

Bi-Monthly Meeting November 24, 2025

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 24th day of November 2025.

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

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

Public Attendance: Heidi Tompkins of NorCOG/NYS Tug Hill Commission and Andrew Velej, DPW Worker.

Meeting Called to Order: Mayor Randy House called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and Trustee Stevens led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House made mention that the block wall in the cemetery continues to be under construction with additional blocks being delivered tomorrow morning. He hopes the crew can finish this up before the snow flies.

Last week Mayor House met with Henry van den Heever, NYMIR Risk Control Specialist, who performed a loss analysis on Village buildings and properties. This included Goettel Park, which Mr. van den Heever noted recommended GFIs should be installed in the pavilion along with a railing leading up to the gazebo. He also asked about the summer recreation program and other activities held in Goettel Park. Mr. van den Heever spoke with Chief Carroll and discussed items needed for the Village Police officers which included wearing body cams. NYMIR will be sending the

analysis report when Mr. van den Heever has completed compiling the information.

Lastly, Mayor House said that he saw that Central Square was well represented in the Syracuse Newspaper's 2025 CNY Readers' Choice Awards including Best Bakery awarded to Country Glazed!

Deputy Mayor Murphy began with the cemetery being winterized by Gordon. The gates at Hillside Cemetery will remain open until snow comes.

Mike from Downtown Decorations took down the Hometown Hero banners for \$20 per pole. Gordon marked the utility poles for Mike to place the large lit ornaments on. The DPW will be working on completing the other lights in the park for the tree lighting and will be in attendance.

Mudd said that last winter the village used propane salamanders at the food building for heat. Murphy believes these need to be replaced with "tree" heaters that are safer. Murphy compared pricing and Ace Hardware in Brewerton had them at \$249.99 per heater and the village will need 4 of them for a total of \$999.96. Motion made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to purchase four patio heaters from Brewerton Ace Hardware for \$999.96, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-absent, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Sherman asked when the last leaf and brush pickup would be and was informed that Monday, December 1st would be the final pickup.

Trustee Hart was absent.

Trustee Stevens didn't have much to report but stated that some residents continued to be concerned about streetlights being out.

Police Chief Ed Carroll will have police on hand to assist with traffic for the Jingle Bell Jog beginning at Country Glazed on Saturday, December 6th.

Officer Mike McCarthy has issued his letter of resignation with his end date being January 1, 2026. Chief Carroll will need to find another person to perform firing range qualification for all police personnel, but it will be up to the new Chief to hire that person. Chief Carroll believes that McCarthy will work with the village if officers need to use the Clay range.

Chief Carroll also interviewed a person for his position and is awaiting a background check. So far, there are two interested persons in his position, but more applications may be submitted.

Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato was absent.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck had nothing to add.

Citizens' Concerns –

Heidi Tompkins extended her thanks to all that attended the NorCOG (North Shore Council of Governments) / SRCG (Salmon Rivers Council of Governments) Annual Dinner Meeting. Heidi thanked and congratulated Deputy Mayor Murphy on being the Vice Chairman of NorCOG.

Heidi has been speaking with Patrick in the NYS Tug Hill Commission Planning who has been working with the Village Planning Board on the comprehensive plan. Heidi wanted to give kudos to our Planning Board in showing up and making progress on the comprehensive plan with Patrick. Tompkins said that she reviewed the draft of the residential survey that will be mailed and made mention to Patrick of the agricultural aspect that Central Square has. Specifically noting JJ Feeds and Tractor Supply that are both big draws for agriculture. She mentioned a grant that may be available to cover the postage for the survey.

The next NorCOG meeting will be in West Monroe on February 26th. Heidi would like Central Square to host the following meeting.

She went on to discuss with the Board the ongoing wetland mitigation and the effect it will eventually have on the tax base.

Old Business

No old business to discuss.

New Business

Budget Transfers: Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to cover overspent accounts in August with budget transfers as proposed: from Court Clerk to Court Clerk II in the amount of \$572.08 and Youth Program Training to Youth Program Supplies in the amount of \$248.26, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-absent, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Girl Scout Cookies: Motion to approve assisting the Girl Scouts during the 2026 cookie delivery in February made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-absent, Trustee Stevens-abstained. The motion carried.

DPW Personnel Appointment: Motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy to hire Rich Bilger in the DPW Department for \$24 per hour, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-absent, Trustee Stevens-abstained. The motion carried.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of the regular meeting on November 10, 2025, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-absent, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Vouchers – November Abstract #12 - \$106,293.43 - General Fund Vouchers totaling \$76,492.52 and Sewer Fund Vouchers totaling \$29,800.91 were approved for payment upon motion made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-absent, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

At 8:01 p.m., Deputy Mayor Murphy made motion, 2nd by Trustee Sherman to go into Executive Session for a pending litigation.

The Board returned at 8:23 p.m. and returned to regular session.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to release Brad Montgomery from employment with the Village of Central Square DPW Department and if village property is not returned by the afternoon of Wednesday, November 26th that the police would be informed, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-absent, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Sherman made Motion to settle a litigation. There was not a second to the Motion. A motion for a possible settlement failed.

Adjournment

At 8:31 p.m., upon duly motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved December 8. 2025