

Village of Union Springs
April 21, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes

Begin 6:00 p.m.
With pledge to the flag

In attendance: Mayor Robert Thurston, Jr., Trustee Bill Boyd, Trustee Jeremy Smith, Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, Trustee Brian Cornell

Also in attendance: DPW Superintendent Joe Smith, Water Operator Kevin Thurston, Clerk Christine Van Horn, Treasurer Jennifer Schenck (Exit 6:12 p.m.), Robert Jacobs (Exit 6:22 p.m.), Jackson Thurston (Enter 7:43, Exit 7:57) Attorney Chad Hayden

Absent: Code Enforcement officer Mark Perry

From the Public: Robert Jacobs, a resident of the village, came in to discuss flooding at his property. It has been happening for a while, but he wanted to make the village aware due to recent flooding issues. Let him know that the village has been in contact with the County and Soil and Water and would be sending a letter to DEC, Soil and Water, and the County.

Open Public hearing for the 2026-2027 budget

Motion to open at 6:23, by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara. Second, by Trustee Bill Boyd, all ayes.

Discussion: The budget is still below the tax cap. A few minor changes to the A & G funds.

Motion to close public hearing at 6:25 by Trustee Bill Boyd, seconded by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, all ayes

Motion to adopt the budget with the proposed changes, Trustee Brian Cornell, seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes.

Village Clerk: Clerk Christine Van Horn

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

Motion to approve minutes made by Trustee Bill Boyd, seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes. With a correction to the Village/Town Cleanup Day, the town will be covering the cost and adding the name of the person who gave a quote for the dock, Miles Smith, Lakeshore Innovations

- Review of the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy 2026 for the Health Insurance Consortium. The clerk will acknowledge that it was reviewed. They are working on the final draft for the Municipal Cooperative Agreement.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy - 2026



CONSORTIUM

(Adopted 2-27-2014; Amended by Resolutions : No. 008-2016, 016-2018, 002-2020, 007-2026)

*Employees and the Board of Directors of the **Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium shall:***

1. Be dedicated to the concepts of an effective Consortium and believe that professional general management is essential to the achievement of this objective.

2. Shall affirm the dignity and work of the services rendered by the Consortium and maintain a constructive, creative, and practical attitude toward Consortium affairs and a deep sense of responsibility as a trusted public servant.
3. Be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships in order that the member may merit the respect and confidence of the elected officials, of other officials and employees, and of the public.
4. Conduct themselves so as to maintain public confidence in their profession, the Consortium, and in their performance of the public trust.
5. Conduct their official and personal affairs in such a manner as to give the clear impression that they cannot be improperly influenced in the performance of their official duties.
6. Recognize that the chief function of the Consortium at all times is to serve the interests of all members.
7. Shall not disclose **Confidential Information** to others or use to further their personal interest, confidential information acquired by them in the course of their official duties.
8. Shall not, except pursuant to such reasonable exceptions as are provided by regulation, solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by the employee's agency, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's duties.
9. Make no unauthorized commitment or promises of any kind purporting to bind the Consortium.
10. Shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private organization or individual.
11. Shall not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating for employment, that conflict with official Consortium duties and responsibilities.
12. Shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards promulgated pursuant to this order.
13. Shall adhere to all laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability.
14. Shall not invest or hold any investment, directly or indirectly, in any financial business, commercial, or other private transaction that creates a conflict with their official duties.

14b. Any Director or employee who has, will have, or later acquires an interest in any actual or proposed contract, purchase agreement, lease agreement or other agreement, including oral agreements, with the Consortium which he or she is an officer or employee, shall publicly disclose the nature and extent of such interest in writing to the Board Chair and to the governing body thereof as soon as he or she has knowledge of such actual or prospective interest, including prior to abstaining from a Board vote due to such conflict. Such written disclosure shall be made part of and set forth in the official record of the proceedings of such body.”

