

Bi-Monthly Meeting

June 9, 2025

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 9th day of June 2025.

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, Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato

Public Attendance: Carol Johnson, Tom Rinefierd, Marcia Waldron, Lynn Owens, Karen & George DeRousie, Deb & Rob Owens, Becky Phillips, Gale Owens, Matthew Stevens, Roxane Taranto, Ronda Douglas, Village DPW Employee Andrew Velej and Rod Campbell, NorCOG Circuit Rider

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

The cemetery clean-up went well, lots of grass had to be mowed and removed from the front of the stones. The Memorial Day Parade was great.

The beaver dam repair is getting closer to being scheduled.

Some homeowners on Collins Terrace continue to have drainage issues, Mayor House walked the property with the owners and showed them how they could help themselves by shortening the fence, also dig ditch, clean out the fence and cut the bottom of fences off since they create problems by trapping items in the decorative fencing.

Met with a resident on Thelma Road regarding a ditch on side of his home. It looks like the DPW will have enough room on the side of the road to remove some of the buildup in the ditch.

Deputy Mayor Murphy

Hillside Cemetery - Discussed the inclusion of Hillside Cemetery Village Law being Chapter 81 of the Municipal Code. Murphy checked with local and state cemetery boards, rules are strict. After reading through many versions, the Village will be working with the attorney to review. All are welcome to come back to make comments. It was brought to my attention that a deed is for cemetery lots. The Village has been using the same deed for columbarium. The Village will be sending suggestions to the attorney on verbiage since the columbarium is owned by the Village, and we need to differentiate between niche and lot deeds. During research, he came upon an agreement that may be beneficial and would include family contacts. The Cemetery is also adding information into the Cem Sites software application. This is a lengthy process and takes time to input all the data.

Each year, cemetery pricing is compared with other local cemeteries, and we've found that our pricing is a little out of line, especially with the corner markers being \$100, most are charging \$200. The brochure also omitted disinterment that should be \$800. Also, a \$600 charge for winter internments should be added to 2025-2026 brochure.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to change the current cemetery brochure pricing to the new pricing and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 64, Animal Law - Murphy said there are a lot of people walking in the cemetery and some are walking with their dogs. Chapter 64 of Village Law, Animals, does not include a leash law. Murphy reviewed the leash laws of the Village of Pulaski. Sacketts Harbor and Oxford and thought Pulaski's would be a good fit for Central Square.

In response, Trustee Turo was concerned for trained dogs that don't walk on a leash would have to with the proposed law.

Mudd added that the complaints for violations would go through the Village Police or Codes Officer.

Cemetery, Goettel Park & Webb Ave. - Chain link fencing on the west side of the cemetery needs to be replaced, the backstop in the Goettel Park ball field needs repair and Mudd is getting prices with the thought of maybe replacing it with a smaller one. Also, the guardrail on Webb Avenue needs replacing after being hit by a snowplow this past winter.

Trustee Sherman feels the Village Board needs to come up with a plan for the municipal building.

Trustee Hart had nothing to report.

Trustee Turo had nothing to report.

DPW Superintendent – Mayor House said interviews are still being done for the position, the guys finished brush clean up, looking at sidewalk repair this summer, driveway culverts need replacing and the wastewater treatment plant is running fine.

Police Chief Ed Carroll had Officers at the school Senior Ball and Prom with no incidences and was present at the Memorial Day Parade. He is finishing interviews for an SPO, to replace Nelson Aquino whose last day is 8/1. Tom Calabufo asked him to bring 3 candidates to review. One of the vehicles, a 2015 Explorer, had to have a new battery.

Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato submitted a permit report from April – present. Pools more than 28 inches high need a permit by State law. This will be added to the next Village newsletter.

Country Garden Apartments are kicking back on inspection fee; Mayor wants to speak with the attorney before he speaks with the owner.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck the Village .gov site has been approved. Busy collecting taxes.

Citizens' Concerns

Marcia Waldron - 4 family plots were planted with flowers and edging. This was all pulled out by caretaker Gordon Lingley. Talked with George McCormick and Mudd Murphy. There were \$519 worth of perennials. Talked with Mayor House and no one ever said they couldn't plant flowers, just no shrub planting. She then stated that Gordon had asked Mudd for new signs listing rules and that George asked for signs too. The family received no notification to remove plantings; they were just gone.

Mudd- brochure has rules in it. Can have pots, no rose bushes, prickly, no planting will be removed until the village gets ordinance in the law.

Mayor –Gordon read the rules in the brochure and did what he thought was right. He was told not to pull things out of the ground but did not stop him in time and now it has grown to this. There will be new signs, pushing shepherds hook, getting information from the State on what they want, talk with attorneys about reimbursement.

Deb Owens- had a granite flat marker moved and placed against a big marker, no notice that this was happening or why.

