

Bi-Monthly Meeting September 22, 2025

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 22nd day of September 2025.

Board Members Present: Deputy Mayor Millard Murphy, Trustees Mike Hart and Matthew Stevens. **Absent:** Mayor Randy House, Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck and Trustee Ken Sherman.

Village Officials/Staff in Attendance: Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, Police Chief Ed Carroll and Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato

Public Attendance: Village Residents Tom Rinefierd and Dave Wescott. Joann Burghart with the Central Square Library and Andrew Velley, DPW Worker

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

Board and Staff Reports

Deputy Mayor Murphy welcomed everyone and noted that Mayor House and Trustee Sherman were both absent.

To Chief Carroll: there is a vehicle at the corner of Co. Rt. 12 and 49 that is parked too far towards the sidewalk and is making visibility difficult; causing a hazard. Please ask the owner of the vehicle to park elsewhere.

Mudd spoke with Atlas Fence, they will be installing the galvanized fence in the cemetery next week.

Deputy Mayor Murphy talked with Rebekah about the upcoming tree lighting in December. The tree will be dedicated to the memory of Irene

Meyers. Rebekah stated she'd contact Mr. and Mrs. Claus and work with Kayleigh Stevens on the brochure.

Trustee Hart asked Andy in the DPW if the street sweeper would have the ability to clean out some catch basins; Andy said he needs training on the street sweeper and there is a leak in one of the hoses causing low pressure.

Trustee Stevens mentioned to all there will be a Patriot Grave Marking Dedication on October 21st in Hillside Cemetery. Matthew let DPW know that the post for the sign will need to be imbedded in concrete.

Trustee Stevens spoke of the ongoing traffic issue at the intersection of Co. Rt. 12/Mallory Road and US Rt. 49. Vehicles continue blocking Mallory Road and do not allow traffic to flow from Mallory Road onto 49.

Police Chief Ed Carroll spoke of the police being present at the P.V. Moore High School Homecoming Dance and there were no incidents. This included the football game against Henninger. There are 3 Friday night football games scheduled; the first being this Friday. Carroll said that the dirt bikes spotted around the school have been caught; unfortunately, they are under 18 and can't be ticketed.

Chief said all police vehicles are back on the road after routine service.

Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato provided a list of new permits and violations issued. Cusato noted that the Dunkin Donuts going into Walmart is underway. Appearance tickets are being sent to residents in violation and Cusato has copied the village attorney on those.

CEO Cusato mentioned the Planning Board meeting this Thursday that will include an introductory meeting with Big E Tire Company that plans to build on East Avenue.

Zoning Board: a re-inspection was conducted on an East Avenue property with the assistance of the village engineer. Cusato stated that he will be

leaving any remaining issues with the progress between the property owner, the village engineer and the Chairperson of the Village ZBA.

CEO Cusato is requesting a meeting with the Board of Trustees on the status of the municipal building but was informed by Deputy Mayor Murphy that a building committee was formed and Cusato will be updated by the committee on the options they have proposed so far.

Citizens' Concerns – Joann Burghart of the Central Square Library said the library is having challenges with the expansion of the library. They are struggling with the budget due to the additional costs from flooding in the basement and bathroom. These costs include mold remediation. The mold remediation wasn't covered by insurance, the flooding proved their HVAC system wasn't up to par, and the mold had been there before the flooding. Joann is working diligently, and has applied for additional grants, but getting the grant money takes time.

Joann stopped at Walmart and asked if items could be donated to the library. Joann was told to write a letter and include what the library needed. Walmart donated a gift card to the library. Joann was thrilled that Walmart was so quick to respond.

Murphy asked Joann how the library is progressing moving the items out of the basement. Joann said they're looking for volunteers. Dave Wescott asked how much work is needed and Joann responded that large items are stored in the basement, including old windows and doors. Dave asked how many people she thought it would take. Joann said that it depends on how well they can get up and down the stairs. Items need to go through a tight stairway. Joann went on to say that 10 people could move the large items in a day and other recruits could be used for smaller items. Joann also needs a dumpster and Mudd mentioned BTI.

Tom said volunteers would need N45 masks and probably other personal protection items while in the basement. Joann said the library had an environmental engineer come out who stated that people are okay in the

library; as it's not a toxic mold. Codes Officer Ed Cusato would like to look at the mold remediation reports from the engineer. Trustee Hart also stated that he had been in remediation teams in the past and believes that the building shouldn't be occupied. Trustee Hart asked if the engineer gave a report that specifically stated that the library is safe to occupy. Joann continued to state that Scott Rockwell, the Environmental Engineer hired, was there for more than an hour and gave his final report to Paul Davis Restoration. Joann will provide Ed Cusato with the reports.

Tom Rinefierd asked about the new sewer pricing mentioned at the last meeting. He then asked if the laundromat near him would be charged more for sewer. Deputy Mayor Murphy said that the Board has sent out its recommendation for the revised sewer structure to the village attorney and there would be a public hearing to review the structure before approval.

Rinefierd asked if there was any update since the last meeting about the drainage on Collins Terrace. Murphy replied that members of the Board had met with homeowners; some have fences that are built all the way to the ground and won't let water drain properly. Others have swales clogged with leaves and other debris behind their property.

Murphy reminded all that the twin culvert under Co. Rt. 12 is the County's responsibility; the County is aware of the ongoing problem but may take several years to upgrade. These culverts were originally installed in 1948.

Old Business

Deputy Mayor Murphy reviewed the Summer Recreation 2025 report provided by Director Rebekah McGraw. Mudd stated that with The Hub in Hastings hosts more teenagers; this gives the Village/Hastings summer program the younger kids. Lunches are included for the children. Mudd spoke to McGraw earlier today and mentioned to her that Oswego Recreation has storytellers that will visit the summer rec program. Rebekah will investigate this further.

New Business

Planning Board Appointment – Deputy Mayor Murphy asked Dave Wescott to tell those in attendance a little about himself. Westcott said that he didn't grow up here but has been living here for about 10 years now and moved from the Cicero/North Syracuse School District. He is a barber in the village and works out of the Goettel Building. He and his family have been holding community events like a block party and farmer's market since moving to the Goettel Building. Dave went on to say that he's not related to any Wescott's in the area and is originally from the Bridgeport then Mattydale area.

Trustee Stevens made motion to appoint Dave Wescott to fill Matthew Stevens remaining term on the Planning Board, seconded by Trustee Hart and voted upon: Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. Mayor House and Trustee Sherman were absent. The motion carried unanimously.

October 13th Meeting Rescheduled –

Trustee Stevens made a motion to reschedule the October 13th meeting to Tuesday, October 14th, seconded by Trustee Hart and voted upon: Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. Mayor House and Trustee Sherman were absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of the regular meeting on September 8, 2025, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Steven and voted upon: Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. Mayor House and Trustee Sherman were absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Vouchers – September Abstract #8 - \$37,096.18 - General Fund Vouchers totaling \$18,705.83, Sewer Fund Vouchers totaling \$14,138.40 and

Water Fund Vouchers totaling \$4,251.95 were approved for payment upon motion made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. Mayor House and Trustee Sherman were absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

At 7:50 p.m. a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Stevens to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

At 8:02 p.m., the Board returned to the regular meeting. Trustee Hart made a motion to increase Denise Baxter's annual salary to \$20,000 beginning on September 22, 2025, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. Mayor House and Trustee Sherman were absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 8:03 p.m. the Board adjourned upon motion by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Approved by the Village Board October 14. 2025