

Village of Union Springs
March 17, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes

Begin: 6:01 p.m.
With pledge to the flag

In attendance: Mayor Robert Thurston, Jr., Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, Trustee Bill Boyd, Trustee Brian Cornell, Trustee Jeremy Smith (Enter 6:06 p.m.),

Also in attendance: Attorney Chad Hayden, Clerk Christine Van Horn, DPW Supervisor Joe Smith, Water Operator Kevin Thurston, Jackson Thurston (Enter 7:15 p.m., Exit 7:48 p.m.)

Absent: Treasurer Jennifer Schenck, Code Officer Mark Perry

From the Public: None

Village Clerk: Clerk Christine Van Horn

*Review and approve minutes of the February 17, 2026, meeting.

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

- Eastern Shore/ Comp Alliance came in with the lowest quote for our insurance, so we are staying with them at this time.
- Accept \$250 donation from the Sons of the American Legion for flags
Motion to accept made by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell, all ayes. DPW has already purchased some flags.
- With Josh & Kevin's help, we have the 2025 Annual Quality Drinking Water Report completed early this year. When we send out the water bills on April 1st, we will submit the recertification, and it will be completed.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED AID TO MUNICIPALITIES AND STRENGTHENING
NEW YORK'S STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul released her 30-day amendments to the Executive Budget, which include an additional \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA) to be allocated in the same manner as in the past two years; and

WHEREAS, these additional investments reflect a recognition that New York's strength begins in its cities, villages, and towns, and that a strong state-local partnership is essential to delivering the services, infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life that residents expect and deserve; and

WHEREAS, local governments across New York continue to face mounting fiscal pressures driven by inflation, increased service demands, infrastructure needs, and rising operational costs, while striving to provide relief to taxpayers amid a rising cost of living; and

WHEREAS, NYCOM Executive Director Barbara Van Epps, along with mayors from across the State, testified at the Local Government Joint Budget Hearing in Albany, advocating for increased unrestricted aid and a strengthened state-local partnership; and

WHEREAS, the additional \$100 million in TMA will offer meaningful assistance to many municipalities statewide, helping to address fiscal challenges and maintain essential services for residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Union Springs applauds Governor Hochul for recognizing the importance of investing in local governments and for reaffirming her commitment to strengthening New York's cities and villages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Union Springs urges the New York State Legislature to include, at a minimum, this additional \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance in the adopted state budget; and

Motion to approve resolution by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Bill Boyd, all ayes. With changing the Now Therefore it be resolved, that the Village of Union Springs recognizes the importance of investing in local governments and for reaffirming commitment to strengthening New York's cities and villages and reviewing the part that comes at the end to be sure it is okay with everyone:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Union Springs calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to develop a more permanent and predictable solution for unrestricted municipal aid to ensure long-term fiscal stability for New York's local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the members of the State Legislature representing the Village of Union Springs.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Schenck
February financials, February boat launch revenue,

Motion to approve bills, Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, 2nd by Trustee Brian Cornell, all ayes.

Motion to approve budget modifications, Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, 2nd by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes.

Audit of the Bills Abstract #10: Emailed to members.

Audit of Bills: Abstract #10
General Fund: Vouchers 491-537 \$24,354.17
Water Fund: Vouchers 492-536 \$9,002.44
Sewer Fund: Vouchers 491-537 \$24,773.46
WWTP Project: Voucher 497 \$3,415.00
TA Fund: 488-490 \$6,718.78

Budget modifications:

\$1000.00 Credit A1620.1-Buildings-Depot-Personal Service
\$1000.00 Debit A1620.2 Buildings Depot Equipment
\$500.00 Credit A1640.4 Central Garage-Contractual
\$500.00 Debit A1990.4 Contingent Account
\$3,525.02 Credit A5110.2 Streets-Capital Outlay
\$3,525.02 Debit A5110.1 Streets-Personal Services
\$1,500.00 Credit G8110.1-Sewer Administration
\$1,500.00 G8110.11-Sewer Administration-Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
\$80.00 Credit G9010.8-State retirement
\$80.00 Debit G9030.8-Social Security

BUDGET DISCUSSION

- Still on track to not go above the tax cap.

