

VILLAGE OF JORDAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
June 22nd, 2026

PRESENT

Mayor Brim	Trustee Bates
Trustee Stapleton	Clerk Trapp
Deputy Mayor Gustafson	Fred DiRisio
Officer Healy	

ABSENT

Trustee Simko

Deputy Mayor Gustafson led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Motion to approve the minutes the June 8th, 2026, by Trustee Stapleton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson. All voting in favor, motion carried.

AUDIENCE

Killer Studio Productions ~ Steve Rathbun; Phil & Jason Parkman ~Resident of 51 N. Main St; Steven McDonald ~ 4897 Vinegar Hill Rd; Lynn Fall; Chris & Elaine Peters ~ 9 Delhi St; Steve Napoli ~ Valley Dr; Sally Jo H. ~ 20 Beaver St; Bill Hecht ~ Union Springs; Daniel Cooper ~5029 Rte 34 Auburn; Mary Badger ~ 5749 Hamilton Rd; Evelyn Simpson ~ 2074 W. Main St Elbridge; Matt & Gayle McCabe ~ 20 N. Main St Jordan; James Simpson ~ 8777 Graham St Weedsport

Killer Studio Productions came to the Board requesting permission to shoot a movie seen at the Jordan Memorial Pool for a Friday the 13th Fan Film. Killer Studio would film on Sunday, August 16th, 2026, and would be filming for around 1 hour after dark. Killer Studio will need to do a test prior to filming after dark about a week before. There is an EMT that will be on-site during testing & filming. Their crew will provide their own generator for powering the lighting needed. Killer Studio also have a \$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000 insurance policy that we will be listed on as additional insured. Killer Studio said that they will feed their crew and what they bring in, they will also bring out.

Phil & Jason Parkman came to the Board with concerns regarding the water project. There were trees removed in from of their home located at 51 N. Main St, he had spoken with Barton & Logiudice regarding what type of tree would be used to replace them. The response he received of “pretty much you will get what you get” is what brought him to our meeting. Jason also stated that the culvert was crushed and his sump pump line had been buried. They would like to know when restoration is going to be completed. Mayor Brim and Fred DiRisio will be speaking with the Engineers regarding their concerns.

Lynn Fall, Chris & Elaine Peters; Steve Napoli; Sally Jo H, Bill Hecht, Daniel Cooper, Mary Badger, Evelyn Simpson, Matt & Gayle McCabe and James Simpson came to the Board in support of Village of Jordan Historian Elaine Peters. In the 26/27 budget year the Historian’s stipend was reduced from \$1,500.00 to \$500.00, historically our Historian's stipend was \$300.00 until the 24/25 Budget yr. Historian Peters was also given an outline of her job duties and expectations. Each spoke as to their opinions of Historian Peters and of the Board of Trustees.

**Village of Jordan Village Board Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Public Comments by Lynn Fall

Clearly, Elaine Peters is well-liked by many in our community, as proven by tonight's turnout. For this reason, abruptly firing her could be interpreted as unnecessarily harsh, undeserved, and heavy-handed. There is a real risk of severe community backlash.

You may or may not be aware, but the job description for NYS municipal historians is authored at the state level by the NYS State Historian, under Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, which I have here in my hands. Local municipalities have no authority to alter or expand it. Attempting to force Elaine to sign a local contract under threat of termination is therefore invalid, and would compel her to violate her oath of office, although I suspect this is not the intention of anyone on this Board.

Furthermore, a municipal historian is a public officer, not a subordinate to any single Trustee. Demanding that Elaine "report to" a "boss" (or "liaison") on the Village Board is an explicit overreach of this Board's authority. Our late historian, Jack Horner, with whom I collaborated closely, was never subjected to these illegitimate expectations. The Mayor has the authority to appoint. Local boards have the authority to determine salary, provide an office, and loosely track hours worked. That's it. Everything else—the what, when, where, and how—is entrusted to the historian.

I am very familiar with these state-authorized job responsibilities. I am offering to meet with the Board, Mayor, and/or Village Attorney to discuss these laws or to answer questions, or even to act as a mediator.

Ironically, this contract demands that the Village Historian work collaboratively, have good interpersonal and conflict resolution skills, and [QUOTE] "approach problems to achieve positive outcomes" [END QUOTE]. Isn't threatening an imminent termination doing the exact opposite? Rather than seeking an outcome highly unfavorable to one of the parties, why not instead strive for a "win-win" outcome?

