

Village of Union Springs  
**September 16th, 2025**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm by Mayor Robert Thurston, Jr., and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**In attendance:** Mayor Robert Thurston, Jr., Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, Trustee Bill Boyd, Trustee Jeremy Smith, Trustee Brian Cornell, (Entered 6:15)

**Also in attendance:** Deputy Clerk Lisa Snyder, Attorney Chad Hayden, DPW Supervisor Joe Smith, Kevin Thurston (Water Operator)

**Absent:** Code Enforcement Officer Robert Rhea, Treasurer Jennifer Schenck, Clerk Christine Van Horn.

**From the Public:** None

**Village Clerk: Deputy Clerk Lisa Snyder**

- 1) Review and approve amended minutes of the August 19, 2025, meeting.
  - a. *Motion to approve amended minutes reflecting W20 as vendor hired to clean out water lines made by Trustee Bill Boyd and seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith. All ayes.*
- 2) Working on .gov domain
  - a. We have received approval for our .gov domain name (unionspringsny.gov) and are beginning the next steps with our IT company and website administrator. Will keep updated. Donna shared with Board insights of another Villages progress with migration.
- 3) New Cayuga Lake National bank credit card
  - a. The clerk spoke with the bank, and the new due date will be on the 26th of the month.
- 4) Scoreboard donation
  - a. Accept \$100.00 donation for the scoreboard from Deb Lewis. Motion made by Deputy Mayor, Donna O'Hara and seconded by Trustee, Jeremy Smith, all ayes.

**Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Schenck**

- 1) Audit of the Bills
  - a. abstract #4: emailed to board prior to meeting for review;
  - b. *Motion to approve paying bills, made by Trustee Bill Boyd and seconded by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, All Ayes.*

**Audit of Bills: Abstract #4**

**General Fund:** Vouchers 166-225 \$37,849.20

**Water Fund:** Vouchers 166-225 \$10,310.24

**Sewer Fund:** Vouchers 166-222 \$50,769.98

**HK Fund:** Vouchers 188 \$1,314.00

**Trust and Agency:** Vouchers 165 & 211 \$446.68

**Budget modifications:** None

**Department of Public Works (Joe Smith)**

- 1) Village signs for insurance quote
  - a. Waiting for cost estimate from the sign company A&M signage, and Deputy Mayor, Donna O'Hara will follow up once again, vendor has been nonresponsive.
- 2) DPW New hire
  - a. The New hire is working out well.
- 3) Cranebrook
  - a. No answer to the exact date they will be in the village, and it will be later this month to remove the trees from the park.
- 4) Getting stuff ready for the winter months.
- 5) Missing light
  - a. Returned to the village by Verizon and reinstalled.
- 6) Vandalism
  - a. Multiple incidents of vandalism in the park, the railroad bridge, and repairs were also made to the Village Gazebo-ramp repaired.
- 7) WWTP roof
  - a. The roof is in need of repair and will start reaching out for quotes. Attempted to obtain quote from Flask construction but they've been nonresponsive. J&J construction provided quotes for both patch repair and/or full replacement. Tabled pending 3 quotes.
- 8) CHIPS Usage
  - a. Entire village, new street signs, additional paving of roads. Part of AG zone, wear and tear.
- 9) Renting lift
  - a. Renting lift for use on salt shed and will take down banner and flags at that time and put up Christmas lighting.
- 10) Kayak launch
  - a. Early removal due to low lake levels

**Water Operator Report (Kevin Thurston)**

1. Center Street Tank
  - a. Overflowing met with Ross Valve and it was a pilot valve issue.
2. Salt Shed needs to be rebuilt prior repairs to back of the building failing and the salt has eroded it away.
  - a. Calling Martins for a quote for enclosing the lean to

**Code Enforcement Officer Report (Robert Rhea)**

Absent

Emailed reports for the board's review

1. Court date
  - a. Park St had court date on September 10th. Adjourned until 10/10/25
2. Resignation

- a. Robert Rhea resigning the end of September.
- b. New Code Enforcement Officer Mark Perry; he will work Saturdays 8-12noon.