Dept. of Public Works: Joe Smith

- When will the clean-up day be? Partnership with the town? Town will be covering the cost if we supply the manpower for a joint venture. Checking with them to see if April 18th will work.
- Street sign update, going to double-check on the amount of signage needed.
- Status of John Deere tractor, got back from the last issue, and the hood was broken, and the radiator was leaking. They say it will be two weeks for repair. The repairs are under warranty.

- Additional quotes for docks, no one has gotten back to us about giving a quote. Only one guy, Miles Smith, with Lakeside Innovations. \$65,000 for the entire project. Boards are cheaper at Home Depot.

Water Department: Kevin Thurston

- Update on billing date with Circle K? After the first of the month, they can adjust our due date if needed.
- Annual drinking water operator training is completed and good until 8/31/2029 for Kevin Thurston.
- Nick signed up for his Grade B Operator water course June 15-19. He will then need to submit his paperwork.
- Jeremy Jacot from Camden wonders if he could get his Grade B contact hours at our water plant. It would be at no cost to us. He would not be doing hands-on work alone; he would always be with someone else. Sign off with a liability waiver. Have Ken from Camden sign off, authorizing him to do so. Indemnification agreement with the mayor and the attorney signing off.
- Kevin would like to attend the Rural Water Association training at Turning Stone, 5/18-5/20, 2026, \$395.00. Motion by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes for him to attend, with motel cost and personal mileage.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: Mark Perry

- Code Enforcement Monthly Report emailed to board members. He gave an email update of what he has been doing.
- Furnace permits? Mark is researching and giving a proposal. Going to ask Mark what would happen in an emergency where a new furnace is needed right then. Would this be for all heating and cooling systems? What about heat pumps?

Mayor's Report: Robert Thurston, Jr.

- WWTP Improvement project update
 - Splitting the project into two parts to meet the deadline of October to qualify for additional funding
 - Solids Building, Belt Press, and Digester first project
 - Phase 1 would be 2 million.
 - There is a grant we can apply for because we are a hardship community; there are no guarantees we will receive it, but they think it is a good opportunity because it is the first year for this program.
- EDU's Village 685.49 Town 357. Will the Town be responsible for debt services? The town has 40% of customers. Town and Village set a rate for each EDU. Agreed to have a meeting with the town to discuss paying equal cost for the Capital Sewer project for their users.
- Insurance claim for WWTP update: an engineer came out to take pictures.
- Modified proposal for Superior Waste garbage pickup completed and submitted
- Cyber quotes were not impressed with the quotes we received denied for the current coverage time.

- Grant through DASNY for Boat launch would like to have MRB help with the paperwork, as they are familiar with this. A motion for authorization to hire MRB was made by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell, all ayes.
- The mayor will be out of town on vacation from March 24th through April 1st.

Trustee Report(s)

Bill Boyd:

- No comments or complaints.

Brian Cornell:

- No update on cameras currently. Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara requested Brian to provide an update on the current camera status by the next board meeting in April.
- Streetlight is out on the corner of Seminary and Rt 90. Brian will take care of the notification.

Donna O'Hara:

- NY Restore update: They are working directly with Cory and his crew at this point. Working on SHIPA and demolition. Kari from the county is no longer involved.
- 250 years' celebration updates
 - The Time Capsule idea was brought up, that with the weather and the water table, safest place maybe having it right at the museum might be a good idea if they are willing. Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara will reach out to the museum to inquire about this.
 - Everyone is working on their lists of contacts.
- Benches three per year. One is pending for south of the boat launch. June or July for bench installation.

Jeremy Smith:

- July 30th at 6:30 in the South Pavilion Rev Theater, Jack and the Beanstalk._

Village Attorney's Report: Chad Hayden

- Nothing currently.

New Business's:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- Personnel Motion to go into executive session at 7:48 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Bill Boyd. Mayor Robert Thurston and Water Operator Kevin Thurston exited at 7:52. Motion to come out of executive session at 8:12 p.m. by Trustee Jeremy Smith, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell. No action was taken during the executive session. Mayor Robert Thurston and Water Operator Kevin Thurston re-entered the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Protocol for use of village vehicles

- Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara will meet with the DPW team and go over protocol/policies of use of the village vehicles at the Village office on Monday, 3/23/2026, at 9:30 a.m.
- Will revisit vehicle and fire department policies at an upcoming meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 5 p.m. Regular and Organizational

Adjournment: Time 8:20 p.m.

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