housing – particularly the area on Carly Court across from his house. Mr. Mezzo stated that he's not worried about the rainwater but about the natural springs being diverted towards his property.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck had nothing to add.

Ryan Christensen was asked by the mayor to explain the Ada Powell Park Project to the audience. Ryan started a project at Ada Powell Park in the Fall of 2025 with his troop. They took care of the trees that had fallen, cleaned up the brambles and even removed all the glass. They then added some tables for a new 60 ft. picnic area. They've logged around 200 hours to clean up the Park (receiving a round of applause from all). Ryan and his troop would like to install new raised garden beds in the park this spring.

Adoption of Budget 2026/2027 – Resolution No. 11 of 2026

Resolution read by Mayor House and upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Hart and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-no. The motion carried.

Citizens' Concerns – A resident stated that he moved here recently and would like to get a breakdown of the budget; an actual line by line budget.

Questions about why the Village needs a DPW since the wastewater treatment plant is outsourced. Mayor House explained that an outside firm handles everything at the wastewater treatment plant behind the fence by

the municipal offices. That firm also files all the paperwork with the DEC and other government agencies and that they are also “ahead of the curve” with any issues. Mayor went on to say that the solids are turned into a “sludge” that goes to a landfill; which the DPW must transfer. The Village DPW oversees all the pump stations that aren’t behind the fence. They also pick up leaves, limbs, and patch potholes.

A resident asked if funds could be allocated from somewhere else to sidewalks. Deputy Mayor Murphy addressed the question adding that a lot of times the engineering fees cost the Village more than the project itself.

Mrs. Smolnik commented that the brush pickup started too early and was unhappy about the garage on Rt. 11 that doesn’t have a sign on it and has all the vehicles without license plates in the front by the road. Discussion was had on unlicensed vehicles.

Questions about the protestors in the middle of the village were answered by Chief Birardi.

The water fund budget was questioned and Mudd responded about the long-term note that will be paid off in 2038. The Village also pays OCWA for maintenance and hydrants.

Old Business

New Business

Resolution 12 of 2026 – Schedule Public Hearing for Local Law 3 of 2026 to Allow for Videoconferencing – May 11, 2026 @ 6:45 p.m. Discussion ensued and there was no vote on it.

Generator Maintenance Contract for Pumping Stations, Northland & Mallory. A motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy to award Kinsley Power the generator maintenance contract for pumping stations, 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.

Deputy Mayor Murphy mentioned that the garage door at the cemetery vault needed to be replaced. Murphy got an estimate of \$1,500 to replace it. Mayor House and Trustee Hart said the door panels could be bought for around \$500 and installed by DPW – and DPW could paint them black. No action taken.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of the regular meeting on April 13, 2026, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-no. The motion carried.

Payment of Vouchers – April Abstract #22 - \$80,759.58 - General Fund Vouchers totaling \$17,088.35 and Sewer Fund Vouchers totaling \$63,671.23 were approved for payment upon motion 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 8:46 p.m. upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart and seconded by Trustee Sherman. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz

Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved May 11, 2026