Outside this Board, I am curious how many people have actually complained? Two? One? Zero? If complaints actually exist, why are you rushing into a radical decision based on a tiny few without polling a larger number of community members?

Let's take a pause. Is this escalation really necessary? Instead of threatening to fire someone, let's all work together to [QUOTE] "approach problems to achieve positive outcomes" [END QUOTE].

This is what our community deserves.

I request that my comments be officially entered into the public record along with the minutes of tonight's meeting.

Bill Hecht
Union Springs, NY

I would like to speak to you tonight about a most remarkable woman and valuable resource to the community of the Village of Jordan and the Town of Elbridge. You have a remarkable resource in Elaine and the countless hours she puts in educating all the citizens and especially the children. She gives of herself tirelessly every day to this job.

The quality of her work is visible many times a month and all one has to do is go and attend her talks and excursions each and every month. The return on your dollar is repaid many times over and it would be inexcusable to lose her and her extensive knowledge.

It has come to my attention that her pay is to be cut from \$1500-\$500. I don't know the source and reasoning behind this decision in the middle of a budgetary term, but I feel the citizens of the village in town deserve a truthful explanation of why this is happening.

Elaine is one of the smartest and most diligent people I have met, and if people are threatened by her intelligence, expertise and diligence, they need to engage in some serious self examination.

When presented with an individual of exceptional talent such as Elaine, embrace them and know you have been graced with a wonderful gift. Be not afraid.

June 22, 2026

Honorable Mayor Brim and the Board of Trustees,

I am writing you to explain that, due to my oath of office, I cannot sign the "contract" that was presented to me on June 12th, 2026 as it would be a breach of my oath of office.

The contract is not valid. New York State sets out the official job description for all NYS municipal historians in Arts and Cultural Affairs Law § 57.07 and § 57.09 and via the NYS Historian's Office. It is not for the local municipality to change that wording by modifying, adding to or subtracting from the job description given by New York State. In addition, I am allowed to use my title outside of Jordan, just like Ken Bush does not cease to be an Onondaga County legislator as soon as he leaves the county.

I am, as per New York State, duty bound to collect and preserve our local history. Giving historical materials away or diverting donations to any other entity would be a breach of duty and a violation of the "Gift and Loan Clause" of the NYS Constitution (Article VIII, § 1).

The 2026 Budget given me was inaccurate. Items included either do not add up to the total amount or are completely missing. This does not appear to have been presented and approved to the full board due to its many errors and unofficial appearance.

At the June 12th, 2026, I was informed that my yearly salary was to be reduced by 2/3rds, which is an insult to the work that I have done throughout the community in the last three years. This decreased salary is not on par with either of my municipal counterparts within the Town of Elbridge. My 2025-2026 salary of \$1500 came closer to Village of Elbridge Historian Myrna Sullivan's (\$2,000/year), but still fell \$500 short. Yet I continued to do my job faithfully. At last year's rate, I was only compensated for 1.5 hrs per week of my time, although during most weeks of the year, I voluntarily gave many more hours than this. At this year's rate of \$500, that paid compensation rate drops to 0.5 hrs per week.

Moreover, the sentence on the last page of the contract which states that all tasks must be completed by September 30th, 2026 is highly problematic on two fronts. It is illegal to make a contract that is unfulfillable by the signer. At 0.5 hrs per week, there is no way to thoughtfully consider and file the items in the Archives Room (aka Rose Room) by that date. That is setting up the signer to fail. The other front is that New York State sets the work parameters, not the municipality. The municipal historian's job is multi-faceted and at the discretion of the historian as to how they choose to approach it per New York State law. Significantly, once appointed, NYS municipal historians answer and report directly to the NYS Historian. New York State law does not authorize a village to require that the municipal

historian report to a village trustee "liaison" as the trustee's "subordinate." This is an illegitimate attempt to usurp the authority of the NYS Historian.

The next part of this "contract" that is problematic is that the Village of Jordan does not own my personal time. When the 1.5 hrs, now 0.5 hrs, per week is completed, the remaining time during the week is my time. I am not required to report to the Village Board what I do on my own personal time. In any given week, if I voluntarily elect to contribute more of my time to my Jordan Village Historian role, I have that option, but it is not a legal requirement. Additionally, per the First Amendment of the US Constitution, I can research, write and have articles sent to print without the Village Board's prior review and approval. Every article, walk, and presentation that I've hosted in the past 3 years has only been about how wonderful Jordan is. Demanding the right to review my writings is needless censorship.

