

Public Hearing, Annual Organizational & Monthly Meetings July 14, 2025

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

Village Staff in Attendance: Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, Police Chief Ed Carroll and Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato.

Others in Attendance: Residents Heather Stevens, Robin Hansen, Jacki Purdy, Tom Rinefierd, Maryellen Commisso, Maggie Kirkby, Ryan & Ken Kristensen; DPW Worker Andrew Veley; Heidi Tompkins, NorCOG Circuit Rider

Public Hearing

At 6:45 p.m. Mayor House opened the public hearing on Cemeteries Local Law #3 of 2025.

Public Comment

Heather Stevens Page 5, B. – regarding the written consent by the Village Board of Trustees to install a monument; she believes the verbiage should not include the approval needed by the Village Board. Page 6, G. – Ms. Stevens stated that remains don't go bad, and the "without notice" sounds a bit harsh. She asked if this verbiage could be changed. Page 6, D. Heather asked if not only village employees were able to access the niche doors. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated that only village employees have access to the niche doors. Page 7, Section 81-9 – Heather questioned the word inurnment. This word is correct. Page 8, Section 81-11 Flowers and wreaths at Grave Sites – Heather was confused on the difference between B. and D. Deputy Mayor Murphy explained that any potted plants need to be placed in the ground enough that they do not impede with any mowing or landscaping around the cemetery. Page 9, Section 81-15 – Heather wanted clarification on the verbiage since we live in an inclement climate. The verbiage will be revised as such.

Robin Hansen asked why previous Trustee Jim Turo was on the law and asked if it could be changed to reflect new Trustee Matthew Stevens. It was agreed that this would be changed.

Tom Rinefierd asked if there was a minimum size pot and if they were approved to be above or in the ground. Deputy Mayor Murphy said that Gordon is allowing a small hole to be dug to place the pot into and that a heavy plastic pot should be used so it can be weeded around.

At 7 p.m., Mayor House closed the public hearing, and the Annual Organizational meeting was called to order with the Pledge to the American Flag led by Trustee Hart.

Organizational meeting

Mayor House read the following appointments which 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 Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor – Millard “Mudd” Murphy
Budget Director – Mayor Randy House
Official Newspaper – The Post Standard
Official Depositories – Pathfinder & NY CLASS
Official Meetings – 2nd and 4th Mondays
Police Commissioner – Randy House
Parks & Cemetery Commissioner – Mudd Murphy
Streets & Wastewater Commissioner – Mike Hart
Youth & Recreation Commissioner – Ken Sherman
Community Development – Matthew Stevens
Planning Board – Robin Hansen
Clerk/Treasurer – Michele Cusyk
Deputy Clerk – Krista Ruzekowicz
DPW Superintendent – Mike Gilfus
Employee Drug & Alcohol Testing – Advanced Drug & Alcohol Testing
Associate Justice – Allison Pardee

Police Chief – Edward Carroll
Building, Fire & Safety Inspector – Ed Cusato & William Hamacher
Village Attorney – Joe Frateschi, Harris Beach Murtha Law Firm
Village Engineers – Barton & Loguidice & PLS Engineering
Recreation Director – Rebekah McGraw
Village Historian – Heather Stevens
Registrar of Vital Statistics – Erin Goodrich, Town of Hastings
Public Relations Liaison – Mudd Murphy

Hillside Memorial Cemetery Advisory Committee

Trustee Mudd Murphy
Linda Murphy
Penny Faulter
Andrew Traub
Marion Yerdon
Heather Stevens

Mayor House read the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION #1

Pursuant to Village Law 4-412 (3) (2) the Board of Trustees designates Pathfinder Bank and NY CLASS as the depository institutions for all monies received by the Village Clerk-Treasurer, and receiver of taxes. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy for resolution #1 as read, 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.

RESOLUTION #2

Pursuant to Village Law 5-524 (6) that the Board of Trustees authorized payment in advance of audit claims for the public utility services, postage, freight, and express charges. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy for resolution #2 as read, 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.

RESOLUTION #3

Pursuant to General Municipal Law 77-b Officers, elected officials and employees are hereby authorized to attend the meetings and schools necessary for the performance of their jobs. A motion was made by Trustee Stevens for resolution #3 as read, 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.

RESOLUTION #4

Authorizes the appointment of a Village Clerk/Treasurer residing outside the Village limits but residing in the County of Oswego. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy for Resolution #4, as read, 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.

