

Bi-Monthly Village Board Meeting

May 12, 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 and DPW Superintendent Alex Nielsen. Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato was absent.

Public Attendance: Village Residents: Matthew Stevens, Michael Wildrick, Pat Sidlik and Tyler Miles. Joann Burghart from the Central Square Library, Amy Connolly with Senator Chris Ryan's office and Heidi Tompkins from NorCOG.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House had nothing to report.

Trustee Murphy Gordon is trying to get the Cemetery ready for Memorial Day. A tree fell over onto the fence at the back of the cemetery. Estimates are being requested on both cemetery fences and to fix some of the chain-link fence in Goettel Park. The Board will also need to receive a quote to fix the barrier on Webb Ave. that was damaged during the winter.

The Co. Rt. 12 School Zone speed limit Local Law was passed and Mudd is looking into solar speed limit signs (they light up and blink during school hours). The Village could possibly receive money through the CHIPs or Safe Sidewalks Program. This may take a year or so to get started. Deputy Mayor Murphy read that the state has millions of dollars in the Safe Sidewalks program.

The Board has approved the revised employee handbook completed by the Village attorney. The current employees have questions and Mudd asked each member of the Board to review the highlighted questions. The Board will then need to speak with the employees on the changes as well as any other questions they may have.

Trustee Sherman May 20th is the School Budget Vote. There is a 6.8% increase. Please support the school and vote.

Trustee Hart had nothing to report.

Trustee Turo drainage issues after the big storm this past weekend.

DPW Superintendent Nielsen business as usual. Tomorrow there will be a catch basin repaired and sidewalk repair.

Police Chief Carroll this past weekend was the Central Square Junior Prom, and it went smoothly. This weekend is the Senior Ball.

Memorial Day Parade is set. The Little League Parade was cancelled last weekend - no new date has been set. Chief Carroll said that the orange cones from DPW should be sufficient and will coordinate with the fire department.

Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck had nothing to report.

Citizens' Concerns

Residents from 10 and 14 Collins Terrace were present and had concerns about the recent flooding over the past weekend. One had 3-4" of rain that ran into their finished basement and garage. Trustee Sherman asked how long it took to drain, and the resident stated it took about two hours. They moved into the Village 6 months ago; a lot of furniture from the basement was lost and the flooding was quite a shock. He had asked for estimates to install French drains but doesn't think they would've helped with the amount of rain received.

Mayor House said that the ditches were cleared last year and now the covers need to be lifted to see if there's anything else to be done. The Mayor also asked if the resident had a fence behind his house and if there were piles of grass clippings behind the fence. The resident stated that there is a fence behind his house and behind the fence is all mud.

Mayor House told the residents on Collins Terrace that the Board will walk the properties in question. The resident went on to say that he has photos of the pipe and it seems to slow the flow of water at the corner of County Route 12 and Collins Terrace and asked if it was possible to make the pipe larger.

Mayor House stated that the Village Engineer is to come out and assess the flooded areas and determine if there is anything else going on that we can't see. But the rain did come too fast the other night.

Joann Burghart from the Central Square Library said that she would leave the community report on the library budget and progress of activities. Concerning safety in the library, it was touched on and the need to add deterrent signage.

Michael Wildrick is retiring as Central Square Court Judge at the end of May and he was wondering if the Board has made a decision/motion pertaining to disbanding the court and if not, there should be a Judge's ballot in the next election. Something must be started in the process either way.

Mayor House said that the Board believes that the Village will be appointing a new Judge. The decision to disband the Court has not been made. The Board needs to meet with the prospective Judge and hopes that they can come up with compensation that coincides with the budget. In the short term, the Board would like to hire a judge that's qualified but if the Village was to disband the court, it would be a smooth transition.

Michael Wildrick read the revenue report of the Court: local revenue (based on the state fiscal year) from 2023 was \$40,458. And in the 2024 report, the revenue was \$51,188. Wildrick stated that the Board would be disbanding the 4th largest activity court out of 24 in Oswego County.

Trustee Sherman doesn't know why the court is trending towards less revenue and would like an explanation for the changes.

