

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LAURENS
January 7, 2025
REGULAR MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Acting Mayor Kovacs

Present: Acting Mayor Frank Kovacs, Trustee Tom Halstead, Trustee Jonathan Heelein, Trustee Lois VanAlstine, Water Superintendent Dale Bullock, Assistant Water Superintendent Jarrett Hotaling, Clerk Erica LaBuz

Absent: Trustee Justin Hughes

Other: Marie Iannotti, Peggy Liddle, Starr Liddle

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: The December minutes were accepted as presented.

Resolution to Apply for a Musical Grant for the 2025 Laurens Summer Concerts in the Park:

On a motion made by Jonathan Heelein, seconded by Lois VanAlstine, the following was adopted

Be it hereby resolved this 7th day of January, 2025 that the Laurens Village Board does hereby resolve that the Village of Laurens will cooperate with the procurement of a musical grant and to appoint Erica LaBuz and Frank Kovacs to act as representative for the Village of Laurens to submit an application for the 2025 Arts in the Community Grants administered by Earlville Opera House. The successful award of this grant, along with a contribution of \$300.00 (three hundred dollars), by the Village of Laurens, will be used to fund the 2025 Laurens Summer Concerts in the Park Series.

Said resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Acting Mayor Kovacs	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____
Trustee Halstead	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____
Trustee Heelein	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____
Trustee Hughes	Aye ____ Nay ____ Absent
Trustee VanAlstine	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____

Resolution to Waive the Fee at Knapp Park for the 2025 Laurens Summer Concerts in the Park Series

On a motion made by Jonathan Heelein, seconded by Lois VanAlstine, the following was adopted

Be it hereby resolved this 7th day of January, 2025 that the Laurens Village Board does hereby resolve that the Village of Laurens will waive the fee of \$25.00 per each use of Knapp Park for the 2025 Laurens Summer Concerts in the Park Series. The concerts in the park will take place on the following dates:

July 2, 2025
July 9, 2025
July 16, 2025
July 23, 2025

Said resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Acting Mayor Kovacs	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____
Trustee Halstead	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____
Trustee Heelein	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____
Trustee Hughes	Aye ____ Nay ____ Absent
Trustee VanAlstine	Aye <u>X</u> Nay ____

Financial Reports: The November financial report was reviewed. The following budget modifications are needed:

\$136.32 from A5142.4 (Snow Removal) to A7110.4 (Parks-Contractual)

\$18.55 from FX8310.4 (Administration – Contractual) to FX1950.4 - \$0.59 (Taxes on Municipal Property) and FX 1910.4 – 17.96 (Unallocated Insurance. Motion by Jonathan Heelein. Seconded by Lois VanAlstine. Approved 4-0

Motion to accept the financial report and Abstract #8 for payment was made by Jonathan Heelein, seconded by Lois VanAlstine. Approved 4-0

Water Report – Water superintendent Dale Bullock gave his report. The Village used 529,000 gallons of water in December. One day in December, 17,000 gallons were used. Due to a water leak, 80,000 gallons of water did not go through a meter. PFOS testing was completed. The water tank will need to be inspected this year. A proposal was submitted for when Dale Bullock's license expires and Jarrett Hotaling becomes the water superintendent.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kovacs reported that Santa in the Park was a very good day. Sixty-five children participated. Oscar Oberkircher was great with the kids. The mayor provided the gifts and the Key Club put the gift bags together.

Committee Reports

Parks, Property & Sidewalks – Sidewalks will be put in the 2025-26 budget. Trustee Halstead said that water runs into the garage due to the sidewalk apron. A previous board approved the replacement of his driveway apron at 18 Main Street at the village's expense. That will be taken care of in this year's sidewalk project.

Community Engagement - The grant application for the concerts opens on January 24th and is due on March 3rd.

New Business – Caucuses will be held between January 21 at the Presbyterian Church.

Jonathan Heelein stated that he will be resigning. No letter of resignation has been submitted but he asked Starr Liddle if he would take his place. When a resignation occurs, an appointment is made that expires at the next election. The appointed trustee would have to run in the election to complete the term. The term of two trustees expire at the end of March. Publicity for the caucuses has already been posted stating that there are two trustees up for election. That will now have to be changed to 2 trustee positions for two years and one trustee to fill an unexpired term. It was also thought that Mr. Liddle could be appointed at this meeting. Since he was going to be away for two months and because there was no resignation letter from Trustee Heelein, that appointment would not be appropriate.

Correspondence

Public Comment – Peggy Liddle informed the board that the town library increased its hours from 7 to 23 hours per week. She stated that the Laurens Central School would like the village to take over ownership of the library. She had written a grant for the library to the Community Foundation of Otsego County. The grant application was rejected because the library is part of the school district. It would cost the school \$450,000 to make the library ADA compliant. The library would like to become a member of the Four County Library System (4CLS.org). Membership in 4CLS.org would require an employee working at least 20 hours. It was pointed out by the clerk, that if the village were to take over the library and hire an employee, the hiring would probably be done through the Civil Service process.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Erica LaBuz
Village Clerk