Village of Union Springs
September 15, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes

Begin_6:00_p.m.
With the Pledge of Allegiance

In attendance: Mayor Donna O'Hara, Trustee Bill Boyd Jr., Trustee Jeremy Smith, Trustee Brian Cornell (6:03), Attorney Chad Hayden

Also in attendance: Water Operator Kevin Thurston, Village Clerk Heather Edmunds, Treasurer Jennifer Schenck (exit 7:00), Deputy Clerk Stacy Longyear, Brad Olin-Highlander Construction

Absent: DPW Supervisor Joe Smith

From the Public: Brian Samara, Karen Baity, Greg Kilburn, Kim Heath, Rae Heath

The meeting begins with hearing concerns from the Public:

Mr. Brian Samara reports feeling upset on behalf of Village residents that some dog owners were asked to remove their dogs from the Music in the Park event on Friday, September 11th. Mr. Samara understands there is a dog ordinance, but believes it has not been enforced in years or at the other Music in the Park events. Kim and Rae Heath are present to discuss the same concern, stating that the ordinance says dogs must be under control by the owner and kept out of fenced-in areas and off the playground. Mrs. Heath says that she heard about this from a resident of Weedsport and thinks Union Springs is getting a bad reputation for this. The residents believe the dogs at the park were under control and should be allowed to accompany their family at events—wants the Village to do away with the ordinance. Otherwise, the ordinance should be enforced by someone the Village hires. Mr. Samara thinks that families will not want to come to the Village or Village events if things like this continue to happen. Mr. and Mrs. Heath believe well-behaved dogs should be allowed and do not always require a leash.

Trustee Bill Boyd Jr. believes this is a matter of consistency with enforcing the ordinance. Attorney Chad Hayden poses the question of enforcing the ordinance based on a dog's performance. The residents agree with this but understand that it could be unfair treatment. The residents feel it would be appropriate to enforce the leash law but not to kick dogs out altogether.
Mayor O'Hara adds that she asked owners to remove their dogs after a resident approached her after the last event asking why the "no dogs allowed" signs were not being enforced.

The residents also raised the question of golf carts not being allowed to be driven through the park. Mayor O'Hara informed the Board and residents that it is a State law that golf carts cannot be driven on roads because they do not have a VIN number and cannot be registered.

The board members agree that both of these matters need to be considered and discussed further and will add them to the agenda for another meeting.

Next, Brad Olin from Highlander Construction is present to provide an overview of the emergency repairs his crew is prepared to do for the damaged sewer line on Cayuga St. Olin provided Kevin Thurston with a quote after being contacted by Vitale to replace the sewer line. Olin explains that the old sewer pipe is in a state of disrepair due to the material it is made out of, asbestos transite cement, creating holes in the pipe. The material is semi-porous and absorbs water, causing it to deteriorate. The sewer line is deep and runs underneath an existing water line. The water line will have to be removed to get to the sewer pipe. An assertion valve will have to be installed as well and a subcontractor will have to perform this task. Highlander will also provide temporary water for the residences affected by the construction. The quote from Highlander Construction also includes the replacement of the sidewalk and curbing that will need to be removed for the repairs, as well as the blacktop shoulder. Also included in the quote are the grate, catch basin, driveway and lawn repairs for the disturbed area. The Village will be allowed to view the repairs before they are covered.

Currently, the Town of Owasco is providing Kevin Thurston with a live feed of the sewer line to keep an eye on the temporary fix.
Trustee Boyd asks if the pipe can be relined and Olin states that it is too wet and would not fix the problem long-term. Attorney Hayden asks how the new pipe will be protected in the future. Olin describes the PVC tubing that will be placed around the pipe to provide a barrier between the material and the soil. Attorney Hayden asks if the water main is deteriorating as well but Olin says it looks good for now.
Kevin adds that the recent water main breaks were not due to the material of the pipes, but because of the bolts used in the line's connections to homes that were not stainless steel.
To help save on costs, Kevin reached out to surrounding municipalities to request help with hauling stone to remove one of Highlander's responsibilities. Patterson Farm offered land to dump and the Village Firehouse offered space to dump and store stone. If approved, the work can begin the week of 9/21 or the following week.
Trustee Boyd asked what caused this to be an emergency and if there is time to put this work out for bidding. Kevin states that it is only a matter of time that the temporary fix will hold and that he has reached out to other companies regarding the work to be done. Other companies are too busy and are scheduling far into the future. Kevin assured the Board that Highlander Construction came well-respected from previous clients and are very knowledgeable in this field.
The Board will make a decision and Kevin will reach out to Highlander.
Greg Kilburn, 203 Cayuga St., resides in the area of the sewer repairs. He is present to request that the Village provide more notice of the work being done. Kevin apologized and assured Kilburn that he will be more transparent as the repairs proceed.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Schenck
August financials, August boat launch revenue
The abstract includes $26,000 in emergency repairs to the sewer line, and the stone will be added to this cost. The treasurer estimates $30-40,000 coming out of the water fund to assist in paying for the repairs.

Motion to approve bills ___Trustee Brian Cornell___2nd by _Trustee Bill Boyd Jr.__ Tally _4__

Motion to approve budget modifications N/A____2nd by _____Tally_____

Audit of Bills: Abstract #4
General Fund: Vouchers 160-206 $32,419.34
Water Fund: Vouchers 159-206 $7,560.26
Sewer Fund: Vouchers 159-203 $18,408.14
WWTP Project: Vouchers 158-197 $126,589.25
TA Payroll Fund Voucher 163 $286.22

Audit of the Bills Abstract #4: Emailed to members.

Village Clerk: Heather Edmunds
*Review and approve minutes of August 18, 2026, meeting.
Motion to approve minutes made by Trustee Jeremy Smith_ seconded by Trustee Bill Boyd Jr. Tally _4_

- NYCOM Fall Training — No one representing this year; Heather would like to attend next year.
- Josh Zach: New email is DPW03@unionspringsny.gov, a new phone was ordered
- Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk positions: Heather Edmunds was appointed as Village Clerk effective 9/14/26; Stacy Longyear was appointed as Deputy Clerk effective 9/15/26 Stacy will be on vacation 9/28-10/12; Heather will be on vacation October 22&26, November 11-19; Stacy will cover in Heather's absence

- Resolution / Local Law (attached) change to Village meeting date effective December 2026 to the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 PM. First meeting of the new schedule will be 12/9/26.
- Workplace Harassment and Violence Annual Training webinars on September 30, 2026 at 9 AM and 10 AM for anyone who hasn't taken it
- 61 Grove Street- there is a hole in a storm drain grate in which a resident received a large cut on their foot requiring stitches. The DPW team was notified and blocked it off until repair could be done. The hole has been covered up with wood to prevent anyone from falling through it.
- Kim Heath asked if the Village will be digging out ditches. Kevin replies that due to the location of Heath's home, it is a responsibility of the County. Kevin advises them to call Brian Soper to request information and express any concerns.
- CCAV dinner in Cato September 29th at 6:30 p.m. The Busted Yolk- cost is $24 pp-Heather will attend

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2026

Proposed Action: Village of Union Springs Change to Monthly Village Board Meeting Date

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING VILLAGE OF UNION SPRINGS Board meetings to occur on the second Wednesday of every month, effective December 2026.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, the Village of Union Springs will hold its Village Board of Trustees meeting on the second Wednesday of every month at 6 PM, effective December 9, 2026.

The question of adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon a roll call, the vote was as follows:

Motion made by Trustee Jeremy Smith, seconded by Trustee Brian Cornell

Donna O'Hara, Mayor, aye
Bill Boyd, Jr. Trustee, aye
Brian Cornell, Trustee, aye
Jeremy Smith, Trustee, aye

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Dated September 15, 2026

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted on September 15, 2026, and is recorded in the meeting minutes of the Village of Union Springs Village Board.

Heather Edmunds, Village Clerk

Dept. of Public Works: Kevin Thurston reads in Supervisor Joe Smith's absence

- Playground chips have been delivered but installation will have to wait until the DPW team has time to lay them down
- Village curb chippings and weeding of curbs in anticipation of Fall Festival- Nick and Josh have been working through the Village as time allows; some has been done almost every day since the storm.

- Street signs- no update
- John Fox: Bench installation- the foundation for the bench has been poured; the plaque was received by the Village Clerk but the team has not had time to install the bench during the sewer emergency.
- North Pavilion storm damage will require minor repairs that the Village will work on as time allows.
- Insurance — ice damage: Kevin will be getting a contractor for a quote so that he can justify the price increase for insurance.
- Sidewalk Improvements Project Bids- Neither Heather or Supervisor Joe Smith received bids. Kevin wants to recommend using the money set aside for this project be used towards the sewer repairs.
- Snow/Ice removal contract has been sent to the County.
- Milling will take place next week with paving to begin the following week.

Water Department: Kevin Thurston

- Kevin completed the training for the Cybersecurity Grant. Camden will be taking on the process for obtaining this grant.
- Chlorine pump — Kevin has not yet heard about warranty coverage

•The DPW team discussed with Mayor O'Hara the thought of purchasing only the pants from the Unifirst Corporation because the other articles of clothing are uncomfortable and do not hold up well. Kevin reached out to The Printery and Farmboy Graphics regarding prices for T-shirts and sweatshirts. Farmboy Graphics had the most cost-effective prices. Each member of the team would order 4 T-shirts and 2 sweatshirts. The board members do not have any objections to this change.

- Mayor O'Hara presents the board members with the quotes from Vitale and Highlander Construction for the sewer line project and asks for a decision on hiring Highlander to complete the repairs. Trustee Boyd asks if 300 ft. of repairs is enough; Kevin confirms that will cover the damage. Trustee Boyd wishes they had other bids to compare. Kevin mentions how the sewer project from 6 years ago cost $300-400,000 and did not include the sidewalk/asphalt repairs that Highlander includes. Trustee Cornell thinks these repairs are vital and that the Board should consider budgeting for repairs like this in the future. Trustee Boyd raises the notion of asking the Town of Springport for financial support. Kevin also notes that it would be beneficial to ask the Town to add more of the chemical added to the lines to reduce gas(H_2S) but it is hard to prove that this is necessary because the new gas meters were never purchased in the past, although it was discussed.
  Determination: Trustee Brian Cornell makes a **motion** to forego the Request for Bids as this is an emergency situation, Trustee Jeremy Smith seconds. 4 ayes. Trustee Bill Boyd Jr. makes a motion to accept the bid, as outlined, by Highlander Construction, Trustee Jeremy Smith seconds, 4 ayes. Motion carried. Kevin will call Brad Olin.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: Mark Perry

Did not receive

Mayor's Report: Donna O'Hara

- Joe will be out on leave from surgery for approximately one month- Kevin has the Supervisor's phone
- Superior Waste Removal: No new concerns since the Mayor reached out last month.
- A unit at Fox Lane Apartments must be condemned due to feces and an ammonia smell. EMTs were called and discovered uninhabitable conditions. The tenant cannot move back in until the unit has been

taken care of. The tenant may need to be evicted. Code Enforcement Officer Mark Perry will be performing building inspections at the apartment complex.

- American Legion: Trunk or Treat will take place on October 24th, the Village will set up a truck, and Trustee Jeremy Smith will assist.
- Fall Festival October 3rd—Heather will order items or materials if needed. Mayor O'Hara is going to reach out to Sabrina Shepherd to determine the number of vendors signed up. We will likely need a few more bales of hay. The Mayor reached out about getting pumpkins. Trustees Brian Cornell and Jeremy Smith will attend to help. Porta potties and sinks will be coming in. The Mayor gave out 4 forms for the Chili Cookoff—waiting on them to be returned.
- Time Capsule has been ordered
- NY Restore update-Fran/Eric reviewing renderings and budget, Eric's accident a few weeks ago has stalled this process.
- The Mayor received a complaint letter regarding a safety concern surrounding a Village resident's criminal history and the proximity to children in which he resides. Attorney Hayden will be looking into this matter to determine if the Village has any right of action.

Trustee Report(s)

Bill Boyd:
- Attending Health Consortium on 9/24, noon–2:00 PM in Cortland.
- There is no update on NYSEG electric bills.

Brian Cornell: update on grant for cameras: Waiting on a return phone call from the Sheriff's secretary. Trustee Cornell would like to set up a method for the grant writers to speak directly to the Sheriff's secretary. Trustee Boyd raises the idea of applying for speed-sensor signs at each end of the village as part of the grant.

Jeremy Smith:
- Decent turnout for last Friday night's band
- The Palooza league made good money on 50/50
- Trustee Boyd asks how many dogs were asked to be removed. The Mayor says there were about 5 dogs. Service dogs must be wearing a vest. One golf cart owner was asked to back up with no complaints

Village Attorney's Report: Chad Hayden
- Attorney Hayden provided the board members with a chart that demonstrates which vehicles can operate on public roads. Hayden would like the members to review these guidelines and determine if they would like to pass local laws on electric vehicles at the park, on sidewalks, etc.
  The Mayor requested this be added to the agenda for October's Board meeting.
- Attorney Hayden became aware of a new experience in which people are able to rent barges as short-term rentals. The Board can consider creating regulations against this as the Village has the right to regulate anything within 1,500 feet of our shore.
- Attorney Hayden will be reviewing local law files with Heather and Stacy and also working to digitize the records.

New Business': N/A
Old Business: N/A
New Business: N/A
Executive Session if Needed: N/A

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 6 p.m.

Adjournment: Time _8:10_ p.m.

Motion to adjourn Trustee Jeremy Smith__ seconded__Trustee__Brian Cornell__ tally__4_