

The minutes of the Village of Waterville Board of Trustees board meeting held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Minutes to be approved at the next board meeting on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**In attendance:** Mayor - G. Ostrander, Village Clerk/Treasurer – G. Barnes, DPW Superintendent J. Bechy, Village Attorney S. DiGiorgio, Trustees: L. Stern, A. Briggs, B. Bogan

**Not in attendance:** Trustee Conners, CEO Bialek, Fire Chief Waufle

**Public in attendance:** Meredith Leland, Mary Fallon, Mark Mowry

- Meeting called to order
- **B. Bogan made a motion to open Public Hearing** to hear comments on the 2026-27 Fiscal Year Village Budget

**Motion seconded by G. Ostrander                      Motion Carried                      Time Open: 7:20pm**

Mark Mowry asked if the Village would be raising taxes. Cl/Tr Barnes stated that there would be a tax increase this year. The Village tax rate is increasing to 14% which is a 2.9% increase. Since the Village is a non-assessing village, the State requires the Village to use an equalization rate based on the Town of Sangerfield's and the Town of Marshall's assessments. With the equalization rate applied to the Village tax rate, the Town of Marshall's tax rate actually increases 6.4% while the Town of Sangerfield's stays right under the 14%. The equalization rate is assigned every year by the State Comptroller's Office to ensure equitable property tax allocation. The Village does not control the equalization rate. This is the first property tax rate increase in the Village since 2008. Mr. Mowrey thanked the Village for keeping taxes down while still providing many services to Village residents.

The Board also discussed how rising costs in utilities and fuel affected the budget. The Board changed the employees' health insurance plan to help keep health insurance costs stable. There was a 16% increase in the Village's previous health insurance plan.

**Motion to close Public Hearing – B. Bogan    2<sup>nd</sup> – L. Stern    Motion Carried**

Time Closed: 7:38pm

**Trustee Bogan made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Budget    Trustee Briggs Seconded  
Budget was approved 4-0**

- **A. Briggs made a motion to approve** the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – B. Bogan                      Motion Carried**
- **B. Bogan made a motion to approve** Purchase Orders  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – L. Stern                      Motion Carried**
- **A. Briggs made a motion to approve** Audit of Expense Abstracts – GEN ABS 3-23-26, 4-6-25  
TA ABS 3-23-26  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – L. Stern                      Motion Carried**

- **B. Bogan made a motion to approve the following budget transfers**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – A. Briggs                      Carried**

From A Fund Contingency A0.1990.400 to:

- A0.1325.400 Clerk/Treasurer Contractual \$600
- A0.1620.490 Village Hall Utilities \$2000
- A0.6989.400 Grant Writer \$4000 (30% down on Income Survey)
- A0.8010.400 Zoning Enforcement Contractual \$3550 (General Code Project from 2024-25)

From F Fund Contingency F0.1990.400 to:

- F0.8320.490 Water Supply Utilities \$5200
- F0.1620.490 Village Hall Utilities \$1500
- F0.8310.400 Clerk/Treasurer Contractual \$300

From G Fund Contingency G0.1990.400 to:

- G0.1620.490 Village Hall Utilities \$1500
- G0.8110.400 Clerk/Treasurer Contractual \$300

From A0.8010.400 Zoning Contractual to A0.8020.400 Planning Contractual \$4433.40

From Fund Balance to:

- G0.8130.490 Sewer Utilities \$15,000
- G0.9060.800 Sewer Hospital & Medical Insurance \$10,000

- **Trustee Bogan made a motion** to approve a facility use request for the Village Hall Community Room on May 17<sup>th</sup>

**2<sup>nd</sup> – A. Briggs                      Motion Carried**

- **Public Participation**

Meredith Leland asked if the Board still planned to adopt a tree resolution. DPW Bechy stated that Village Attorney DiGiorgio drafted a resolution and he and the Mayor have reviewed. The draft will be sent to the Village Board to review. The resolution will be added to the agenda for the next meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

- **Department Head's Reports**

- **DPW Superintendent**

- Received two tree bids to remove 4 trees in the Village. Greater Heights submitted a bid for \$18,900 and Rick Turk submitted a bid for \$16,900

**B. Bogan made a motion to accept** the low bid from Rick Turk

**2<sup>nd</sup> – A. Briggs                      Motion Carried**

- The Village was awarded EFC Bond Act money of up to \$1.3 million to continue Big Creek work from where creek work stopped last year near Stewart's to just past the Sewer Plant. Expecting 2027-28 construction. The Village will need to provide a 10% match of the final amount spent. All expenses will need to be paid up front by the Village and EFC will reimburse. There is still some money left from Oneida County funding that could possibly be used toward the match.

