

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD AT 3:30 PM

JANUARY 21, 2025

PRESENT: Mayor Acee, Trustees Janitz, and Tomaselli, Travis DuBois, Ed Meyer, Diane Scalzo, Derrick Wilcox, Joe Phelps, Travis Aikins, Chris Thompson, Leroy Burlingame, Andy Lagoe, Ryan Legacy, and Keith Van Althuis. Trustees Westcott and Casseles were absent.

Mayor Acee opened the public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 budgets. Hearing no other comments, Mayor Acee asked for a motion to close the hearing.

MOTION # 155/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz to adjourn the public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 budgets at 3:37 PM. Motion supported by Trustee Tomaselli. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Acee immediately opened the regular meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION # 156/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to approve the minutes of the last regular Board meeting taking place on 12/16/2024 and the special board meeting held on 12/17/24. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION # 157/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to authorize the Mayor to sign the abstracts below:

General	#141	\$ 31,126.60	Sewer	#148	\$ 4,179.64
Electric	#142	\$ 50,369.14	General	#149	\$ 80,175.21
Water	#143	\$ 3,500.00	Electric	#150	\$576,503.22
Sewer	#144	\$ 6,025.73	Water	#151	\$ 8,759.12
General	#145	\$ 22,722.91	Sewer	#152	\$ 20,908.29
Electric	#146	\$ 30,290.29	Capital Fund	#153	\$ 63,047.00
Water	#147	\$ 3,007.04	Joint Activity	#154	\$ 147.94

Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Ed Meyer gave an update on the Town of Sherburne board meeting for the town of Sherburne January board meeting.

Derrick Wilcox, representing Delaware Engineering gave the board an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant and North Main Street Pumping Station Upgrade.

Officer Ryan Legacy read the police report for December, 2024.

MOTION # 158/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to accept the Police Report of December 2024 as reported. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent DuBois said work is seasonal and includes preventative maintenance on vehicles.

Superintendent DuBois said we continue to meet weekly with Delaware on the WWTP upgrade. The focus continues to be the main processing building layout – detail design is now underway as well.

Superintendent DuBois said a request has been sent to Deb El foods for 24-hour composite sampling of their sewer outfall. Superintendent DuBois said the owner called me just today in response to the letter. He's asking that we wait for a month because he is not presently at full production.

Superintendent DuBois said that for the North Main drainage project, attorney James Cushman has sent formal documents to the property owners.

Superintendent DuBois said there has been considerable ice build-up on the upper end of Chenango Ave. A property owner performed some seemingly simple lawn re-grading and installed a retaining wall. Superintendent DuBois said it appears this has disrupted a spring and is causing water to run into the street and obviously, this time of year, freeze. This property is in the Town. Superintendent DuBois said Town Highway Supervisor Winton has reviewed the situation and has a plan for a ditch and culvert to correct the situation but can't perform work until spring. Superintendent DuBois said until then, we will do our best to manage the situation with salt and frequent scraping. Superintendent DuBois said he had a quote from ABS solutions for a security firewall upgrade for the village computer network. Superintendent DuBois said he did not include the cost in next year's budget. Superintendent DuBois said that in his opinion and ABS opinion the upgrade was necessary because the equipment the village had would no longer be supported. Superintendent DuBois said that the cost to upgrade the security firewall would be just shy of \$12,000 dollars. Superintendent DuBois said he was seeking a motion by the board to approve the security firewall upgrade contract from ABS solutions.

#### MOTION #159/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz to approve the contract with ABS Solutions to upgrade the village network security firewall in an amount not to exceed \$12,000. Motion supported by Trustee Tomaselli. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent DuBois said poles for the next phase of the fiber project have been installed, and the village will be issuing an invoice to the Project. Superintendent DuBois said the camera and key FOB project is almost complete. Officer Ryan Legacy is working on the ID card and FOB issuance. Superintendent DuBois said as he stated last month, NYPA has announced an increase in the wholesale cost of hydropower. The proposed rate plan was presented to the NYPA Board of Trustees on 12/10/24. Superintendent DuBois said NYPA is in the public comment phase. Superintendent DuBois said last week (Wednesday evening) he went to Syracuse to meet with NYAPP attorney, and the NYAPP president Dave Leathers from Jamestown, to discuss our formal approach and the list of arguments against the increase. Superintendent DuBois said the following morning, we went to Altmar, NY to meet with the MEUA, and NYMPA Executive Director, and consultants to further discuss with them. Superintendent DuBois said this meeting was scheduled last minute, and he stayed in Syracuse because a lake effect snow warning was in effect, and he was concerned about the 8am meeting time. Superintendent DuBois said he was looking for permission to submit for reimbursement for his room. Superintendent DuBois said he took the village owned Volt and had no other expenses. Feb 5 and 6 are the dates of the mid-winter NYAPP meeting in Albany. On the 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 3:00 in Albany, NYPA is accepting public comments. Superintendent DuBois said he would like to go and speak on behalf of Sherburne, stating the facts only as to the effect on the Village Electric ratepayer. Superintendent DuBois said that this was a public hearing and that anyone affected by the rate changes could make a public comment. Superintendent DuBois said that any local business electric customers who could speak about the effect rate changes would have on their business would be useful in informing NYPA. Mayor Acee said the NYAPP meeting would also be good for board members to familiarize themselves with how the electric side of the village functions. Trustee Janitz said if he was able to free up his schedule, he would like to attend the NYAPP meeting.

#### MOTION # 160/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to reimburse superintendent DuBois for his hotel expenses from the evening of January 15, 2025 trip to Syracuse and Altmar, NY. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

#### MOTION # 161/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to approve Superintendent DuBois to make public comments on behalf of the village ratepayer at the NYPA public hearing on February 4, 2025. The village will cover cost for travel and lodging attributable to Superintendent

DuBois attendance at the hearing. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION # 162/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to approve Trustee Janitz attending the NYAPP meeting in Albany February 5-6, 2025 and reimbursement for travel and lodging attributable to attending the event. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent DuBois said that 740 customers to date are taking SherburneConnect service. Superintendent DuBois said permits for Sherburne and Columbus poles are under review at NYSEG. Superintendent DuBois said a few of the permits with make-ready requests have been sent to us for review. Upon review by the Project team and acceptance, then NYSEG issues the permit and make-ready work can begin. All of the fiber has been ordered, and some has been received.

Mayor Acee said that Village of Sherburne Department of Public Works Employee Fred Muller had attained his class B&D water licenses. Mayor Acee said that historically when employees obtain these licenses, they are given a raise of .50 cents per an hour and .25 cents an hour for B and D respectively. Mayor Acee said he was seeking a motion to approve the wage increase for Fred Muller.

MOTION # 163/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz to increase the wages of Building and Maintenance Worker Fred Muller by .75/hour for attaining his Class B &D water licenses effective January 20, 2025. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Acee said he did not have a lot to add to the EMS discussion at the present moment. Mayor Acee said he was looking at potential possibilities of increasing EMS revenue with hospital transfers. Chris Thompson asked why the village staffs a lone BLS provider when the county won't tone us if we only have a lone BLS on. Chris Thompson asked why the mayor says the village can't fund the EMS with more money. Mayor Acee said that the village residents are already taxed through the town for the portion of EMS, as any other town resident is. Mayor Acee said that the village cannot use funds from other entities such as electric, water, or sewer to fund the EMS. Travis Aikins asked why the transfers are done with on-duty staff. Travis Aikins said that when the board approved of doing transfers it was supposed to only be if off duty staff were called in. Mayor Acee said he disagreed with that statement. Leroy Burlingame asked why taxpayers should fund an ambulance service that was away on transfers if they needed an ambulance. Mayor Acee said that is the question the towns must answer when he has a meeting with them. Mayor Acee said that we will have very limited hours based on the current town budgets. They can choose to try and fund more payroll to cover more hours with transfers or not. The tradeoff is that we can cover more hours by having transfers help fund the EMS payroll, but it will take a crew out of service. Mayor Acee said that was the choice that had to be made. Travis Aikins asked why was someone in Florida getting paid to do the scheduling? Travis Aikins said that it was hard to get the person in charge of scheduling to answer phone calls. Joe Phelps asked why someone in Florida should have his feet up in the sun and get paid to schedule EMS work schedules. Joe Phelps said that the person in charge of scheduling must be asked to put up the schedule a couple of weeks before the month begins. Mayor Acee said that the person in charge of scheduling does answer his phone and does a good job with the scheduling. Mayor Acee disagreed with the statements regarding the person in charge of scheduling, and Mayor Acee said he was not holding an employee meeting at the village board meeting. Travis Aikins said maybe the EMS employees should form a union.

