

Bi-Monthly Meeting

March 10, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 10th day of March 2025.

Board Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard Murphy, Trustees Mike Hart & Jim Turo. Trustee Ken Sherman was absent.

Village Staff in Attendance: Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, DPW Superintendent George McCormick and Police Chief Ed Carroll. Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato was absent.

Public Attendance: Village Residents: Ken Kristensen, Ryan Kristensen, Tom Rinefierd, Robin Hansen; Heidi Tompkins from NorCOG and Kyle Boeckmann from the Oswego County Office of Strategic Initiatives.

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

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House to all in attendance: as you can see, we have these support posts under the two main beams in this room. The roof beams upstairs cracked and dropped about 1". The DPW worked with an engineer to complete a temporary fix of these main beams down here and the upstairs beams as well with these posts. The snow on the roof was then able to be removed safely. The engineer is working on a permanent solution for the future. For now, the posts will remain.

Trustee Murphy The snow is melting and damage throughout the Village is noticeable.

Trustee Hart had nothing to report.

Trustee Turo it's Spring!

DPW Superintendent McCormick It's been a rough winter. The damage Town and County to fix the potholes along the main roadways. Lots of sidewalks need repair due to the heavy machinery on them while removing the snow.

The DPW heavy-duty truck should be repaired and back by tomorrow.

The wastewater treatment plant is keeping ahead.

The new sidewalk snow machine has arrived, and George would like to add on an auger accessory with a 12" and 24" bit for the new machine to dig post holes and utilize it in the cemetery as well. George met with the salesman at Mid Country Machinery and will bring in the quote to the Clerk tomorrow. George believes the quote will not exceed \$5,000 for the auger and bits.

Motion duly made by Trustee Hart to purchase the auger accessory with both 12" and 24" bits in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. Trustee Sherman-absent.

Police Chief Carroll Village Police were present during the drumline contest at the high school with no incidents.

Next Stop DWI is Easter weekend and then Memorial weekend.

Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck asked the Board if she should go forward with the Records Management Grant and the Board decided to leave the project until next year due to the recent situation with the municipal building.

Clerk Cusyck reminded the Board that a few months ago, Elizabeth Brown had asked the Village to buy back three of the four cemetery lots that she purchased in 1991; the fourth lot contains her son; which she would like to keep, and the Board had agreed if she returned the original deed. Elizabeth sent back the original deed and included a check stub from the Village of Central Square in payment of two of the four lots in 2017; however, she was paid the current 2017 lot price instead of the original lot price she paid in 1991, the difference is \$144.00 State Law states that persons cannot profit from the sale of a cemetery lot. This leaves two lots that Elizabeth Brown owns, one of which is occupied so this would leave one empty lot. The Board decided that Elizabeth Brown should be paid the original amount she paid for the one remaining lot less the \$144.00 she was overpaid for the previous two lots the Village bought back.

Executive Session

At 7:17 p.m. the Board moved to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:29 p.m. the Board returned to the regular meeting with no action taken by formal vote upon motion duly made by Mayor House, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Citizens' Concerns

Tom Rinefierd inquired about the insert included with the January Sewer bill – mainly the images of the pumps showing the items lodged in them. DPW Superintendent said that those were pumps showing flushable wipes clogged in the pumps through the wastewater treatment plant. George went on to talk about sending a letter out to rental properties owners that specifically lets them know about fines they can incur if the tenants continue to flush these wipes. George said that the pumps are not meant to grind up wipes and those wipes then get caught inside the pump and burn it up. The gravity-fed pumps the Village also has include a screen, but that screen gets clogged, and the pump overheats. This costs the Village money in pump repairs or replacements, which then will cost the Village residents. Tom Rinefierd asked how to get this through to the renters at which time, Krista provided a flyer that shows a picture of what the DPW Superintendent found in two days' time that was in the wastewater treatment plant. This picture included vaping cartridges.

Tom Rinefierd then wanted to know if there was some way that the Village could add a width mandate to the plowing contract with the Town of Hastings. Trustee Turo stated that the Town of Hastings did what they could considering the snowfall we had this winter.

DPW Superintendent reminded everyone of the piles of snow in Crossroads Park that were made by the continued snow removal done by the County, Town and Village DPW.