RESOLUTION #5

A Special Meeting may be called by the Mayor alone or by at least two Trustees acting together to cover a specific action or related action. The members of the Board of Trustees receive notice of the meeting by a phone call from the Village Clerk to be followed up by an email plus posting of the meeting by posting it at the Village Office. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy for resolution #5 as read, 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.

RESOLUTION #6

Pursuant to General Municipal Law 104-b which requires every Village to adopt informal policies and procedures governing all procurement of goods and services not subject to bidding requirements of GML, Section 103 of one law and Code of Ethics that must be established.

- A. Procurement policy – goods and services must be procured in a manner so as to assure the prudent and economical use of public money in the best interests of the taxpayers of the political subdivision, to facilitate the acquisition of goods and services of maximum quality at the lowest possible cost under the

circumstances and to guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption.

- B. Code of Ethics – pursuant to Local Law #1 Chapter 4 all elected and appointed officials sign annually and kept on file by the Village Clerk.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy for resolution #6 as read, 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.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House had nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Murphy reported Hillside Cemetery has been busy with funerals and foundations being installed. Mudd received a few estimates on the cemetery fence that was damaged over the winter by a neighbor's falling tree. Atlas Fence would replace the entire 600 feet of galvanized fencing for \$19,795, less the \$3,200 insurance recovery the village would receive bringing the total to \$16,595. Black fence would be an additional \$1,500. The Village would have to remove all existing fence and there are a few existing poles that can be reused. Mudd requested quotes from 3 different companies and received 2. The 2nd one was from Butler Fence at \$43,000.

Maryellen Commisso asked if the village would consider using these funds to hire a professional to write the Village Comprehensive Plan as the Planning Board is not qualified. This led to discussion between the Village Board, Planning Board Members in attendance, and Heidi Tompkins.

Heidi stated that the County will not help write the Comprehensive Plan, but there is a grant for administrative office expenses such as postage. The Village is part of the Tug Hill Commission, and with that, if a Planning Committee for the village was already set up, she could ask the comprehensive plan writers at NorCOG to write a new Plan. Heidi will get a timeline for Maryellen. The timeline could be bumped up if you have committed people on the committee. The office can help with mapping. Heidi asked Maryellen to send the old plan to her. Heidi then asked if the village was utilizing Diamond Maps. This

software gives municipalities the option to note where streets have been cold patched, when streets have been paved with CHIPS money and more.

Heidi went on to note that there is a NY Bricks grant and the cemetery fence would fall under facilities improvements and be eligible. Heidi will talk to John at Tug Hill Commission who could write the grant for the village. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he would speak with the village grant writer as well.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato asked about the municipal building repairs that are needed. Heidi said that the NY Brick grant would give us a better advantage to repair the municipal building.

Heidi noted that it would be nice if the Town of Hastings would join the Tug Hill Commission with all other north shore municipalities.

Maryellen said that the current village comp plan is from 2013 and needs to be updated to get grants.

Deputy Mayor Murphy added that the village doesn't have a leash law and there are people walking their dogs at the cemetery which could make the village liable. Deputy Mayor Murphy made a Motion to hold a public hearing amending Chapter 64 of the Village Code entitled "Animals" within the Village of Central Square, 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.

Trustee Sherman is putting together a building committee to look at design and costs to the current building or relocating to an existing building.

Mosquito spraying will probably be happening sooner rather than later; it's already an active mosquito season.

The road patching on route 11 seems like a waste as the DOT has not repaired the frame and grate that is about to fall through. Trustee Hart stated that one was repaired but not the one in the most imminent danger.

Trustee Hart had nothing to add.

Trustee Stevens asked the Board if there was any additional movement on the Vincent Buttiglieri property at 142 North Ridge Road with regard to drainage. Mayor House stated that there was another walk through on his property. Matthew then stated that there was a new concern with a sewer manhole cover and water infiltration to the sewer. Trustee Hart and Mike Gilfus looked at it and talked about moving the ditch line over.

Trustee Stevens then wanted to bring up the sign pollution around the village and mentioned the event signs that are over and that there is no accountability. CEO Cusato said he spoke with a DOT supervisor, and he's going to handle the additional THC signage on State roads and told the Board that it has not gone unnoticed.

DPW - Mayor House said that Hastings is willing to help install new pipes under County Route 12 by the school to help with additional drainage.

He and new DPW Supervisor Mike Gilfus toured the village this morning.

Police Chief Ed Carroll said the patrol cars need to be serviced and his department will take them to Hanas Auto Repair since the DPW Superintendent is new. There are also recalls on 2 of the vehicles and one needs warranty work. The SRO cars will be serviced before school starts.

Heather Stevens asked Chief Carroll if there was a law on kids driving go karts on the road. Chief Carroll stated that there isn't. Trustee Sherman asked Chief Carroll if there was a law on helmets for electric bikes. Again, Chief Carroll stated there wasn't.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato provided the board with a new building permit report for the last 2 months. The car repair place was inspected and has an open complaint with DMV. Deputy Mayor Murphy asked if there was a law that could stop the car repair place from looking like a junk yard. CEO Cusato stated that for new businesses, the law could be revised but for existing businesses it could not be retroactive.

The DOT Supervisor will pull signs on state roads from THC. It is a retail business and is an allowed use. The Village is fortunate to have a law prohibiting the sale of drug paraphernalia.

The ZBA approved a use variance for the property Gregg Tweedy owns at 3206 East Ave, which now can be rented. Paul Sheneman did a walk through with CEO Cusato to review the drainage issue.

Fairway physical therapy was given a temporary Certificate of Occupancy.

Cusato would like to move the Code desks into a larger office where the historical items were and use the current office as records storage.

Trustee Hart is installing a new air conditioner upstairs.

Trustee Murphy asked if Mr. Hamacher inspected the Country Garden apartments. CEO Cusato said he will ask him.

Heidi Tompkins reviewed upcoming events from NorCOG's newsletter and thanked everyone for attending Paul Baxter's retirement celebration on June 27th. He had a wonderful time.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck had nothing for the board.

Citizens' Concerns

Robin Hansen said she asked the State DOT to clean out the culvert while they were patching East Avenue. She said they only cleaned out her culvert in front of her house but left a pile of sand.

Tom Rinefierd wanted to know what the "THC" store was selling. CEO Cusato said that it's a low-grade herbal bud. They are not selling cannabis and it has nothing to do with the marijuana law in the village

Old Business

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to adopt Cemeteries Local Law #3 of 2025, with changes to pages 6, 8 and 9 as noted previously, 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.

New Business

Computer Outlet Proposal for Networking Software Programs - Village Clerk/Treasurer Cusyck presented a networking quote in the amount of \$1,367.40 from Computer Outlet that will allow all Williamson Law Book programs to work together as designed. Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to approve the work needed on the Clerk Computers, 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.

Goettel Park Reservation Fee Waiver from Oswego County Picnic - The Oswego County Picnic group is asking for the fee to be waived for their picnic on September 11, 2025. A motion was made by Trustee Hart to waive the fees for Oswego County Picnic group, 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.

Appointment of Denise Baxter as Court Clerk to replace Pat Sidlik at end of July - Trustee Hart made a motion to appoint Denise Baxter as the part time Court Clerk for a one-year term, 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.

Trustee Sherman stated that the Board will need to speak with the Town of Hastings about taking over the village court. Trustee Sherman can't agree with a long-term appointment for the Court Clerk. Sherman would like the court to break even and wants the village to prosper.

An extensive discussion on abolishing the court was held between the Board of Trustees and Chief Carroll.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of the regular meeting on June 23, 2025, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart and seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Vouchers – May - Abstract #26 - \$5,523.00 (General Fund \$190.00, Sewer Fund \$5,333.00).

July – Abstract #3 - \$31,084.23 (General Fund \$11,415.28, Sewer Fund \$19,668.95)

A motion was made by Trustee Hart and seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon to pay the vouchers: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Ada Powell Park - Eagle Scout Ryan Kristensen showed the Board pictures and renderings of his Ada Powell Project. In one of the renderings, there is a large, grassy clearing with flower beds. Ryan stated that the clear is 92 feet and he along with other members of the Scouts would be removing bush and fallen trees. No standing trees would be removed. Ryan mentioned having pea stone gravel in place for a walkway. Trustee Hart stated that pea stone gravel is not conducive to wheelchairs and to keep it natural. Trustee Sherman asked Ryan if in his design process he had included the need for low maintenance items.

Ryan received a signature from Mayor House to proceed with the project for Eagle Scout Committee.

Heather Stevens asked Ryan to notify the Clerk's office when he and his troop are in the area doing the work in Ada Powell Park.

Mayor House said that there will be a gentleman going deeper into the park to clear blow downs but that will probably be later in the season.

DPW Appointment - Mayor House recommended to the Board Paul Mills as a DPW Laborer candidate. Paul can run a lawnmower, knows carpentry and can run a loader. Mayor House made a motion to hire Paul Mills at \$20 per hour, effective immediately, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m. Trustee Hart moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Sherman.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Cusyck
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Village Board Approved June 28. 2025