### **Mayor's Report**

- 1) Sewer use law updates. B&L \$6,000 and MRB \$15,500
  - a. Re-look at proposals at the October meeting.
- 2) Scoreboard grant update
  - a. Reviewing prices from a few other companies, will prepare to present to board to complete purchase
- 3) Venmo for boat launch
  - a. **Motion** made by Trustee Bill Boyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Brian Cornell to boat launch fees to \$9 for Venmo users.
  - b. Village Clerk would need a Village cell phone to set up a Venmo account. Primary use for boat launch Venmo account. Chad will prepare Resolution for October board meeting.
- 4) Donation to Meals on Wheels
  - a. **Motion** was made by Trustee Bill Boyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, all ayes to give \$350 donations to Meals on Wheels program.
- 5) Depot window replacements.
  - a. Auburn Siding and Windows. Replace prior to winter season.
- 6) NYSEG Resolution
  - a. **Motion** by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Bill Boyd, all ayes

### **RESOLUTION NO. [42-2025]**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE Village BOARD OF THE Village OF Union Springs, NEW YORK, FORMALLY OPPOSING THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASES BY NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS (NYSEG) AND ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC (RG&E)**

**WHEREAS**, New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) have submitted proposals to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) seeking substantial and unjustified rate increases for electric and gas services; and

**WHEREAS**, these proposed increases, which would result in a substantial financial burden on our constituents, would increase average residential electric bills by 23.7% for NYSEG customers and 26% for RG&E customers, and increase average residential gas bills by 33.5% for NYSEG customers and 22.2% for RG&E customers; and

**WHEREAS**, these unmanageable increases would create an insurmountable hardship for countless residents and severely impact small businesses that are the engine of our local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, our municipalities believe that the full cost of the utilities' infrastructure investments should not be placed solely on the backs of ratepayers;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Village Board of the Village of Union Springs, New York, that it does hereby formally oppose the proposed rate increases by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) and demands that the New York State Public Service Commission take the following actions: reject the current proposal and demand a revised, more affordable plan; conduct a comprehensive and transparent review of the utilities' practices; and ensure a fair and open public comment process, including public hearings in our region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Public Service Commission;

**ADOPTED** this 16th day of September 2025 by the Village Board of the Village of Union Springs, New York.

**VOTES:** Trustee/Mayor

Mayor Robert Thurston, Jr. aye

Trustee 1 Bill Boyd aye

Trustee 2 Jeremy Smith aye

Trustee 3 Donna O'Hara aye

Trustee 4 Brian Cornell aye

7) Christmas Party

- a. Mayor is authorized by the board to conduct an employee Christmas party and provide holiday gifts following previous years' format. Date to be confirmed at a later time and Mayor will coordinate the event.

**Trustee Report(s)**

1) Trustee Bill Boyd:

- a. Bill discussed with the board a news release about Academy employee involvement.

2) Trustee Brian Cornell:

- a. Emailed James from NYPA about moving forward with Spring St. light. 2 streetlight repairs are needed.

3) Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara

- a. Fall Festival updates- 22 vendors, 3 confirmed for chili cookoff, scarecrows will be arriving on Monday. Generations bank approved for parking.
- b. Asked for volunteers for the village donut/cider table. Thank you, Rob and Jeremy.
- c. Village ordinance around dog feces cleanup. Village ordinance falls under Town of Springport ordinance. Owners are required to clean up after their animals and be on a leash and under control.

4) Trustee Smith:

- a. Band nights booked for less than \$3000 for next year. They will need tax forms filled out for next year.
- b. Trunk or Treat is October 25<sup>th</sup> 12:30-2pm. To be held at the American Legion.

**Village Attorney's Report:** Chad Hayden

1. Review Cayuga County services with non-violent offenders.

2. Spoke with board about mercury contamination DDS statewide issue. Handling of waste. The mayor is meeting with him on Monday.

**New Businesses:** Cerros Tavern is now open, Thursday through Saturday.

**Old Business:** The Village sign has been replaced.

**New Business:**

**Executive Session (if needed):** None

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, October 21st, 2025, 6pm at the Village Office

**Adjournment:** *Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m., seconded by Trustee Bill Boyd, all ayes.*

Respectfully submitted  
Lisa Snyder Deputy Clerk