

Village of Central Square Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 24th day of March 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, DPW Superintendent George McCormick and Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato. Police Chief Ed Carroll was absent.

Guests: Amanda Mazzoni of CNY Regional Planning Board.

Public Attendance: Village Residents: Matthew Stevens and Tom Rinefierd; Heidi Tompkins, Paul Baxter and Rod Campbell from 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.

Guest Speaker Amanda Mazzoni of CNY Regional Planning Board reviewed the LED streetlight conversion scenarios noting the two different types of lights in the Village: one being the "cobra" head (consisting of 110 lights) found on most street and the "decorative" (consisting of 34) that are found in some of the subdivisions. In either scenario, the Village would not be paying for the installation of LED streetlights. Based on the depreciation of the "cobra" head lights, it would cost the Village \$11.00 per light. There will be added facility fees that would be paid overtime for the conversion.

The typical streetlights the Village currently has are 100-150 watts. These would be changed to a LED-C (48W). There is 1- 250 watt that would potentially be changed to an LED-D (96W). This would save the Village a total of \$77,000 over 25 years. This includes an incentive from National Grid of \$7,230.00.

The residential streetlights would typically be replaced with a 25W LED light, and the main roads and business sections would be replaced with a 48W LED light. Some of the Board members would like to look at possibly installing 96W LED

lights in the busier stretches. Amanda suggested that the Village receive an analysis of where the Village currently has the higher wattage lights.

In the residential areas, two decorative light posts are available: the Edison (which is what is currently used in subdivisions) and the Carriage. The Edison puts light "upwards", and the Carriage is more directional and pointed towards the ground. The Board likes the look of the Carriage with a 35W LED.

The Board would like to look at other Villages or Towns that the LED conversion was completed. Amanda stated that the Village of Pulaski was converted to LED, and she would retrieve the wattages on the different roads. Trustee Turo stated that the Village of Pulaski's roads were very similar to the Village of Central Square and would be helpful to view their lights at night.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Murphy for Amanda to move forward with the LED conversion noting that the Village has not made a decision pertaining to the use of LED-48 or LED-96 in some corridors; 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.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House had nothing to report.

Trustee Murphy Informed everyone that Mayor House was honored at the recent Central Square Fire Department installation dinner for his 50 years of service with the Central Square Fire Department. All in attendance stood and applauded Mayor House on this achievement.

Mudd read in a recent Palladium Timed article that 10 of the 79 students on the SUNY Oswego's Presidents' list were from Central Square and 13 of the 76 students on the Dean's List were also from Central Square and Trustee Sherman's daughter was one of those students!

Trustee Sherman reported residents are assessing the damage from the past winter. It is going to take months to fix everything. Many thanks to George for all he's done.

Trustee Hart agreed there will be massive cleanup needed. Possibly in need of new equipment for the DPW. Mike asked George if the 1-ton truck was back, and it hadn't been returned.

Trustee Turo had nothing to report.

DPW Superintendent McCormick the Green Acres pump station still has large amounts of wipes and needs to be cleaned weekly. George requested that all landlords be sent a letter regarding the penalties of flushing the wipes and other debris into the sewer lines. This would include Roxbury Estates.

George received an estimate from Trux Outfitters for a new 52" mower for the Cemetery. The zero-turn mower was estimated to be \$8,775.00 for the Village. Motion made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to purchase the 52" mower for \$8,775; seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato We are coming into construction season. Right now, I've seen a fence permit, and repairs are being done.

The old Agway building at 3247 Fulton Ave. has a temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the first-floor rental. They are currently looking for a tenant.

Ed will be doing a walk-through at the new Physical Therapy building and possibly giving them a temporary Certificate of Occupancy.

Gregg Tweedy is looking at dropping the second zone change request. He will be coming in for a use variance request. Mr. Tweedy had originally paid \$1,500 in legal fees for the zone request. The Village must receive all legal fees that the Village Attorney billed for Mr. Tweedy's requests and return the remaining balance to him.

Heidi from NorCOG requested CEO Cusato provide her with a list of properties that had their roofs collapse so she could send the spreadsheet onto Oswego County.

At the request of Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato, **Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyk** emailed Mr. Tweedy a Use Variance Application for his property located at 3206 East Avenue.

Michele would like to set up a Budget meeting with the Village Board on 4/1/25 at 3PM for the initial review.

Citizens' Concerns

Tom Rinefield asked if the Village needs to worry about a battery fire like the one that happened in the salvage yard. Tom mentioned the solar panels located adjacent to the car wash. CEO Cusato said that the batteries are self-contained and meet all code requirements.

Tom questioned the Board how the wastewater treatment plant handles the longer power outages the Village experienced recently. DPW Superintendent George McCormick said that the Mallory pump station has a generator, and the wastewater treatment plant has a full-time generator with a dialer that goes to the pump stations.

Tom questioned the new piece of equipment that was said to be \$26,000 at one meeting and in the meeting that followed it was \$30,000. DPW Superintendent stated that the Village added the snow blower for an additional price.

Finally, Tom asked if the Village had a maximum snow load for building design. Trustee Hart said that building designs have a rating for snow and each area has their own rating. The Village rating is higher than buildings south of us.

Heidi Tompkins introduced Rod Campbell as NorCOG's new circuit rider. Heidi reminded the Village that municipalities with over 1,500 residents are required to maintain a "dot gov" website.

Heidi has set up Paul Baxter's retirement party for June 27th from 3-6 p.m. in Bernhards Bay at Taft Park.

Old Business

Employee Handbook - Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to accept the changes to the Employee Handbook, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Oswego County Broadband - Mayor House stated that the Oswego County Broadband fiber hut that was discussed at the previous Village Board meeting will not be located on Village property but on County property.

School Speed Zone - Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to hold a Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. on April 14, 2025, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Village Attorney Services - A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to approve Village Attorney Joe Frateschi to represent a Village Judge in pending litigation, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

New Hire - A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to hire Alex Nielsen as the new DPW Superintendent as of Tuesday, March 25th, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Tax Cap Override 2025 – A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to hold a Public Hearing on April 14th at 6:30 p.m. for the Tax Cap Override, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The minutes of the regular meeting on March 10, 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 Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Vouchers - Trustee Hart made motion to pay the Vouchers on Abstract #19 as follows: General Fund in the amount of \$31,712.64, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$14,165.02, Trust & Agency in the amount of \$51.80 and Water Fund in the amount of \$4,182.61 for a total of \$50,112.07 and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Abstract #19

General Fund	\$31,712.64
Sewer Fund	\$14,165.02

Trust & Agency	\$51.80
Water Fund	\$4,182.61

Before adjournment, the Board talked about the Contract for Grant Writer Kristy LaManche which expired on February 28th. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to pro-rate her services through May, 2025 and start a new contract on June 1, 2025, which was seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 8:57 p.m. Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Cusyck
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Village Board Approved April 14. 2025