

Village Board Meeting and Public Hearing
April 6, 2026, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center

Annual Organizational Meeting

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

Village Key Staff: Police Chief Ernie Bassett Jr., Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Local Ordinance Officer Curtis Pedone, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: None

Others: Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, Mr. George Demas, and Mr. Dan Williams--President, Slate Valley Museum

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the Public Hearing concerning the 2026-27 Tentative Budget to Order.

Public Hearing, 2026-27 Tentative Budget: The Mayor briefly reviewed the rules for public comment seen for all Public Hearings conducted by the Village. He then requested the sign in sheet from the rear of the room. The Deputy Clerk retrieved the sign in sheet and advised that no one had been requested to be recognized to speak. The Mayor then inquired of those in attendance if anyone wished to provide input. No one asked to be recognized. Given the lack of public comment, Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved that the Public Hearing be closed at 7:01pm. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas called the regular session to order at 7:02pm.

Consider Action, 2026-27 Tentative Budget: The Mayor asked if the Board had any further input concerning the 2026-27 Tentative Budget. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Garrone moved adoption of the Tentative Budget as circulated/published to the Village website. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Leaman made a motion to ratify the Minutes of the Meeting of March 2nd as posted to the Village website. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: The Mayor reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Police Dept., Water Dept. (3 samples, all satisfactory), Fire Dept., Local Ordinance Officer, and Village Court. Trustee Davies moved acceptance of the reports as read. Trustee Garrone 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: \$38,710.77
 Water Fund: \$11,404.74
 Sewer Fund: \$36,076.09
 Senior Shuttle: \$1,069.32
 Unaudited
 Vouchers: \$5,436.33

 Total Claims: \$92,697.25

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

Budget Transfers: The Clerk-Treasurer circulated a series of Budget Transfers for the General, Water and Sewer Funds 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>
<u>General Fund</u>			
A51104	Cont. Exp., DPW	+\$3,600.00	Salt Costs, Hard Winter
A911	Unreserved/Unapp. Fd Bal	-\$3,600.00	Cure above shortfall
<u>Water Fund</u>			
F83204	Source Power Pump	+\$3,700.00	NYSEG Delivery Charges
F83304	Purification	+\$1,000.00	Increased Chemical Costs
F911	Unreserved/Unapp. Fund Bal.	-\$4,700.00	Cure above shortfall
<u>Sewer Fund</u>			
G81304	Contractual Exp, Sewer	+\$18,500.00	Hard Winter, Fuel Costs
G911	Unreserved/Unapp. Fund Bal.	-\$18,500.00	Cure above shortfall

Following a brief period of discussion, Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved the approval of the budget transfers as recommended. Trustee Garrone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify Rules of Procedure: Mayor Labas advised that the proposed Rules of Procedure had been circulated to the Board for review. These rules, based upon a template received from NYCOM, establish the parameters that the Board would use in the coming year in order to conduct Village business. The Mayor advised that copies of the Rules of Procedure are available through the office of the Village Clerk. He noted some guiding principles associated with the Rules of Procedure, including the order of business seen for Board Agendas, how items are added to the agenda, considered, and what is necessary to ratify agenda items. Mayor Labas closed by advising that no significant changes were proposed for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Trustee Leaman moved ratification of the Rules of Procedure as circulated. Deputy Mayor Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayoral Appointments: The Mayor advised the Board of his nominations to the following positions (terms noted in years):

Local Ordinance Officer: Curtis Pedone (1 year)
Dog Control Officer: Nancy Quell (1 Year)
Associate Village Justice: Susan Johnson (1 year)
Planning Board Member: Mark Kunen (5 years)
ZBA Member: Duane Gebo (5 years)

