

Bi-Monthly Meeting January 13, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 13th day of January 2025.

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

Village Staff in Attendance: Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, Police Chief Ed Carroll **Absent:** Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, DPW Superintendent George McCormick & Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato

Public Attendance: Heidi Tompkins, Circuit Rider, North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG)

Meeting Called to Order: Mayor House called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Trustee Hart led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House received notice from the Oswego County Self-Insurance Plan of the \$14,865.00 apportionment the Village will need to budget for the 2025-2026 budget. He also reported that he and Deputy Mayor Murphy have been reviewing resumes for the DPW Supervisor position due to George McCormick retiring April 1, 2025. He welcomed Trustees Sherman and Hart in the reviewing process.

Trustee Murphy reminded the Board of the Oswego County Mayors Meeting at the Eis House in Mexico on January 16th at 5:30 p.m. with Assemblyman William Barclay as the key speaker.

Murphy was happy to announce that the 2024 Tithe My Shoes campaign was a success with over 900 pairs of shoes collected in Oswego County.

Deputy Mayor Murphy provided the Board an information packet regarding the County Route. 12 school zone issues that were brought to the attention of the Board by Police Chief Carroll during a previous Board meeting. The packet was also sent to School Superintendent Tom Colabufo to review and add comments. The packet included sidewalk repair/removal for which grants are available. All signage needs to be clear – the signage on Rt. 12 right now is not. There's a crosswalk sign at the bottom of a hill without a crosswalk on the road. Trustee Hart asked if the Village of Pulaski received the same grant and Murphy said that that grant was through the State since the sidewalk to Pulaski High School is on US Route 11. Murphy said that the Village of Central Square can apply for these grants to have sidewalks on Tucker and other roads leading to the school campus. Rt. 11 would have to come from the DOT.

Heidi Tompkins stated that NorCOG has a grant writer on staff as well and we can ask for their assistance since this is part of our yearly dues. Pulaski uses them also.

Trustee Sherman has heard many complaints from residents regarding the snow plowing being done on the sidewalks. Many complaints from Main Street, in front of the church, towards the Cemetery and Gertrude Drive. Potholes on state roads is a major issue and Central Square seems to be left out of any repairs. Sherman added that Maggie Kirkby is happy that the streetlights on her road are fixed.

Trustee Hart gave kudos to DPW Superintendent McCormick and the DPW crew for keeping up with snow removal.

Trustee Turo was absent.

DPW Superintendent McCormick submitted the following report in his absence which was read by Mayor House.

Pump Stations - Mallory Pump Station had issues with a water pump but is fixed. Also the gas valve was stuck possibly due to cold weather. Ongoing cleaning at Green Acres. Portable generator had to have fuel pump replaced and now the block heater will be replaced.

Safety – A vehicle rearended Gordon in the 2021 Chevy Service Truck at the stop light at the intersection of Route 49 and Route 11. 911 was called and a report filed.

WWTP – George is on top of things.

Projects – Waiting on parts for Side-by-Side. Snow removal has been a top priority. Christmas decorations will start coming down. The 1-ton truck has been at Hannas for a fuel system problem but will be going to Northern Lights Auto in Mattydale.

Trustee Hart mentioned that during McCormick's personal leave absence, snow removal and the taken down of Christmas decorations may be done by Mike Avery.

Police Chief Carroll explained to Mayor House that the police vehicle he saw stopped on Route 81 has a plate reader that checks for unregistered vehicles.

Carroll said it was a busy holiday season, and his Department participated in the village holiday events. He estimated 100 calls this month with 5 arrests this week, 1 with 10 grams of methamphetamine. The Department is still participating in Oswego County's STOP DWI program and December had 6 DWI arrests.

Deputy Mayor Murphy asked about the Department's policy on washing vehicles and Chief Carroll said his people are allowed to do so. Murphy also asked about an incident where he saw one of the Village Police Officers at Byrne Dairy with another person in the police vehicle and the

Chief explained it was a newly hired Officer doing field training that didn't have a uniform at the time.

Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato was absent.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Cusyck was absent.

Citizens' Concerns

There was no public in attendance for citizen concerns.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Goettel Park Use

The Board agreed to waive the user fee for the Girls Scouts to sell cookies every Saturday and Sunday from February 15 until March 31 upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

A request from Courtney Mezger to use Goettel Park once a month as a pickup location for the co-op company she works for was denied upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-no, Deputy Mayor Murphy-no, Trustee Hart-no, Trustee Sherman-no, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously. The Board's decision was based on their knowledge that the co-op, Azure Standard, is a for-profit company.

Resolution #13 to Establish Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon the Board approved the increase of the mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.70 as established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Hillside Cemetery

A request from Elizabeth Brown for the Village to buy back 3 of her unused graves from lots #464 & 465 was approved, contingent on her providing her original deed, upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously. The two lots each have two graves, and one person is buried on 465. The cost of the graves from her original purchase in 1991 was \$240 each.

Volney Multiplex Security Systems

Mayor House brought up the proposal from Volney Multiplex to install a security system in the Municipal Building and Goettel Park in the amount of \$23,859.00. The job would consist of providing and installing a 2-door Access Control System at the Village Office for \$9,400.00, replacing the existing CCTV System at the Park for \$6,850.00, replacing the existing CCTV System at the Village Office for \$6,850.00, and providing and installing monitored panic buttons in the Village Clerk and Court Offices for \$750.00.

After some discussion, the proposal was accepted by the Board to be paid from ARPA Funds upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Heidi Tompkins, NorCOG, reminded Board and staff of the upcoming Tug Hill Local Government Conference at Turning Stone April 1, 2025, and reported on the following:

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking related to its emergency response standard for fire brigades earlier this year. An informal public hearing was held November 12 through December 4, 2024, and OSHA is accepting comments through January 17, 2025.

The NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government Services announced the 2024-2025 round of Local Government Efficiency Grants. Applications must be made through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) and are due by January 24, 2025.

Heidi handed out Quick Reference Cards to the Board and village staff developed by Tug Hill staff based on commonly asked questions each month.

The next NorCOG meeting is Wednesday, January 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe Municipal Building. NYSDEC will be there as a speaker.

Updates to NorCOG's Bylaws, Budget and Intermunicipal Agreement are in progress and will be discussed/adopted at the meeting.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The minutes of the regular meeting on December 9 and special meeting on December 17, 2024 were approved upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Vouchers - Vouchers listed on Abstract #14 in the amount of \$69,558.77 and Abstract #15 totaling \$36,162.92 were approved for payment from the following funds upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

	Abstract #14	Abstract #15
General Fund	\$56,938.44	\$18,265.19
Sewer Fund	\$12,620.33	\$17,845.93
Trust & Agency		\$51.80

Executive Session

At 8:27 the Board moved to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:48 p.m. the Board returned to the regular meeting with no action taken by formal vote upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 8:48 p.m. Trustee Hart moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Sherman.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Cusyck

Village Clerk/Treasurer

Village Board Approved 1/28/2025