- J. Bechy requested permission to submit a purchase order for a new Ventrex machine. The Village would not receive the Ventrex until after June 2026. This machine has a snow blower, v-plow, broom, and a rough-cut mower attachments. The purchase is part of the 2026-27 budget and will be re-imbursed through the State's CHIPS program.

**G. Ostrander made a motion to approve purchase order 2<sup>nd</sup> – L. Stern Carried**

- The Village hosted a NY Rural Water class for people seeking hours to obtain a NY Water License. During one of the class discussions, J. Bechy learned that if the water pumps are reduced from 60 htz to 57 htz, there should be a decrease in the amount of electricity used. By decreasing the hertz, the pumps will pump 20 gallons of water less per minute which will cause the pumps to run longer, but they will not draw as much energy since it is not during peak hours. J. Bechy will monitor to see if energy costs decrease.
  - Trustee Bogan thanked J. Bechy for hosting the class since the attendees visited and spent money at local businesses.
- NYS has new regulations on cyber security incident reporting for water and sewer systems. The Village has until March 28, 2027 to formalize and adopt a cyber security emergency plan for the whole Village. The emergency plan for the water and sewer is extensive and will most likely require help from an engineer to draft. Prior to adoption, the plan will need to be approved by the NYS DEC. Cyber security training is also required for all Village employees, volunteers, and elected officials who use Village owned computers or have a Village email account. Water and wastewater operators will need extensive cyber security training each year in order to maintain their operator license.
- The Village received a contract from Village resident, Mark Mowrey who is a forester from Prentiss Carlisle. The Village is looking to log timber on the reservoir property. It has been over 20 years since the last time the Village logged the reservoir. The purpose of logging the property is to thin the forested area to maintain health of the forest and to generate revenue that can be used to help the Village fund the decommissioning of the reservoirs that was damaged during the 2019 flood event. Prentiss Carlisle will assist the Village on marking trees, supervise the bidding and sale of lumber, and supervise the clean-up process. Prentiss Carlisle will receive a 20% commission from the total sales of the lumber.

**G. Ostrander made a motion to accept the contract 2<sup>nd</sup> – B. Bogan Carried**

- J. Bechy said the Board needs to consider on what to do with the trees and pavers around the trees on Main St. The trees have become too big, and the roots are causing pavers and tree grates to heave. A solution will need to be made within the next few months.
- The sludge press at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been having serious maintenance issues. The press was installed in 1997 and the companies that made parts for the press are no longer operational or no longer making parts for the press since the press is considered obsolete. The Village was presented with three options to get the press operational again:
  - Try to repair the existing press which would cost at least \$545,000.
  - Replace the existing press with a screw press which go into the existing structure. This would cost \$619,000.
  - Replace existing press with a belt press which would also go into the existing structure. This would cost \$665,000.

All options would be a year out before the press would be fully fixed. The Village is looking to see if there is funding available to help cover the costs of replacing the press. If no funding is found, the Village will need to consider taking a BAN to purchase the press which would increase the Sewer Debt Service Fee on the quarterly utility bill to Village residents. If the Village eliminated the use of the sludge press, the sewer plant would have to drain the tanks every other month and have the sludge hauled to a landfill. The cost to drain the tank, trucking fees and fuel, and landfill costs would far exceed the cost of replacing the press. Because all options to replace/fix the press are a year out, a decision by the board will need to be made soon.

- If the weather continues to improve, Babbott park restrooms and pickleball/tennis courts should be open within the next week or two.
- NYS DOT approved the Village to remove the overgrown brush at the Big Creek bridge by the old Huddle Restaurant.
  - Trustee Bogan said it looks much better now that all the brush is gone.
- The Village Hall and the Fire House have been having ongoing boiler issues.

- Clerk/Treasurer Barnes

- A letter from Village business owner Carlo Graziadei asked if the Board would consider removing quarterly garbage fees for the vacant property he purchased next door to his 116 W. Main St. business. His letter states that once the property is fixed and operational, he would notify the Village and resume paying the garbage fees. This has been standard practice for other vacant buildings within the Village.

**B. Bogan made a motion** to approve temporary removal of garbage fees

**2<sup>nd</sup> – A. Briggs            Carried**

- An income survey has been mailed to all Village residents. The purpose of the survey is to collect data that could help the Village obtain funding for potential Village projects. G&G Municipal Consultants is handling the survey. They will be walking door-to-door in the Village within the next few weeks to knock on doors of residents that have not responded to the survey. Cl/Tr Barnes encouraged residents to respond to the survey as the information could really help the Village with future projects. She also stated that the information is confidential and the Village will only receive final results, not individual responses.

- Adjournment, next meeting will be on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7pm.

**Trustee Bogan made a motion** to adjourn the meeting.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – A. Briggs            Motion Carried            Time Adjourned: 9:00pm**

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Village Clerk's Signature

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Date