Mayor Acee said that Andrew Lagoe was present and had asked to read a letter about the 116 North Main Street UDAG property. Andrew Lagoe read a letter from Dawson Lagoe regarding the 116 North Main Street property. Mayor Acee asked Andrew Lagoe if Dawson Lagoe intended to use the UDAG funds, previously approved by the board of Trustees. Andrew Lagoe said at this time they had no immediate plans for the UDAG funds. Mayor Acee said that since the scope of the project had changed since the loan was approved, he was going to ask the board to cancel the loan for now, and have Dawson Lagoe reapply if needed when plans were finalized. Andrew Lagoe said this was acceptable to them, and that they had no immediate plans for using any UDAG funds.

MOTION # 164/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz to cancel the Urban Development Action Grant loan in the amount of \$50,000(fifty-thousand dollars) previously approved in Motion #220/23-24 at the February 20, 2024 meeting of village board of trustees. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Acee said the village had received a loan application for the property at 26 Classic Street from Sean Kelly. Mayor Acee suggested the loan be offered at  $\frac{3}{4}$  of prime. The prime rate being 7.5% the loan will be at 5.63% over a period of 5 years. Mayor Acee said that in his opinion Sean Kelly had a good track record with the village in paying his loan payments and fixing up properties. Mayor Acee said that Sean Kelly was planning on renovating the 26 Classic Street property.

MOTION # 165/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to offer Sean Kelly an economic development loan for the rehabilitation of 26 Classic Street in the amount of \$50,000. The loan will be offered at 5.63% with payments over a period of 5 years. Personally guaranteed by Sean Kelly. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis asked the board if they wanted to adopt the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, setting the tax rate at \$9.15 per thousand, and Sewer Rates at \$34.00 per unit. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he was seeking permission to re-levy the unpaid water and sewer bills on the March 1<sup>st</sup> tax bills. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he was going to bring final budget adjustments and transfers to the next board meeting. Clerk-treasurer Van Althuis said he wanted to address the board about the electric fund. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said the combination of inflation, wage and salary increases, and the rise in cost of benefits has caused a tighter cash position for the electric fund than the village had recently experienced. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said the cold winter was causing high electricity cost. The December wholesale electric bill from NYPA was over \$400,000 dollars. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that there is a lag between when we pay the electric wholesale bill, and when we collect receivables from our customers. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that the electric fund has cash in depreciation funds. However, those funds are not allowed to be used to pay bills such as these. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he wanted to inform the board that he expected the electric fund would have to borrow some money from other funds to cover the large bills expected. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that in the spring months he expected electric fund receivables to be able to pay the loan back. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that he wanted to prepare the board for the expected request in February. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that in his opinion the village might need to do a rate study after NYPA rates have been settled.

MOTION # 166/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to adopt the 2025-2026 budgets and sewer increase, and to set the tax rate at \$9.15/M. Sewer Rates at \$34/Unit. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION # 167/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to authorize Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis to re-levy water and sewer bills on the March 1, 2025 taxes. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION # 168/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to move into and out of executive session with the Board, Superintendent DuBois, Officer Ryan Legacy, and Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis to discuss personnel. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #169/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz to adjourn at 4:50 PM with there being no further business to conduct. Motion supported by Trustee Tomaselli. Mayor Acee voted yes. Motion unanimously carried.

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Keith Van Althuis, Clerk-Treasurer

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