

**Village Board Meeting
March 2, 2026, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center**

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Deputy Mayor Dean Hyatt, Trustees Denise Davies, Heather Leaman, and Paul Garrone

Village Key Staff: DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Joshua Hayes, Local Ordinance Officer Curtis Pedone, Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Brett Porter, *NYVT Media*

Others: Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, Mr. George Demas, Ms. Deby Cahan (Animal Science Teacher, GHS), and four (4) high school students

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

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting Of February 2nd and the Budget Workshop of February 25th as posted to the Village website. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor's Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Fire Dept., Local Ordinance Officer, Village Court, Water Dept. (3 samples taken, all satisfactory), and Police Dept. Trustee Garrone moved acceptance of the reports as read. Trustee Leaman 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:	\$36,424.69
Water Fund:	\$8,460.44
Sewer Fund:	\$16,587.76
Senior Shuttle:	\$1,111.97
Unaudited	
Vouchers:	<u>\$2,437.00</u>

Total Claims: \$65,021.86

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

Budget Transfers: The Clerk-Treasurer circulated a memo recommending the following transfers in the General, Water and Sewer Funds in order to avoid overdrawing any individual line items in the funding of this evening's appropriations:

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reason</u>
General Fund			
A75500	Celebrations	+\$150.00	Insurance & Misc., Tractor Parade
A16204	Contractual Exp., Mun Cntr	-\$150.00	Cure above shortfall
Water Fund			
F83402	Source Power Pump	+\$3,750.00	NYSEG Delivery Charges
F911	Unreserved/Unapp. Fund Bal.	-\$3,750.00	Cure above shortfall
Sewer Fund			
G81304	Contractual Exp, Sewer	+\$5,000.00	Hard Winter, Fuel Costs
G911	Unreserved/Unapp. Fund Bal.	-\$5,000.00	Cure above shortfall

Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Davies moved approval of the Budget Transfers as recommended. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Present Tentative Budget: Mayor Labas presented the Tentative Budget for the Village for the 2026-27 Budget year. He advised that this was a difficult Budget cycle due to increases seen in costs associated with health insurance premiums, power, and the NYS Retirement system. The Tentative Budget is a product of discussion/work between the Mayor, Budget Officer, Dept. Heads, and Board of Trustees. A Budget Workshop was conducted on February 25th and the Board carefully considered the increases necessary to continue to provide all services to Village residents. The Mayor advised that the Budget for 2026-27 was Tax Cap Compliant. He provided the following details:

General Fund: 3.29% Levy Increase, 2.77% Tax Increase
 Water Fund: \$20/HH Increase (from \$320/year to \$340/year)
 Sewer Fund: \$20/HH Increase (from \$425/year to \$445/year)

Mayor Labas advised that copies of the Tentative Budget were available on the rear table and that it was also posted to the Village website. He thanked the Dept. Heads, Budget Officer, and Board for their work in crafting a Tax-Cap Compliant budget through difficult circumstances. The Board understands that constituents are struggling with the increases seen in utility bills, fuel, and other taxes this winter and they did their best to keep costs in check and increases as low as possible. He reviewed the cumulative effect of the above changes for the median Village Household assessed at \$127,500:

Tax Increase:	\$34.00
Water Rent Increase:	\$20.00
Sewer Rent Increase:	<u>\$20.00</u>
 Total Increase:	 \$74.00 annually or \$6.17/mo

The Mayor advised that he felt that \$6/mo was reasonable and could be absorbed by most households without substantial difficulty. He closed by advising that the Budget would now remain static for 30 days prior to the Public Hearing that will be conducted on Monday, April 6th.

Mayor's Reports: Mayor Labas briefed the Board in the following matters:

- A. Local Law #1 of 2026: The Mayor advised that the Federal Government had updated the mapping for the flood plain surrounding the Mettowiee and Indian Rivers. This process has taken several years to complete and has involved work with NYS Agencies (DEC), Washington County, and Local Ordinance Enforcement. Following receipt of the updated map and other documentation, it will be necessary for the Village to repeal its current local legislation regarding flood plain administration (Local Law #1 of 1987) and to replace the same with a new law incorporating the updated mapping and necessary verbiage to bring things up to date. A template has been provided by the NYS DEC that the Mayor circulated to the Village Attorney. The Mayor asked Mr. Martin to work with the Village Clerk in submitting the proposed local legislation to the DEC for review. Upon receipt of the DEC's concurrence, the Village will schedule a Public Hearing and update the legislation as required. The Mayor advised that this process needs to be wrapped up by June 22nd in order to maintain compliance. Failure to meet this deadline could result in a lack of renewals for constituents who carry flood insurance policies and/or ineligibility for Federal Assistance if there is a storm/flooding event, so the Village will want to stay on top of this per the Mayor.

- B. Presentation—TNR Project—GCS Animal Science Class: The Mayor introduced GCS Animal Science Teacher Deby Cahan for a presentation concerning the "Trap-Neuter-Return" Program. Ms. Cahan and four (4) students from her Animal Science Class provided an informative program that highlighted the benefits of managing the Stray/Feral Cat population locally. The TNR program raises funds to allow strays to be trapped, sterilized, and returned to their original environment. In so doing, the number of stray and feral cats can be reduced dramatically through time. Stray/Feral cats are provided with a health screening when at the Veterinarian's office. This reduces possible transmission of diseases including rabies, AIDS, cat flu, etc. Kittens are trapped and fostered to willing families through the TNR program. The students reviewed results seen in Granville to date, and encouraged those willing to donate time and/or resources to do so. The Board thanked the students and Ms. Cahan for their informative presentation, and complimented them on their public speaking in providing the information to the Board and audience.

- C. Consider Resolution—Increase in NYS Unrestricted Aid: Mayor Labas briefly reviewed a draft Resolution crafted with the assistance of NYCOM Staff pertaining to Gov. Hochul's recent Amendments to her NYS Budget Proposal. The Governor has added \$100 Million in Temporary Municipal Assistance to her budget proposal, which would likely translate to an additional \$4K in unrestricted aid for the Village. The Resolution seeks NYS Senate and Assembly support for the Governor's proposal. Following a brief period of discussion, Deputy Mayor Hyatt sponsored the Resolution by motion. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Mayor Labas opened the meeting to public comment at 7:35pm.

There was no public input.

At 7:35pm, Trustee Davies moved that the Board convene an Executive Session relating to a matter involving contract negotiations and/or employee relations. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it

carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session for its entirety.*

At 8:05pm, Trustee Leaman moved that the Board return to regular session. Trustee Garrone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Mayor advised that no formal decisions were made during the Executive Session.

There being no other business, Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved that the Meeting be adjourned at 8:05pm. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer