Bi-Monthly Meeting
Monday, June 29, 2026

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 29th day of June 2026.

Board Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard "Mudd" Murphy, and Trustees Ken Sherman, Mike Hart and Matthew Stevens

Village Officials/Staff in Attendance: Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, Police Chief Kevin Birardi, Codes Officer Ed Cusato

Public Attendance: Village Residents Cathy Smolnik, Becky Phillips, Judy Geis, Andrew Smolnik, Mark and Karen Mezzo, Peter Arcuri, Robin Hansen and Gordon Longley.

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

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mudd Murphy wanted everyone to know that this is Ken Sherman's last meeting as a Village Trustee tonight and that it's been a pleasure working with him. Mudd also thanked Andy Smolnik for his years chairing the Village Zoning Board of Appeals as he retired this year.

More vandalism was found in the cemetery this morning. Mudd hopes to have electricity and cameras installed to prevent this from happening in the future. Vehicles have been cutting through the cemetery at high speeds and Murphy would like speed bumps installed in four locations. These

speed bumps would have warning signs of speed bumps ahead. JC Smith has speed bumps for about $100 each and signs for about $30 each.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made a Motion to purchase and install the 4 sets of speed bumps and warning signs for approximately $130 per set, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board had previously discussed making Hillcrest Drive and Tucker Ave. school zone streets by having the "school zone" added. This would bring further awareness of the speed on those streets. A motion to have the Village attorney compose a Resolution to make both Hillcrest Dr. and Tucker Ave. proclaimed as school zone streets was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Hart and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Sherman attended the High School graduation on Friday. It was successful, calm and quiet.

Regarding the accident on Saturday night on State Route 49, after CSX Railroad repaired their tracks and the road a few years ago, the eastbound side of the road has a bump after the tracks that vehicles try to avoid by driving farther towards the middle of the road. This has previously been brought to CSX attention without response.

Mayor House would like to send another letter to CSX Railroad urging them to fix the tracks noting the recent fatality along with whatever other accident or incident reports that can be made available by the State Troopers and Oswego County Sheriffs as well as anything from our Village Police Department.

Trustee Sherman extended his thanks to the office staff as well as Ed Cusato for their hard work during his time on the Village Board.

Trustee Hart is happy that the DPW is well staffed and hopes they can stay on top of things.

Trustee Stevens would like to receive reports from the DPW in meetings on what they worked on during the month, what is on the schedule for next month and what still needs to be completed.

Stevens investigated live streaming meetings on YouTube and surmised that it would be possible if there were microphones and a tablet. Trustee Stevens would also like to see a new "voting" page on the village website allowing residents to see the pertinent dates for the village elections.

Trustee Stevens asked if there was any response from DOT on the timing of the lights and Chief Birardi said that he hadn't heard anything yet but that we're still in the 2–4-week response window from DOT.

Police Chief Kevin Birardi noted that Officer Malone is now a certified Car Seat Technician and already held a safety day at Walmart.

Birardi was reviewing Local Law 170 on noise control and thinks the current language should be updated. He will submit a version to the Board for review. Additional discussion was had on times the noise ordinance should be in effect.

The Mezzos thanked Chief Birardi for all his hard work – it is noticed.

Birardi is hoping to hold another coffee day in the next few weeks at the Dunkin' Donuts inside of Walmart. More information to follow.

Code Enforcement Ed Cusato – report was submitted to the Board for all building permits and violations. New violation notices will be sent out for Hickory and Pleasant parcels now that they've been fined in Court, violations will begin again and the 518 S. Main Street location seems to be starting to clean up.

Cusato made a request to the Village Board to combine the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Village attorney is reviewing the pros and cons and will be brought before the Board for review.

The current fee schedule will be reviewed with the Clerk's office and then brought in front of the Village Board.

Going forward, food trucks will require an operating permit and will need to be inspected and approved by Codes. Applications for both Goettel and Crossroads Park will be reviewed by the Code Enforcement office.

NYS now requires that residents replacing sheathing on their home will need to apply for a building permit. Currently, only businesses require permits for roof replacements.

CEO Cusato requests a new printer and to move his office across the hall from the current location.

Andy Smolnik submitted 3 complaints and asked Cusato where they stood. Ed stated that William Hamacher has written a violation for one on Central. Unfortunately, the repair shop without a sign is not a violation. Mr. Smolnik says that the DMV says that it is a violation. Trustee Hart added that the repair shop has been receiving all these cars from dealers to fix and send them to the auction. Since the dealers own the vehicles, it's not a violation.

The two parcels on Pleasant and Hickory were brought into court, and the judge gave them chances to remedy the situation. Both instances ended up requesting a hearing where they plead guilty and were fined. Since these violation cases are closed, Code Enforcement will begin to violate the properties again.

Additional tall grass violations and locations were discussed

Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck had nothing to share.

Citizens' Concerns

Andy and Cathy Smolnik voiced their dissatisfaction with way the cemetery looks and with the caretaker.

Becky Phillips had bricks removed from around her family's gravestone in the cemetery and says she sees similar items at other graves. Mayor House reminded everyone that the State is changing cemetery rules due to injuries not only to employees but to visitors. Deputy Mayor Murphy added that the Village Board is sympathetic to you and your loved ones. Gordon and Wendy have a job to do – you're not being picked on.

Peter Arcuri asked about his Carley CT FOIL request status. Mr. Arcuri noted that there is still standing water in the ditch and that rocks are always in the road. Michele will follow up with Ed on this request.

Mr. Mezzo asked if the culvert on Carly Court could be dredged like he'd seen other culverts done in the village. The road is being torn apart by the construction vehicles – there is debris all over. Mezzo has seen children playing on the excavators and riding bikes through the construction area. People walk up and down the street and it's getting dangerous with the construction vehicles not paying attention and there are no flaggers to assist with the traffic.

Cathy Smolnik asked why meeting minutes weren't updated on the website and Mudd let everyone know that the village is having a new website developed that will allow the office staff to update it instead of an offsite individual.

Mrs. Smolnik questioned the Board about raises and stated that she's not happy about them.

Robin Hansen said that it's nice that we have people employed that care about the Village.

Old Business

New Business

Municipal Building – Discuss Bid Opening. Contract #1 General Contractor. Contract #2 Electrical. Contract #3 Plumbing.
Mudd made Motion to accept contracts #1, 2 & 3 as well as transferring $100,000 from parks to building expense, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Stevens wanted to be sure that the current municipal building would continue to be maintained and utilized even if a new location was found. Mayor House mentioned that the current building could be turned into a larger police station or a satellite station for other patrol officers. Ultimately, the roof needs to be replaced, and we'd lose the additional insurance money if it wasn't.

Summer Recreation – 2026 Counselor Staff.
Motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy to hire the staff for Summer Rec, seconded by Trustee Stevens and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

COPS Hiring Grant – Authorization to Proceed with Application.
Chief Birardi explained that this grant would cover 75% of wages for a new officer hire for 3 years. Chief Birardi is the only full-time staff at this point. Micron is coming, the growth in the region is coming. It's easier to grow with it rather than play catch up. Birardi recommends that if the village is awarded the grant to go forward with hiring another full-time person.

Andy Smolnik asked if the grant application has been submitted yet. Chief said no because this wasn't in the original budget and wanted the Board's approval before beginning the application process.

Deputy Mayor Murphy makes Motion to go forward with the COPS Hiring Grant Program, seconded by Trustee Hart and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Williamson Law Book Proposal – Accounting Support & Training. Michele has been trying to get the accounting program up and running instead of utilizing Bonadio for all the accounting. Michele would like to start fresh like a "new" accounting program instead of recreating everything. Michele had a long talk with Jan at Williamson Law Book and felt very good about it. Bonadio is aware that once we receive the annual report, Michele and Krista will be inputting the information. The training is additional at the beginning but will save the village money in the long run.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy to approve the accounting support and training from Wiliamson Law Book, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Goettel Park – Request for Fee Waiver by Oswego County Picnic. Deputy Mayor Murphy makes Motion to waive the fees for Oswego County Picnic, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes and Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting on June 8, 2026, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Trustee Hart and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously**.**

The Minutes of the special meeting on June 17, 2026, were approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Trustee Hart and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously**.**

Payment of Vouchers – June Abstract #2 - **$51,176.78 -** General Fund Vouchers totaling $30,483.49 and Sewer Fund Vouchers totaling $20,693.29 were approved for payment upon motion made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Deputy Mayor Murphy and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Stevens-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment
At 9 p.m. upon motion duly made by Trustee Stevens and seconded by Deputy Mayor Murphy. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved July 13. 2026