

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The mayor called Attorney Russell and announced the audio recording of the meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Tyner, Trustees Rodbourn and Rowe Smalt, Minnie and Bill Brennan, Rebekah Abbott, Art Blanchard, Julie Pietsch, and David Hubbard **ABSENT:** Trustees Gay and Hubbard

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2025 meeting

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All

A motion was made to approve departmental reports

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All

VISITOR COMMENTS: Dave Hubbard questioned the village peddler law and wanted to know who was in charge of investigating people that are going door to door. Attorney Russell said that generally the village doesn't have the ability. It would be the citizen contacting law enforcement. Mr. Hubbard asked if the peddler law could be revisited and Mayor Tyner said he would ask the planning board to do so. Mr. Hubbard feels that there should be a public service announcement made. The mayor will work with Attorney Russell to do so.

STREET DEPT-

Mayor Tyner gave a brief summary of things as Sup Comstock is sick.

Most items will be done in the spring due to the excess of ice and snow this year.

The new trees are planted except for one that is to be planted on Charlesworth.

Trustee Rodbourn gave an update of the village sign for posting. He will be getting quotes for the stone work.

Local Law change: When the local law was adopted, there was an error on the north and south direction references. A public hearing for changing the law needs to take place.. The mayor asked about scheduling both public hearings on March 13th.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing for the change in wording for the Handicap Local Law.

1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All

The 2013 truck was sold at auction at the price the board agreed on (\$20000) minus the fee of \$250.

Sup. Comstock has only found the gas fired grinding machine for the sidewalks for \$1500/month. The board thinks this is the route to take.

When the snow and frost are gone, the stumps will be removed by the Historical Building. They will pay for the removal.

The fire hydrant poles/markers are here and will be installed as soon as possible.

The new plow for the tractor arrived today and will be put on soon.

FIRE DISTRICT:

The mayor discussed the new exemption for emergency responders. The qualifications need to be determined by the board but the following are guidelines: 2-5 years for service, giving up to 10% off, allowing the lifetime after 20 years and giving benefits to widows/widowers if unmarried. This conversation will be tabled until next month.

TOWN: no updates

PARKS:

Memorial Park- Mayor Tyner asked if the board would like to look into allocating money for a concession stand at the park in the budget process. This will be discussed next month.

Hees Park: The flagpole will be set when the weather changes. Trustee Rowe Smalt asked about scheduling the dedication ceremony for Carl Dockstader. It was decided that she will reach out to the family to see if the opening day for Little League would be a good day.

Gazebo Park: The pop up outlets are not all working. Devon Manciocchi will be looking into it.

A motion was made to approve the expenditures other than the Shared Service invoice from the town of Avoca

Culvert Hearing: Mayor Tyner spoke with the school superintendent about the changes in the project. The school agrees with putting one pedestrian and one vehicle lane instead of 2 vehicle lanes. The project will hopefully start in 2026. CPL needs to do a presentation for the culvert project. Mayor Tyner asked if the board would approve a presentation before the first budget workshop.

A motion was made to have the Culvert Public Hearing on March 13 at 5PM immediately followed by the Budget Workshop, then the Local Law for the Handicap Parking change and the regular Board Meeting after that.

1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All

There was a request for water relief from Larry Stanley and Jenieen Gay. It was decided to wait until the new water bill comes out March 1 to determine the water relief amount.

The 2nd Mausoleum CD matured and it was transferred to the NYClass account.

The clerk is getting an estimate for the Williamson Tax Program to help mainstream tax payments into the Accounting System. She will hopefully have that at the next meeting.

Budget Workshops: Mayor Tyner will keep a folder in the Shared Drive for changes in the Budget Process. He is adding the budget worksheet that the board receives to the abstract. He would like it signed by the board each month.