Trustee Davies moved appointment of the candidates advanced by the Mayor. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify Official Newspaper: Mayor Labas inquired as to the Board's preference concerning the Official Village Newspaper. Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved appointment of NYVT Media (The Sentinel-Times) as the Official Village Newspaper. Trustee Garrone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify Official Depositories: The Mayor noted that for many years Arrow Bank, N.A. had served as Official Depository for Village funds, and that NYCLASS had been utilized for the investment of excess/reserve funds. He noted that no changes were recommended for 2026-27. Trustee Davies moved the above institutions as the Official Depositories for the Village for the coming year. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify Official Meeting Schedule: Mayor Labas reviewed the proposed Meeting Schedule for the Board for the coming year. He noted only one conflict with the first Monday of the month (September). In the past, when a conflict is seen with a legal Holiday and the first Monday, the Mayor noted that meetings are generally scheduled for the second Monday of the month. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Garrone moved that the Official Meeting schedule be set to the first Monday of the month in keeping with past practice, with the September Meeting to be held on the second Monday (9/14). Deputy Mayor Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify Village Procurement Policy: The Mayor advised that the proposed Procurement Policy for the Village had been circulated to the Board for review. He advised that no changes beyond dates/syntax were recommended for the coming year. Trustee Leaman moved ratification of the Procurement Policy as circulated. Trustee Garrone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratify Investment Policy: Mayor Labas similarly advised that the proposed Investment Policy for the Village had been circulated in the Board packet. No changes beyond dates/syntax were recommended for 2026-27. Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved ratification of the Investment Policy as circulated. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Resolution—Advance Payment of Claims for Utility Bills, Insurance Premiums, Petty Cash, Postage, and Concert Series Acts: The Mayor advised that in years past the Board had authorized staff in the Clerk-Treasurer's office to pay certain claims as specified above prior to the Board auditing the same. This allows staff to stay current with the bills and/or pay claims timely in compliance with the adopted budget. These claims are then listed as "Unaudited Vouchers" and presented to the Board for review at the next Village Board Meeting. Trustee Davies sponsored a Resolution by motion to continue this practice for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Trustee Garrone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Ratify Mileage Allowance: Mayor Labas asked the Board’s preference concerning the mileage allowance allotted to employees when using their personal vehicles to conduct Village business. He noted that the IRS mileage allowance for 2026 was 72.5 cents per mile. The present Village allowance is 60 cents per mile. Trustee Leaman moved that the mileage allowance for 2026-27 remain at 60 cents per mile. Trustee Garrone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Sanding Committees: Mayor Labas reviewed his Standing Committees for the coming year with the Board:

<u>Trustee Garrone</u>	<u>Dep. Mayor Hyatt</u>	<u>Trustee Leaman</u>	<u>Trustee Davies</u>
Senior Shuttle	Deputy Mayor	Police Commissioner	Planning Board
Village Equipment	DPW	Pember Library	Village Court
Animal Control	Water/Sewer Comm	Municipal Center	Slate Valley Museum
Time Warner Cable	Firehouses &	Ordinance Enfrcmnt.	Village Property
Vets Park/Conc. Series	Fire Depts.	Street Lights	Recreation Comm.
Holiday Celebrations	ZBA	Street Cleaning	GACC
	Water Trmt. Plant	Sidewalks	RERC Grant

Present 2026 Summer Concert Series: The Mayor formally reviewed the Summer Concert Series planned for 2026 with the Board. He noted that the first three acts would be performing for two and one half hours instead of the normal two hour bookings. He noted several additional outings (GCS Jazz Ensemble, Granville Area Chorus) who would be performing on nights other than Thursdays. The Granville-Poultney Town Band will be returning once again for four (4) performances on Sunday Evenings in August. Finally, Mayor Labas advised that there were several special events scheduled in conjunction with the first three concert acts—Fireworks (Sponsored by the Village and Town) on July 2nd as well as a Dessert Social hosted by the Pember Library & Museum that same evening, the Chamber of Commerce’s annual “Baked Potato Bonanza” on July 9th, and “Free Ice Cream Night” sponsored by Arrow Bank, N.A. on July 16th. The Mayor thanked the staff in the Clerk’s office for coordinating this year’s schedule, and the DPW for their longstanding efforts in keeping the Park in good condition throughout the season. The Mayor stated that he liked this year’s lineup and hoped that this summer would bring its fair share of good weather and good times to patrons who enjoy the Series.

Announce LARAC Grant: In conjunction with the 2026 Summer Concert Series, the Mayor announced that the Village had received a \$3,500 grant from LARAC to aid in funding the costs associated with the same. The Mayor expressed sincere appreciation to LARAC for their longstanding commitment to the series, and he noted that their support allowed the Village to provide higher quality performers and more acts. In conjunction with donations received from local businesses and civic organizations, the Mayor noted that the LARAC grant eases the burden on the Village budget and allows the Village to provide a high-quality series throughout the summer that our constituents have come to really enjoy.