Mayor House stated that during one of the snowstorms, two of the Town plow trucks got stuck and were unable to continue to plow.

Old Business

The LED Streetlight Conversion. Mayor House read a proposal sent by Amanda Mazzoni from CNY Regional Planning that concluded converting to LED would cost less with the incentives that National Grid is giving. Major roads and intersections should have higher watt bulbs. The Village can also recommend that the wattage be adjusted as needed. 25 is the standard and 48 is stronger. When

the transition to LED was originally discussed, the 48's were going to be used throughout the Village. DPW Superintendent – the Village should go with the 48's throughout the Village to make it easier to see at night.

Mayor House – The Village would save over \$20,000 through the leasing program proposed. National Grid will replace the lights as needed instead of having the Village replace them and needing to hire special companies for this. Amanda Mazzoni from CNY Regional Planning Board is scheduled to attend the March 24th meeting to discuss the LED streetlight analysis for the Village. Mayor House asked Michele to let Amanda know that the Village is leaning towards the 48's. Trustee Turo wanted to make sure that these LED lights would be included in all neighborhoods even the ones with the smaller light poles, which Mayor House said they would.

New Business

Mayor House spoke about the broadband initiative that Oswego County has that will bring coverage throughout the county – reading a letter from Dave Turner who is the Strategic Program Specialist for the County Broadband Initiative regarding placing a hut to the left of the Village offices that would house the necessary components that the county could access for the next 20 to 25 years. Motion made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to allow Dave Turner and the Oswego County Broadband Initiative to proceed with the hut, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes, Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2025-14 – Identifying Election Polling Place & Hours

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor, the Village Offices at 3125 East Avenue will be the election polling place on June 17, 2025, from the hours of noon to 9:00 p.m. and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo-yes, Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion was carried unanimously.

General Fund Budget Transfer for the Summer Rec Program. Deputy Mayor Murphy made motion to approve the General Fund Budget Transfer from A7310.402 for Youth Program Training in the amount of \$473.25 to A7310.102 for Youth Program Services in the amount of \$473.25 to balance the Youth Recreation Services Account and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes, Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion was carried unanimously.

ARPA Funds Budget modification to spend American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Planning and Community Development for KL Consulting. Upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to approve the transfer of ARPA Funds budget from the Revenue account #A4089 for Federal Aid in the amount of \$4,750.00 and increase the Expense Account #A8510.0 for Community Beautification in the amount of \$4,750.00 for KL Consulting Services and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes, Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion was carried unanimously.

Heidi Tompkins from NorCOG and the Tug Hill Commission spoke about the damage throughout Oswego County caused by the recent snowstorms. So far, the County has received nothing from Emergency Management and the County is asking that all residents and businesses affected by the heavy snowfall fill out a survey regarding the impact to their property. Heidi will be putting together a spreadsheet for Oswego County showing the impact the snowfall and ice buildup had. She's hoping to have this compiled by the end of March from code enforcement officers throughout the County.

Heidi highlighted some items from the monthly bulletin including free monthly online training being conducted by MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook. A reminder to municipalities about the Public Work Contractor and Subcontractor Registry. Heidi mentioned upcoming grants and some applications are due by Monday, March 31st.

The next NorCOG meeting will be held on June 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe Town Building. There will also be a Fall Meeting with dinner. The Tug Hill Commission is also looking into having a Summit to speak with some individuals from Micron.

Millard "Mudd" Murphy is now the Vice Chairman for NorCOG.

Mayor House proceeded to sign the Intermunicipal agreement with NorCOG and the Village of Central Square.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The minutes of the regular meeting on February 24, 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 Turo-yes, Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Vouchers - Trustee Hart made motion to pay the Vouchers on Abstract #18 as follows: General Fund in the amount of \$63,892.99, Sewer Fund in the

amount of \$22,672.23 and Trust & Agency in the amount of \$51.80 for a total of \$86,617.02 and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Turo-yes, Trustee Sherman-absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Abstract #18

General Fund	\$63,892.99
Sewer Fund	\$22,672.23
Trust & Agency	\$51.80

Adjournment

At 8:12 p.m. Trustee Hart moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved March 24. 2025