Water RFPs: Mayor Tyner, Sup. Comstock and Trustee Hubbard met this morning to review the RFPs for the project. They narrowed it down to 3 companies (CPL, Hunt, LDG). They will hold interviews on February 28. Katherine Reese was notified. They hope to have a final decision in March. One of the things being looked at is having a separate office for the water department at the street garage.

Solar Farm: Mayor Tyner has heard from the company about having an escrow account for engineering and legal fees. Attorney Russel would like the village to have access to documents provided by the solar company. The town has different legal counsel. Trustee Rowe Smalt wanted to know if a different zoning officer was being hired for the solar project. Mayor Tyner feels confident in our zoning officer. Trustee Rodbourn said he understood that the town was the lead agency on the project. Attorney Russell believes they are only the lead agency on the environmental SEQR. Mayor Tyner said the village will still be lead on the village parcel of the project.

A motion was made to retain Matt Souza Engineering and Seth Polin Law with clarification of no double billing be paid for by the escrow account 1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All

Mayor Tyner asked the board about their feelings of the **Red Cross van** being parked in the parking lot. The board didn't have an issue. Attorney Russell said the village doesn't have a restriction on parking. Mayor Tyner will let the Red Cross person know.

The **RING camera** for the Gazebo Parking Lot is installed on the clerk's computer. It is not recording yet. Sup Comstock will also have access to it on his computer. Mayor Tyner asked for a motion to pay \$50/year subscription to record continuously. 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All

Masonic Lodge Agreement- Mayor Tyner asked if the board would like to explore a new agreement with the Masonic Lodge. It was agreed that it isn't necessary. The mayor will research any insurance issues.

MOM van-Mayor Tyner has not heard anything more from the past request.

GRANTS: Clean Energy- it is still on hold

Culvert_ Payment ## has been made

Windmill—none

Main Street- Mayor Tyner called Congresswoman Tenney's office and is waiting for a return call

Playground- Waiting for the opportunity to open up again for grant money

BOARD DISCUSSIONS-

Mayor Tyner- While doing the budget, the mayor is requesting a 3rd party audit be done every 2-3 years. He will get quotes. He would also like a consulting line in the budget for accounting purposes.

The school has requested the former summer rec funds be allocated to the school again. Mayor Tyner wants to know how the board feels. It was decided to table this until next month.

Mayor Tyner opened the floor to **Attorney Russell**. She told the board that she has enjoyed her time representing them however, she is expecting a child and is going to part time starting in June. The lawyer who is expected to take her place is William Thew, also from Mullen Associates. The members of the board wished her well.

Trustee Rowe Smalt- she would like the wording on the newsletter to say “commemorative ceremony following the parade” for the Memorial Celebration. She also said she’d like Clerk Haar to call Engie for an idea of our contract with them.

Trustee Rodbourn- He sent pictures to the board showing a variation of the pedestrian bridge going to Hees Park. The members present liked both. No decision was made. He also brought up looking into having a police force in Avoca. He realizes it will be costly, but would like to investigate it. He will be speaking with people to get an idea.

Clerk Haar: She wanted to know if all is set for the newsletter. She hopes to have a grant retention update next month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Hubbard thanked the board for looking into changing the peddling/soliciting law. He wanted to know how many companies there are and if they are regulated by the state.

Attorney Russell said she hasn’t found any exception in the village’s soliciting/peddling law for utilities in the village law. She also hasn’t found it in the state laws. People need to register if they want to solicit. The village cannot contact law enforcement about the soliciting. It has to be done by the person who had it happen to them. This will be addressed in the newsletter with the state’s link. Mr. Hubbard wanted to know how people are chosen for the board. The mayor said the board approves the appointed person. If someone wanted to make a complaint, they could fill out a complaint form. Julie Piestch asked if she could get a copy of the SEQR for the solar farm. Trustee Rodbourn did not think it’s been done yet. There was further discussion on the solar farm and the planning board.

The mayor wanted everyone to know that the pictures that David Hubbard has were attained through a FOIL request.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All The meeting was adjourned at 9:11.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Haar
Village Clerk/Treasurer