15. **Reporting of Ethics Violations.** When becoming aware of a possible violation of the Consortium’s Code of Ethics, employees, Board of Directors, employees of members, and the public may report the matter to the Consortium Attorney-in-fact. In reporting the matter, members may choose to go on record as the complainant or report the matter on a confidential basis. Resolution of the reported violation shall occur according to the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process set forth in Article V of the 2015 Amended MCA, except as follows. In lieu of the ADR step set forth at MCA Article V.3.a.(i), the Attorney-In-Fact will collect all information presented regarding the matter and send that information to a neutral third party designated by the Board of Directors who shall attempt to resolve the matter informally through mediation. If unsuccessful, the mediator shall make a recommendation with respect to resolution of the dispute in writing to the Executive Committee, which shall present the recommendation to the Board as provided for in 2015 Amended MCA Article V.3.a.(i). The remainder of Article V shall remain in effect”,

16. Employees and the Board of Directors should not discuss or divulge information with anyone about pending or completed ethics cases except as authorized by the Board of Directors.

17. No later than April 15th, and each successive year thereafter, individuals serving as officer, director and key employee shall certify they have read and agree to the terms stated within the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium’s Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Policy. The Board of Directors shall be made aware of any outstanding agreements at its next regularly scheduled meeting after the April 15 deadline. Should a successor be appointed to fill a position mid-year they shall be asked to sign the agreement at that time.

For purposes of this policy, (i) the terms "officer" and "director" shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Municipal Cooperative Agreement, dated October 1, 2010; and (ii) the term "key employee" shall mean any employee of the Consortium with executive or managerial capacity." These positions include:

- All Directors and Alternates designated by a Participant to have voting authority
- Executive Director
- Plan Consultant

- Change order for the WWTP roof replacement, the contract times needed to be changed due to construction beginning in the spring rather than the winter. Construction will begin this week. Motion to accept and for the mayor to sign made by Deputy Mayor Donna O’Hara, seconded by Trustee Bill Boyd, all ayes.

SECTION 00 63 63

CHANGE ORDER

Change Order No.: 1

Date of Issuance: April 15, 2026

Effective Date: April 21, 2026

Owner: Village of Union Springs

Contractor: Finger Lakes Service Group

Engineer: Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

Engineer's Project No.: 141.005.004

Contract Name: Contract No. 2 – Roof Replacement

Description:

This change order extends Substantial Completion and Final Completion by 110 days.

Original Contract Price: \$225,700.00

Change in Contract Price: \$0.00

Original Substantial Completion: February 11, 2026

Original Ready for Final Payment: March 13, 2026

Revised Substantial Completion: June 1, 2026

Revised Ready for Final Payment: July 1, 2026

Project: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

- They have new requirements for the Memorial Day parade permit this year, and we need a motion to state that the village is fine with the parade being in the Village on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 11 a.m. Motion made by Trustee Jeremy Smith, seconded by Trustee Bill Boyd, all ayes.

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 recognizes the importance of investing in local governments and for reaffirming 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

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.

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

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

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

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

Audit of the Bills Abstract #11: Emailed to members.

Audit of Bills: Abstract #11

General Fund: Vouchers 539-594 \$75,327.07
Water Fund: Vouchers 538-595 \$20,294.82
Sewer Fund: Vouchers 538-595 \$27,501.29
WWTP Project: Voucher 555-558 \$11,637.50
TA Fund: 554 \$126.48

Budget modifications:

