

**Village of Union Springs**  
**January 20, 2026**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

Begin 6:02 p.m..  
With pledge to the flag

In attendance: Mayor Robert Thurston, Jr., Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, Trustees: Jeremy Smith, Brian Cornell, and Bill Boyd (Entered at 6:03 p.m.)

Also in attendance: DPW Supervisor Joe Smith, Attorney Chad Hayden, Treasurer Jennifer Schenck (Exited at 7:01 p.m.), and Clerk Christine Van Horn (Exited at 7:32 p.m.)

Absent: Water Operator Kevin Thurston and Code Enforcement Mark Perry

**From the Public:** None

**Village Clerk:** Clerk Christine Van Horn

\*Review and approve amended minutes of the December 16, 2025, meeting.

Motion to approve minutes made by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes

- Accept \$1,000.00 donation for the park and boat launch, anonymous  
Motion by Trustee Jeremy Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, all ayes.

- Accept \$500.00 donation for the scoreboard from James and Rhonda Dixon  
Motion by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, second by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes

- Accept \$3,000.00 donation for the scoreboard from Cayuga Fund/Key Bank  
Motion by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, second by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes.

- Accept \$3,000.00 donation for the scoreboard from Cayuga Lake National Bank  
Motion by Trustee Jeremy Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, all ayes.

- Planning board discussed regulation of Data centers and or Battery storage systems siting a recent moratorium issued by the Town of Scipio and would like the board to discuss. Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara is going to share more information that she has on this. It was discussed that they draw from the water/lakes. They need a significant amount of property and are detrimental to fish and wildlife.

- Insurance: I am still getting new requested information to the insurance company for requested quotes on Village Insurance. I have gotten dental quotes and will be sharing.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jennifer Schenck

January financials, January boat launch revenue,

Motion to approve bills, Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell, all ayes.  
Two corrections made with extra 0's and added Unifirst and Ed & Ed.

**Audit of the Bills Abstract #8: Emailed to members.**

**Audit of Bills: Abstract #8**

**General Fund: Vouchers 389-447 \$79,179.14**

**Water Fund: Vouchers 389-447 \$9,608.28**

**Sewer Fund: Vouchers 389-447 \$75,288.94**

**WWTP Project: Voucher 410-428 \$9,060.75**

**TA Fund: 395 & 400 \$466.17**

**Budget modifications:**

\$500.00 Credit G8110.1 Sewer Administration

\$500.00 Debit G8110.11 Sewer Admin-Dep Clerk/Treasurer

\$25.40 Credit G9010.8 State retirement

\$25.40 Debit G9030.8 Social Security

Motion to approve budget modifications. Trustee Brian Cornell, seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes.

BAN with Greene County National Bank closing on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Going to ask Bill Marquart if it is okay to have Bond with ESL Credit Union.

**DRI – NEW BANK ACCOUNT, NEW WILLIAMSON FUND IN ACCOUNTING**

Motion by Trustee Bill Boyd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, all ayes.

**Dept. of Public Works:** Joe Smith

- Street sign quotes Phelps Guardrail \$66,663.79  
Eldrlee \$42,258.00

Never heard back from Vitale. Some of the signs really need to be replaced. Possibly look at a plan of doing 10 signs monthly in-house. Or another strategic plan by the DPW supervisor. Verify with the state on signs in their right-of-way. Will call the CHIPS contact to verify signs and possibly labor are covered. Going to look up the old quote from JC Smith.

- Beaver permit has been renewed. Copy is here in the office. What can be done about the dam where they continue to build? Quotes previously for that were \$5-7K. An extended reach excavator would be needed. Reach out to Vitale's and get a new quote.

**Water Department:** Kevin Thurston

- Chlorine pump is operational and waiting to hear if it is going to be covered under warranty.

**Code Enforcement Officer Report:** Mark Perry

- Code Enforcement Monthly Report emailed to board members

**Mayor's Report:** Robert Thurston, Jr.

- ARPA is officially closed out, Clerk will archive files to remain on hand for 7 years

- Camera at baseball field working
  - Spoke with the camera company (Adirondack Cabling and Security) to see if it is possible to add a camera downtown to point to the gazebo and village parking lot, and cameras at the old Zack Property. Rough estimate is \$5,000
  
- Request for Girl Scouts Gold Award Project (Riley Kozub) at Frontenac Park
  - Location near playground, Project: Gaga Pit. It is felt that this might be a liability in the park, and what about future maintenance of it? Let her know that we would support her, possibly on another project idea.
  
- Budget development 2/6 at 3 pm Village office
  
- Window replacement – windows scheduled for shipment on 1/16/26
  
- WWTP Roof Update
  - Contract documents were approved by the attorney
  - Issued the Notice to Proceed
  - Material submittals were approved for the contractor to order
  
- Memorial Day Parade Planning Meetings
  - Scheduled at the Village Office on the last Monday of each month @ 9 AM
  - Chris, Kevin, and Donna will attend these meetings for planning and application purposes
  
- DRI Meeting with NYSDOS
  - Will need to draft an RFP for project C1003346 Union Springs DRI Frontenac Park
  - Once drafted, it will need to be sent back to NYS DOS Lissa D'Aquanni for review
    - Will contact Cayuga County Planning to see if they have any samples that they would be willing to share
  
- Explore the use of Copilot AI to help with completing meeting minutes. Look at this in more detail and more with NYCOM.

### **Trustee Report(s)**

#### **Bill Boyd:**

- Nothing currently.

**Brian Cornell:**

- Looking at more cameras in the park quote and wondering if the DRI grant would possibly cover this.

**Donna O'Hara:**

- NY Restore update to board meeting is rescheduled for 1/21.
  
- 250 years celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup> this year. One of the ideas that NYCOM shared was a time capsule. July 4<sup>th</sup> is very busy and perhaps we could plan something on band night on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Deputy Mayor is going to check with the Lions Club, Museum, and other organizations and see if they would like to be part of this event. Will re-explore ideas and findings next month.

**Jeremy Smith:**

- Mooney's and Pete's Treats are confirmed for all nights. There are 8 vendors total (Silver Street Kettle Corn, Shep's Brewing, Bearded Bear, Hangry Happenings, Sip, Pete's Treats, Mooney's Pizza, and JW Bait & Tackle). Attorney Hayden is going to work on a boiler plate form for all of them to sign, making sure that they are registered with the county and have insurance. They must all have W-9s turned in to receive payment.

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

- Discussions around short-term rentals and Data centers.

**Executive session:** Motion to go into executive session at 7:32 p.m. by Trustee Bill Boyd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara to discuss a personnel issue.  
Motion to come out of Executive session at 7:41 with no decisions made by Trustee Jeremy Smith seconded by Trustee Bill Boyd

**New Business's:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Executive Session if Needed:** See above.

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Time 7:42 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Bill Boyd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, all ayes.