

Public Hearing & Bi-Monthly Meeting

July 28, 2025

Board Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard "Mudd" Murphy, Trustees Ken Sherman and Matthew Stevens. Trustee Michael Hart was absent.

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

Others in Attendance: Andrew Velej, April Slade, Tom Rinefierd, Jacquelyn Upwood, Joann Burghart and Marlena Lerch.

Public Hearing

At 6:47 p.m. Mayor House opened the public hearing on Village Leash Law, Local Law #4 of 2025.

Jacquelyn Upwood stated that she and her dog had been attacked previously by a loose dog in the street. Also, at the old post office, 667 N. Main Street (corner of N. Main Street and Co. Rt. 12) the renter had a dog tied to a long line and she and her dog were attacked by that dog. Another incident happened at the end of Pleasant Ave. when a dog came off its porch and into the street and after herself and her puppy. Jacquelyn stated that she counted about 40 dogs on the 2 streets she walks. Several years ago, Upwood asked the Town of Hastings if any of the dogs she mentioned were licensed and none of the dogs were. Jacquelyn's dogs are put through extensive training that is costly. She needs to walk her dogs and often does that in the cemetery. She's noticed unleashed dogs in the cemetery as well and are larger dogs. Jacquelyn went on to say that it's only about \$18 to license your dog and would love to have it in the law that dogs must be licensed with rabies vaccinations.

Joann Burghart stated that the owner is responsible and asked if there was any way to increase the owner's awareness of the leash law.

Trustee Murphy said that the Village sends out a quarterly newsletter and that the leash law notification could be added.

At 7:01 p.m. Mayor House closed the public hearing, and the regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order with the Pledge to the American Flag led by Trustee Sherman.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House had nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Murphy reported the mowing and weed eating is getting caught up in the cemetery. There were 8 foundations done last week.

The brown wood fencing in the cemetery needs to be re-painted, and Gordon would like to get a battery-operated sprayer, but this can be discussed at another time.

Trustee Murphy would like to replace the fence that was damaged over the winter. The Village would need to tear all the bushes off as the fence is being removed and Mudd has gotten approval from the homeowners to do so. Atlas Fence quoted \$16,515, this includes the money received from the insurance company.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to have galvanized fencing installed by Atlas Fence for a cost of \$19,795 less the \$3,280 from the insurance company, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Murphy has been working on the school zone signage and speed reduction passed in the spring. Mudd has had a few meetings with Paul Sheneman, the Village engineer, regarding the sidewalks up and down Co. Rt. 12 and will be meeting on August 11th with Kristy LaManche, the Village grant writer, on putting together a grant and submitting it to the Safe Streets and Roads Program. This needs to be submitted in October. The difficulty is Oswego County doesn't have the rights-of-way mapped out like Onondaga

County does, but Paul is working with the County Highway Department. Mudd has been in contact with Jeff Smith at JC Smith Sign Shop that deals with different vendors that have solar signs that display speeds.

Trustee Murphy also spoke to Heather Stevens on the upcoming 9/11 anniversary to see if she has any ideas on people to honor. They'd like to have everything on September 11th.

Trustee Sherman playing off the school zone signs; due to the accident outside the middle school, a flashing light will be installed there this fall. The traffic flow into the middle school is changing with hopes it will make traffic more fluid and slow everyone down.

The building committee has met and spoken about new construction or an unutilized building that's in the Village. The committee will be meeting once a month over the next few months and hope to have some answers. Trustee Murphy would like to receive the public's input of what they'd like to see in the building. They could drop off or email suggestions. Trustee Sherman believes that the building would have to be a minimum of 1,500 square feet. Mudd's favorite municipal building is Cleveland's Village Hall. The best building in Oswego County is Pulaski's Village Hall (it encompasses the library, court, police, meeting rooms, etc.). A historical building would be ideal, but the one that was mentioned is in poor shape.

Trustee Stevens had nothing to share at this time.

DPW Supt – Mayor House – we are currently searching through resumes for a new superintendent. We have added another employee to the DPW.

Police Chief Ed Carroll Flashing yellow lights around the speed limit sign on Co. Rt. 12 may help. Unfortunately, the last thing some drivers are paying attention to is the speed limit.

Chief Carroll is concerned that the uniforms for the new SRO officer won't be completed on time but is hopeful. She will be hired through the school on September 1st. The current SRO is still working through August. The school fiscal year starts September 3rd at Millard Hawk.

Chief Carroll will be sending the SRO vehicles to Hanas for service before the school year.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato Submitted his report on new building permits and violations from June through July 28th to the Board. Cusato issued one stop work order on Co. Rt. 12.

A compliance deadline for two properties is coming up and appearance tickets will be issued if the violations are not corrected. A certificate of occupancy for a bottle return shop at 604 S. Main Street was issued. At 675 S. Main Street, a sign permit may need a variance due to the digital sign already there.

Cusato filed additional complaints with NYS DMV for the auto repair at 518 S. Main Street is awaiting a reply. Ed will need to speak with the village attorney on this location. He has found no blueprints or site plan for the building that currently houses the repair shop.

The codes officers will be moving their offices to the next room. A laptop and other items in the budget will be ordered. Deputy Mayor Murphy asked Cusato to look for blueprints for the village offices while moving.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck is working on getting the accounting program up and running. Michele submitted a June treasurer's report to the Board.

A new sewer structure needs to be updated and put in place. Michele has provided the Board with several different structures to pick from. Deputy Mayor Murphy asked Michele to put together a few dates for the Board to review the options.

Citizens' Concerns

Tom Rinefierd asked the board if a decision was made on replacing the Dry Bridge Road culvert. Mayor House stated that the town patched it up. Tom stated that the one on Thelma wasn't done. Mayor House said that a new flat bottom culvert is used now and that the town would have to install it.

Ms. Upwood noted that the multi-family home on 116 Pleasant Ave. is in disrepair. It's a home with 4- 1-bedroom apartments but states that 5 people are living in one apartment and has witnessed kids hanging out windows, throwing diapers out, a rock band practicing in the garage and open fires burning in the backyard. Jacquelyn would like the occupancy addressed for the building. Mayor House said that he would relay this to the village fire inspector.

Joann Burghart of the Central Square Library said that the library is in the process of getting several quotes to defer the water from the basement of the library and if the Board had any input. Mayor House said that any pipes would need to be directly hooked to the storm drain. The library is waiting for money from the State to demolish the existing home next to the library and is receiving different proposals and the contractors have requested regulations on drainage. The library's next board meeting is August 12th. Trustee Sherman said that they may need to have a permit from DEC. These drain lines should only be about 2-4 feet deep.

Marlena Lerch asked if the village would think about having legal dispensaries in the area since other communities have opted in and have been receiving more revenue from the legal sale. Marlena said that educating people is key. Mayor House said the village has opted out of it.

Old Business

Adoption of Local Law No. 4 – Leash Law Motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Adjourn at 8:08 p.m. and return at 8:26 p.m. Discussion had on a new employee.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a Motion to hire Denise Baxter as the new court clerk at \$12,000 annually with no benefits, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes,

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

Mayor House reminded the board that they have a request to review the notes made by current employees in the employee handbook.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of the regular meeting on July 14, 2025, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Vouchers – July – Abstract #4 - \$31,011.57 (General Fund \$24,378.44, Sewer Fund \$6570.18, Trust & Agency \$64.75).

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

Adjournment

At 8:31 p.m. Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Stevens.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Approved August 11, 2025