Pat Sidlik stated that part of it is the new Diversion Program. The DA's office gets that money. It's \$300 for the course instead of letting the person plea. Besides, Slidlik continued, the courts funds are always running behind (some of this has to

do with Covid). The other part of the issue is that the governor won't suspend anyone so now people aren't paying their fines. The court isn't supposed to be a money-making thing. There is a lot of theft and would hate not to have our community stood up for. At least here, this court makes them plead.

Trustee Sherman stated that we need to cover costs.

Pat Sidlik said that the Village could have gone after the State for postage.

Trustee Sherman said that the Village Office on Wednesdays before the court is a huge distraction. It's chaos here. We need a safe area for our staff. Pat Sidlik stated that it's only 3 times a month. Trustee Sherman said that the Village services both sides and Pat Sidlik said it's only 6 hours for them per month.

Trustee Sherman said that with a municipality, we need to be consistent with our hours of operation (9-4). We need to figure out the safest and easiest way; be it the building size issue, but it needs to be cohesive. The numbers don't seem to match and it's a safety aspect. The problem with the court is a person with a minor traffic violation is in the mix with someone here for a larger offense.

Chief Carroll said that the first people taken into the courtroom are the criminals. Next are arraignments; they plead and get attorneys. The last people are for traffic violations. They're not sitting in the court with criminals.

Trustee Sherman asked how we can keep the Village Office open during these times and not disrupt the office. Chief Carroll stated that he sees a lot of people just turn around when they see the parking lot full and he's not heard anyone complain about not being able to be helped at that time. They just told them to come back tomorrow.

Mike Wildrick said that the Board will need to have a dialogue with the Police Chief on how different it would be for the police department to deal with the Town of Hastings Court. There will be time issues and who knows what else.

Pat Sidlik stated that anyone with a ticket would have to go to CAP Court in Fulton. This means that the officers would have more paperwork and more running around.

Trustee Turo asked if the Board could obtain facts to make a reasonable decision about the court and Michael Wildrick told him to speak with Pat Sidlik.

Deputy Mayor Murphy stated that he attended District Attorney Anthony DiMartino's speech and that they've seemed to have created more work for the local courts. Unfortunately, Pat typically works full time when she's supposed to be working part time.

Trustee Turo to Pat Sidlik; the problem I see is trying to find someone who can work as efficiently as you have. Pat said that the Board needs to find someone to replace her before she retires so that person can be trained properly.

Heidi Tompkins from NorCOG said the MRB Group is holding the next webinar on the nuts and bolts of SEQR on May 22nd and advised the Board to let anyone from the Planning and Zoning Board attend. There is a Comprehensive Plan Committee that can help with anything you need. The next NorCOG meeting is June 26th in the Constantia Town Hall. September 25th is the joint dinner, and invitations will be going out soon.

Matthew Stevens said the Planning Board was hoping to meet with Kristy Lamanche for the next steps in the Comprehensive Plan.

Deputy Mayor Murphy mentioned to Matthew to communicate with NorCOG and that the Village's Comprehensive Plan should coincide with the Town of Hastings Comprehensive Plan.

Heidi Tompkins said that NorCOG could do a joint Comprehensive Plan for free!

Old Business

Sewer/Water relevy was adjusted. Michele provided the Board with an updated report, since a resident came in to pay after the previous meeting. Michele stated that the report was submitted to the County today.

New Business

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to set the annual budget public hearing on Tuesday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon:

Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to reschedule the next regular Board meeting to Tuesday, May 27th 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 and Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a motion to authorize the year-end closing tasks to include paying invoices and making transfers, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The minutes of the regular meeting on April 28, 2025, were approved upon motion duly 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 and Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Vouchers - Trustee Hart made motion to pay the Vouchers on Abstract #22 as follows: General Fund in the amount of \$9,481.21, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$15,341.79 and Trust & Agency in the amount of \$116.55 for a total of \$24,939.55, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Abstract #22	
General Fund	\$9,481.21
Sewer Fund	\$15,341.79
Trust & Agency	\$116.55

Adjournment

At 7:53 p.m. Trustee Hart moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved June 9. 2025