A \$.080 Credit A1010.1-Board of Trustees -Personal Services

\$.08 Debit A1010.4 Board of Trustees-Contractual

\$1000.00 Credit A1640.4 Central Garage-Contractual

\$1000.00 Debit A1010.4 Board of Trustees-Contractual

\$500.00 Credit A1640.41 Central Garage-Utilities

\$500.00 Debit A1640.42 Central Garage-Fuel

\$2,800.00 Credit A5142.1-Snow Removal-Personal Services

\$2,800.00 A7140.42-Parks-USDA/Cormorants

\$14,748.00 Credit A7310.2-Youth Program-Capital Outlay

\$14,748.00 Debit A2089-Gifts & Donations

\$25.00 Credit A7420.4 Chamber of Commerce-Contractual

\$25.00 Credit A7620.4 Adult recreation-contractual

\$50.00 Debit A8020.4 Planning-Contractual

F \$27.00 Credit F1430.4 Personnel-Williamson

\$27.00 Debit F8310.1 Water Administration-Personal services

\$2,000.00 Credit F8320.1 Pumping Station-Personal Services

\$2,000.00 Debit F8340.1 Distribution System-Personal Services

\$5,000.00 Credit F8320.41 Pumping Station-Utilities

\$5,000.00 Debit F8320.4 Pumping Station-Contractual

G \$1,000.00 Credit G8110.1 Sewer Administration

\$1,000.00 Debit G8110.4 Sewer Admin-Contractual

\$80.00 Credit G8120.42 Sewage Collection Dam Repair

\$80.00 Debit G8120.4 Sewage Collection-Contractual

\$7500.00 Credit G8130.41 Sewage Treatment-Utilities

\$7500.00 Debit G8130.43 Sewage Treatment-Permits

\$2760.60 Credit G9720.7 Statutory installments-EFC bonds-Admin fee

\$2760.60 Debit G1440.4 Engineering-contractual

Dept. of Public Works: Joe Smith

- Street sign update
 - a. Replacing all of them, and they qualify for reimbursement through CHIPS.

- Status of John Deere tractor
 - a. Working well and not leaking, and they are checking into getting us a double warranty

- Tree removal
 - a. This went excellently. Received a thank-you from a resident for being able to get the wood to use.

- Sinkhole

- a. On the corner of Spring Street and 90 checked with the state, and they said it is a village issue. Had to contact gas and electric because the pole is right there. They are going to be there while the work is being completed.

Water Department: Kevin Thurston

- As stated at the March meeting, after the first invoice, they will adjust our invoice to a date that works better for the village.
 - a. The new date will be the 30th.
- As stated at the March meeting, Nick has signed up for his Grade B operator training course from June 15-19 and will be attending at that time.
- Jeremy Jacot update
 - a. The owner of Camden has sent a letter taking all liability for the time he is observing the water department. He will not be alone; he will always have someone with him.
- Street paving
 - a. Motion by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell, all ayes, for paving by Seneca Stone for Bloomer, Basin, Seminary, and Hillview Streets.
- Tru Green spraying in the cemetery
 - a. Motion by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell, all ayes, to move forward with having this done to save on weed-eating.

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TA Fund: 554 \$126.48

Code Enforcement Officer Report: Mark Perry

- Code Enforcement Monthly Report emailed to board members.
 - a. Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara requested that he possibly do a report showing the fees received.
- Update on furnace permit status
 - a. He said in Auburn, they do any type of heating and cooling and allow for emergencies. Will get something drafted.

Mayor's Report: Robert Thurston, Jr.

- WWTP Improvement project update
 - a. About halfway through and making good progress.
- Insurance claim for WWTP update
 - a. Still being investigated.
- Boat launch fees, credit card, and Venmo.
 - a. Motion to rescind resolution 45-2025 and put all fees back to \$8 by Trustee Brian Cornell, seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes.
- Windows at the depot have been completed
- RFP meeting for DRI
 - a. A draft is being completed for us to look at.

- Watercraft inspections
 - a. College students want to come and do inspections here at the boat launch.
 - b. College students also want to set up a crayfish trap.
- Update for volunteers for the boat launch
 - a. Only one person has reached out to volunteer. Thought some would need community service project hours. Trustee Bill Boyd will work some shifts himself and oversee the search for some volunteers. Thinking possibly Saturday & Sundays between 7 a.m. to noon would be a good time to have volunteers present.

Trustee Report(s)

Bill Boyd: Nothing currently.

Brian Cornell:

- Update on cameras.
 - a. Gave Adirondack a list of what we wanted with pavilions added. It will be a month or so to receive the quote.
 - b. Potential Grant with law enforcement

Donna O'Hara:

- 250 years' celebration updates
 - Time Capsule idea going to look at ideas
 - a. Applied for two grants with the county: One was for flowers, and the other was for the time capsule.
- Park Benches
 - a. Two have been purchased, and they will replace two benches towards the Zach property
- NY restore
 - a. The architect has been working with them on the SHIPO. Doing a site visit and looking for the safest route to look at the second floor.

Jeremy Smith: Nothing currently

Village Attorney's Report: Chad Hayden Nothing currently

New Business's:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- Personnel issue

Motion to go into executive session by Deputy Mayor Donna O'Hara, seconded by Trustee Jeremy Smith, all ayes. Time 7:57 p.m.

Motion to come out of executive session by Trustee Bill Boyd, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell, all ayes, Time: 8:04 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 6 p.m.

Adjournment: Time 8:05 p.m.

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