

Village Board Meeting
March 3, 2025, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Trustees Dean Hyatt, Heather Leaman, Denise Davies and Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith Jr. (via Teleconference)

Village Key Staff: Fire Chief Mike Zinn, Superintendent of Public Works Scott Mackey, Assistant Superintendent Josh Hayes, Police Chief Ernie Bassett Jr., Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Village Attorney Michael Martin and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta

Press: Erik Pekar, NYVT Media, Brett Porter NYVT Media

Others: Mr. Matt Rollwagen, Mr. Dan Williams, Mr. Peter Kischak, Mr. George Demas, Ms. Coral Pardy, Mr. Paul Felice, Mr. Jack Mance (Sr. Trans. Planner, Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Council) and Mr. Dan Rourke (Eng. Consultant, Barton & Loguidice)

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and called the Meeting to Order at 7:00pm.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hyatt moved the ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 3rd and the Budget Workshop of February 19th as posted to the Village website. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Fire Dept., Police Dept., Local Ordinance Officer and Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory). Trustee Leaman moved acceptance of the reports as submitted. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Appropriations: The following claims were submitted to the Board for review and in consideration of payment:

General Fund: \$ 67, 623.14
Water Fund: \$ 12, 281.54
Sewer Fund: \$ 18, 634.73
Senior Shuttle: \$ 1, 095.40
Unaudited \$ 1, 069.44
Claims:

Total Claims: \$ 100, 704.25

The Board audited the claims and Deputy Mayor Smith moved their approval for payment. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Present 2025-26 Tentative Budget: Mayor Labas presented the 2025-26 Tentative Budget. He advised that this was the product of meetings between the Budget Officer and Department Heads, and a review by the Village Board at the Budget Workshop of February 19th. The Mayor advised that the Tentative Budget provided for a 2.50% levy increase, as well as increases of \$15/household for Water Rents, and \$10/Household in Sewer Rents. The Mayor cited increases in Health Insurance rates, retirement rates, utility costs, and overall inflation as the primary drivers of the increases proposed. He emphasized that

all Village services will be maintained through the Tentative Budget and that the document will now remain static through the Public Hearing concerning the same, to be scheduled April 7th. He closed by advising that copies of the Tentative Budget were available at the back of the room and that the Tentative Budget had also been posted to the Village website as well.

Mayor's Reports:

Presentation: The Mayor introduced Mr. Jack Mance, Senior Transportation Planner for the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council and Mr. Dan Rourke, Engineering Consultant from Barton & Loguidice. The presentation was based on the findings of analyzing the conditions in and around the D & H Trail, as recommended in the 2023 RERC action plan and a request from Washington County to examine the feasibility of bicycle/pedestrian improvements on County Rt 24. The information provided included surface material, crossing, signage and sidewalks that would be installed within the village and along County Rt 24. This information will be placed on their website for the next 30 days for a public comment.

The Mayor then opened the Meeting to public comment at 7:35 pm.

Mr. Peter Kischak addressed the Board about the significant rise in electricity costs. He wanted to know what the community could do to have their concerns heard at the State level. Mayor Labas proposed constituents contact our local representatives, Matt Simpson and Jake Ashby. Trustee Hyatt explained that higher energy costs are part of the reason for the water/sewer rent increases.

Trustee Hyatt moved acceptance of the letter of resignation for Chairwoman Michele Smith from the Village Planning Board, with regret. Trustee Davies seconded the motion, and noted Chairwoman Smith's many years of distinguished service to the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas appointed Mr. Russel Bronson as Chairman to the Village Planning Board. Trustee Leaman moved acceptance of the appointment. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas also expressed gratitude for Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith's 25 years of service to the Village. Deputy Mayor Smith has decided not to run for re-election. The Mayor wished the constituents running for three open board seats well.

The Mayor advised that he had no items for the Board to consider in Executive session. There being no other business, he solicited a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Leaman offered the same at 7:55 and her motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith. The motion carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dee Scarlotta
Deputy Village Clerk-Treasurer