The community assembled here today is just a small portion of the community that I have been building and collaborating with over the past three years. Each one and more can affirm that I am fulfilling the job of historian well. I have met with community members about their families, given talks about their places of worship, researched pieces of forgotten history, promoted Jordan all across the region, took a class to promote the Erie Canal as an Ambassador, educated our village youth, reminisced with our seniors, brought attention to our architectural treasures, roasted chestnuts at the Christmas tree lighting, participated in community events, photographed events for history, and got citizens of our community to care about preserving our past. I have done well at my job.

This "contract" was insulting. There is a few possibilities about the "why" of this document. One, the board does not feel that I have faithfully executed my duties, which given my track record is untrue. The second is that this was designed to either get me to quit or fired when the deadline past on September 30th, 2026. As I have already documented a hostile work environment, clearly visible to community members on several occasions, the latter seems more probable. This is called constructive discharge and it is illegal.

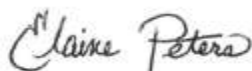
I look forward to what the next year holds. I expect that if the board wishes me to complete any tasks that they will give me the appropriate budget and time to complete the task. What is done outside the .5hrs paid for weekly by the village is my time and I will not be reporting it. Moreover, I hope that the members of this Board will appreciate all that I have done and continue to do for the community in my role as Village Historian, most of which has been on my own time and own dime. I have been an ambassador for Jordan and its history. Jordan has been put on the map. I am still the Village Historian even when I am outside the village. Many have come to our village after I have touted its praise. However, I am also a regional historian, I was a regional historian researching and sharing CNY long before taking on this position. I reserve the right to continue this activity.

Jordan is a great place to play, work and live. This is the message that I am continually conveying to those I come in contact with. I hope that the Board understands, just as the community members present already do, that I have done my job well and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Elaine Peters

Municipal Historian for the Village of Jordan



REGULAR MEETING

Clerk Trapp gave a report of Abstract #2 for a total of \$53,760.19; General \$17,102.85; Water \$6,992.50; Sewer \$11,050.43; Pool \$4,680.36; Trust & Agency \$13,484.05; TE Erie Canal Celebration. Deputy Mayor Gustafson motioned to approve Abstract #2 in the amount of \$53,760.19 and Deputy Trustee Bates seconded the motion. All voting in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds:

Nothing at this time.

Water & Sewer:

Fred DiRisio reported that they are down to one pump at the sewer plant due to the rail system failure. W2O provided an estimate of \$6,300.00 for the bracket in pump. Fred also informed the Board that the current meter reader we have was not working properly in June and we needed to borrow the Village of Elbridge's reader to get July's billing out on time. The reader we currently have is outdated and the software program is no longer supported. Ti Sales has provided a quote of \$14,309.69 for a new Neptune 360-meter reader and software.

Public Safety:

Chief C-1 Bryant stated that he and Deputy Mayor Gustafson attended a workshop at Cato Fire Department due to the requirements have been changed to the monthly reporting.

Chief C-1 Bryant reported that the Jordan Volunteer Fire Department participated in 3 Memorial Day Parades at Elbridge, Jordan, and Weedsport.

Chief C-1 Bryant stated that the Jordan Volunteer Fire Department is looking into a new water rescue boat the current one is needing to be replaced.

Streets & Drainage:

No reports

Mayor Brim General:

Mayor Brim reported that the Jordan Memorial Pool opened on June 13th, 2026, as scheduled and have had some school trips already even though the weather has been hit and miss. Staff are doing great!

Mayor Brim announced the passing of Mayor Jim Hoataling for the Town of Brutus.

Unfinished Business:

Nothing at this time.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Brim requested the Board of Trustees to approve of the revised Joint Water Project IMA with the Town and Village of Elbridge. Trustee Bates motioned to approve and seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson, all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Brim requested the Board of Trustees to approve for W2O estimate of \$6,300.00 for bracket in sewage plant pump. Trustee Stapleton motioned to approve and seconded by Trustee Bates, all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Brim requested the Board of Trustees to approve of the purchase of Neptune 360 Meter reader and software from TiSales in the amount of \$14,309.69. Trustee Bates motioned to approve and seconded by Deputy Mayor Gustafson, all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Brim requested an Executive Session regarding potential litigation/personnel. Executive Session began at 8:32 pm and closed at 9:01 pm.

A motion to pay the bills and file the correspondence was made by Deputy Mayor Gustafson and seconded by Trustee Stapleton, all voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion offered by Deputy Mayor Gustafson and seconded by Trustee Stapleton to adjourn the meeting. All present voting in favor. Motion carried at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Trapp
Clerk-Treasurer