Mike Hart – unfortunately, the family members are used to the status quo at the cemetery. Trustee Hart spent 3 ½ hours working at the cemetery getting it ready for Memorial Day. Regarding the flat marker, the Village changed the foundations to composite 2 years ago, don't use concrete. The citizen stated that the foundation was done more than 2 years ago.

Ken – should be reimbursed for the flowers and plantings.

Carol Johnson – don't know who to thank for the the speed tracker on County Route 12, but very appreciative. Tree limbs are covering the speed

zone ahead sign. Is there any way to get new signs that send tickets to the drivers speeding like the ones on 81?

Chief Carroll- those are civil judgements, not actual tickets. Those are usually \$50. They don't go against your license. There are new signs that can notify law enforcement of speeders, but these have an estimated cost of \$20,000.

Mudd – looking at signs for school speed zones and pricing. Looking into sidewalks to the schools, start with the engineer and will be meeting with him this week.

Tom Rinefierd – is NYS DOT going to fix Main Street along with the catch basins on the side of the road. Michele talked with Mexico DOT and is aware of needed repairs.

Matthew Stevens – any update on Vinny and his drainage issue.

Mayor House – water comes from National Grid property, and the Village can't go on that property. Love to have a swale through National Grid's property, tell him not to give up.

Old Business

Streetlight LED Project – look at inventory sheet provided. This needs to be reviewed and submitted to National Grid as soon as possible.

2024 Comprehensive Plan needs professional help from the County or a grant to have this updated properly.

Village Court

Ken – will be meeting with Town to talk about Court.

Mayor House – waiting on insurance company regarding the municipal building roof.

Mayor House- Courtney Haviland will fill out the unexpired term of Mike Wildrick.

Village Sewer and Town Byrne Dairy

Ken asked Mayor House if he heard anything from the Town of Hastings regarding their request for the Village to provide sewer at Byrne Dairy on US Route 11. Mayor House replied no and said the red light is on the grinder all the time.

New Business

Payroll Software Proposal – Michele explained issues with the use of the Paychex for payroll and submitted a proposal from Williamson Law Book (WLB) in the amount of \$14,000 (one-time cost) plus an annual \$3,000 maintenance fee to do payroll inhouse. The Village is currently paying \$18,000 a year for Paychex and the purchase will realize a budget savings of \$15,000 going forward to 2026-2027.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to purchase the Payroll Software from WLB as proposed, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Update Chapter 64- Animals - Include Leash Law- Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to have the Attorney Frateschi draft a local leash law to be added to Chapter 64 of the Municipal Code, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Updated Park & Ball Field Use Application Recommended by NYMIR – the revised park applications were reviewed and a motion to approve the revised applications was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously. There are separate applications for individuals

without insurance requirements and formal organizations with insurance requirements

Hillside Memorial Cemetery & Park Ordinance – Add Chapter 81 to Code

Motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy to have Village Attorney Frateschi draft a local law as Chapter 81 to the Municipal Code for the Hillside Memorial Cemetery & Park, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Transfer of Remaining Capital Projects Funds to General Fund Savings \$163,106 – a Motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy was made to approve the transfer of the remaining WWTP Capital Projects funds to the General Fund savings account, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously

Appoint a Committee to Investigate Remodeling or Moving Village Municipal Building

Deputy Mayor Murphy would like the Board to form a citizen committee to discuss the future of the municipal building. Discussion was started and Trustee Sherman made the motion, but there was no second and the meeting moved on to the next agenda item.

Fee Waiver Requests for Use of Goettel Park – Plank Road Quilt Guild & Mallory Wesleyan Church – Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to waive the fees to use Goettel Park for both the Plank Road Quilt Guild & Mallory Wesleyan Church, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Plank Road Guild has provided a Certificate of Insurance as required and Michele has contacted the Wesleyan Church about same.

Tug Hill Commission

Rod Campbell shared the following news item:

- The Consolidated Funding Application is open and due July 31 by 4 p.m.
- MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook are offering free annual training to assist local governments, and the next session on June 6th from 6 pm-7pm will be on Zoning Board Basics.
- The State Budget passed on May 9th with Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) remaining steady and CHIPS to support local road and highway improvements got a boost. The maximum hiring age for police officers is raised to 43.
- There is a new video on grant assistance available on NorCOG's website.
- The SOCRIS preliminary engineering report has been completed and the project has successfully undergone SEQRA Environmental review
- The next NorCOG meeting is on June 26th at 7 p.m. at the Constantia Town Hall.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of the regular meeting on May 12 and special board meetings on May 24 & 31, 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 Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Vouchers

- **May - Abstract #23 - \$92,453.26** (Sewer Fund \$67,364.93, General Fund \$25,088.33); **Abstract #24 - \$8,370.31** (Sewer Fund \$3,937.43, General Fund \$4,432.88);
- **June – Abstract #1 - \$33,222.60** (Sewer \$7,621.20, General \$25,601.40)

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

Adjournment

At 9:01 p.m. Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Cusyck
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by Village Board June 23, 2025