Approve Fireworks Display: Mayor Labas noted that in 2026, many municipalities would be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Our Nation’s Independence. He noted that special Ceremonies are being planned around Independence Day weekend. The Mayor inquired as to the Board’s preference in hosting a fireworks display with the Town of Granville at the Little League Complex. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Garrone moved that the Village Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to proceed

in applying for a permit for a Fireworks Display on Thursday, July 2nd at dusk. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Set Spring Leaf/Brush Collection Schedule: The Mayor asked the Board to consider the proposed Spring Leaf & Brush collection schedule as circulated in the meeting packet. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Garrone moved that the Village Clerk be authorized to advertise that the DPW would collect bagged leaves and brush for seven weeks on Mondays beginning on April 13th and continuing through Labor Day; during Labor Day week, the DPW would defer leaf/brush clean up to Tuesday in observation of the Holiday. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A. Update—Proposed Local Law #1 of 2026: The Mayor advised the Board that the Village Attorney had crafted a draft of Proposed Local Law #1 concerning updated Flood Plain Administration associated with the new Flood Plain Mapping completed by FEMA over the past several years. Mayor Labas indicated that the draft had been forwarded to the NYS DEC for review, and that several changes would likely be required prior to the Board's consideration and approval of the same. However, he asked if the Board would feel comfortable scheduling a Public Hearing to consider the proposed legislation at the May Board Meeting. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Leaman moved that the Village Clerk be authorized to advertise for a Public Hearing concerning proposed Local Law #1 of 2026 on May 4th at 7:00pm here at the Village Municipal Center. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- B. Update—Bids Received, Church Street Water Main Project: The Mayor asked if the Clerk-Treasurer could update the Board concerning the bids received in conjunction with the Water Main replacement on Church Street. The Clerk explained that Lamont Engineers had bid this project out with proposals being accepted in February. Six bids were received for the project. However, the low bid was in the range of \$575K. The Village has a \$350K grant through the NBRC, so there is a significant shortfall associated with the project. The reason that the bids came in higher than anticipated revolves around the amount of rock/bedrock/shale to be removed in the area of the main replacement. The Clerk explained that the Board basically has three options at this time, including a) Canceling the project and de-obligating the grant, b) Accepting the low bid and proceeding with the project, with the Village absorbing the shortfall through debt financing, reserves, or a combination of the two, or c) Rejecting the bids, seeking additional grant funding, and re-bidding the project at a future date. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for providing this information to the Board. He advised that while no decision needed to be made this evening, the DPW Superintendent and Board would likely need to confer with Lamont Engineers to seek counsel in the best manner to proceed prior to the May Board of Trustees meeting.
- C. Review Correspondence—Alzheimer's Awareness: Mayor Labas reviewed correspondence received from Renee Redmond concerning use of Veterans Park for an event highlighting awareness of Alzheimer's Disease on Saturday, June 20th. The event would be a Family Fun Day with Games, Food and Prizes, and the group would like to install purple lights in some bushes/trees in the Park as purple is the color associated with Alzheimer's Awareness. Similar events have been conducted in the Towns of Salem & Greenwich per the Mayor, and they have been successful and well received. Following a brief discussion, Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved that

the request be approved as requested. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Deputy Mayor Hyatt discussed a matter involving a leak seen in the Municipal Center roof. He advised that the DPW had sealed up the leak and remediated a mold issue, and that an estimate would be forthcoming from a local contractor to address any additional concerns.

There was no further public input.

At 7:40pm, Trustee Garrone moved that the Board convene and Executive Session in order to consider staffing needs within a Village Department (the Police Dept.). Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session for its entirety. The Police Chief accompanied the Board into the Executive Session from 7:40pm-8:10pm.*

At 8:20pm, Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved that the Board return to regular session. Trustee Leaman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Labas advised that the Board had reached the conclusion that it was necessary to eliminate the positions associated with the Village Justice Court in the interests of fiscal responsibility. He noted that the Court has been generating approximately \$9-\$10K in revenues over the past 3-4 years, while it costs approximately \$24K to fund Court salaries and contractual expense. In these difficult Budgetary times, the Board is being forced to examine ways to save money. The Consolidation of the Village Court into the Town Court is one item that would provide savings to the Village taxpayer. The Mayor advised that the Board had directed the Village Attorney to draft a Resolution to eliminate the positions associated with the Village Court for consideration at the May Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Davies moved that the Village Clerk be authorized to advertise for a Public Hearing concerning the proposed Resolution to be considered. Trustee Garrone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no other business, Deputy Mayor Hyatt moved that the Meeting be adjourned at 8:25pm. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer