

Village of South Glens Falls
46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, NY 12803
February 4, 2026
Regular Village Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Regular Village Board Meeting
MAYOR JOSEPH ORLOW PRESIDING
Minutes

Attendance:

Mayor Orlow	Clerk Treasurer Samantha Berg
Trustee Baxter	DPW Superintendent Alan Dubois
Trustee Carota	Xavier DeRush
Trustee Comstock	Chris Rich
Trustee Middleton	Reed Antis
Attorney Bill Nikas	Cheryl Lawyer
Harry Gutheil, Jr.	Tyler Corlew
John Smith	TJ Wade
Rich Garnsey	Eavesdropping
J. Cox SGFFC	J. Cox SGFFC

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum

- **Harry Gutheil, 21 Spring St:** Asked why water sewer rates were being discussed in executive session and hoped it wouldn't become a trend. Next, he asked if the AFR had been filed and if the audit had come back. Clerk Treasurer Berg answered that the AFR has been filed, the legal notice has been published, and the Village is still waiting on the audit. His next question was about where the Village's rent revenue was from the parking lot behind St. Michael's. Trustee Middleton answered that they had gone past the expiration of their contract, and the Village has signed another contract and is up to date. He then asked about the upcoming SLIC Fiber service, and Trustee Middleton replied that the Village does not know when service will become available. Mr. Gutheil moved on to the motions to move monies to the PBA and CSEA Attorney accounts and asked about why over \$25,000 has been spent on the PBA contract for 2 full-time employees. Mayor Orlow responded that when he attempted to do his job, he was threatened. He has spent the last 7 months trying to learn what the Mayor's responsibilities are. The Village has Trustees and a Clerk Treasurer who are doing a great job of running the Village with a Board that Claude Middleton controls. He had terms in place regarding the insurance company, with a committee of himself and Trustee Baxter, and was read the "riot act" from Trustee Middleton that the Board had made a motion that superseded any of the legal responsibilities as the Mayor and had put together a new committee. He believed it happened the same evening the Board tried to impeach him as Mayor by determining if he had dementia during the Executive Committee, while he was outside speaking to the Post Star reporter. Mr. Gutheil interjected that the Attorney's fees were run up before the creation of the new committee.



Mayor Orlow responded that there were two grievances and the order of protection he wanted to discuss with Mr. Gutheil, who told him he was "older and didn't remember any of that stuff." Mayor Orlow commented that he didn't want to share all of that this evening, but he was glad they were. He then quoted Trustee Middleton that "no one in this room is his boss except for the people who elected me." Mayor Orlow continued that he is sure the DPW and the PD would like to have closure, and by rescinding this motion, he would be happy to do his job. Mr. Gutheil questioned whether the motion was legal, and Mayor Orlow referred to Attorney Nikas. Trustee Middleton announced that he was going to exit the meeting. Mayor Orlow commented that Trustee Middleton didn't want to take ownership of his actions. Mr. Gutheil apologized if he had caused any issue, to which Trustee Middleton answered that he had not.

Trustee Middleton left the Regular Board Meeting at 7:10 pm

Mayor Orlow continued that the DPW has been on the receiving end of a Health Care Plan that the Village should not have created in the first place. He was told of a comment made by a Trustee along with a staff member - "what can you expect from those kinds of people? They probably swiped their HR card on luxuries." Mayor Orlow then stated he wasn't sure if the Village is liable but he could not stand by as a resident representing the people and have things misrepresented even if it upsets people. He continued that there is a lot that's been going on behind the scenes. He said he has called Mr. Gutheil, along with Tony Girard. He asked Mr. Gutheil again if he wanted to air this as it will be aired at some point. Mr. Gutheil stated he keeps seeing the grievance on the agenda for executive session along with legal fees and asked why the Village was not reimbursing the copays the CSEA contract states as "equal to or better". Mayor Orlow responded he had called him on that, asked your opinion on how we could alleviate this. He has been on speed dial with NYCOM. The Village will be having a training seminar, March 11th, that will clarify to the Trustees, the Mayor, and the Clerks what their job description is. Mayor Orlow stated again that he had not planned on airing this tonight but on dealing exactly with the subjects and that he's been hired by the people. Mr. Gutheil commented it looked like a simple grievance to him, which Mayor Orlow agreed. Mr. Gutheil continued to question why it keeps coming up in Executive Session and why there were multiple transfers for legal fees associated with it. Trustee Carota asked if Mayor Orlow could share his progress with the PBA negotiations and the CSEA grievance, to which Mayor Orlow responded that he hasn't been able to talk to them for several months. A letter was sent to Attorney Goldberger that the Mayor was not allowed to communicate with the 2 unions and that Trustee Carota was on the committee created to work with them, so he could instead share any information. Trustee Baxter explained the resolution was only for the PBA negotiation, not the CSEA grievance.

1. **Fire Department Presentation:** The Fire Company wanted to thank the Village for hiring Bulldog and the current fire truck is fixed. The current fire truck is over 22 years old and the Village needs to look into replacing it. Attorney Nikas to follow up with the memorandum of understanding from the Town of Moreau.
2. **Grant Projects Update**
 - a. **Motion 020426-1 to pass the Fair Housing Resolution:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: None
 - b. **Motion 020426-2 to pass the ADA Compliance Resolution:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: None



3. **Motion 020426-3 to approve Transfers from A 1990.400 (Contingency - Contractual):** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

	A.1430.403	\$2,159.75	CSEA Attorney
a.	A 1430.404	\$344.83	PBA Attorney

Discussion: The Clerk's Office requires guidance from the Board where the funds should come from to continue to fund the Attorney contractual budget lines.

4. **Motion 020426-4 to approve the Bills and Payroll as Audited:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: None

- a. **General** - \$54,216.01
- b. **Water** - \$7,425.09
- c. **Sewer** - \$7,028.51
- d. **Payroll** -
 - i. 01/21/26 - \$24,733.50
 - ii. 01/28/26 - \$31,990.02

5. **Motion 020426-5 to approve the January 2026 Animal Control, DPW, PD, and Bldg & Codes Reports:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: None

6. **Motion to approve Board Meeting Minutes for 01/21/26 - Tabled**

Discussion: Trustee Carota abstained as he was not present at the meeting and there was not a quorum for a vote.

7. **Motion 020426-6 to rescind Motion 121725-16 to establish a PBA Negotiating Committee:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: It was found to contradict a portion of the Taylor Law.

8. **Resolution to become a Climate Smart Community:** With adoption of this resolution, the Village would be in a better position to qualify for grants. Once passed, the Village will register with the DEC as a Climate Smart Community. Trustee Baxter to follow up with more research from other Smart Communities.

9. **Old Business**

- a. **Motion 020426-7 to approve Hewitts Spring Planting Quote for \$3,329.92:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: The Board decided to go ahead and order the flowers for Spring Planting and will follow up with how they will be planted.

- i. **4 quotes received**
 - 1. Hewitts - \$3,329.92
 - 2. Garden Time - \$3,374.00
 - 3. Soranos - \$4,598.00
 - 4. Toadflax - \$5,488.49



- b. **Motion 020426-8 to approve new RISE contracts:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: Clerk Treasurer Berg reported the incentive amounts approved by National Grid changed. New contracts need to be signed to accept those incentives.

10. New Business

- a. **Motion 020426-9 to approve the Code Books Update A 7989.400 - \$1,245.00:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: Printed supplements are needed to be added to the new code books with last year's local laws. Once they are received, new code books will be distributed.

- b. **Water/Sewer Rates:** Trustee Baxter reported that the Village has been balancing the budget with the fund balance as the water/sewer funds do not sustain themselves. The Water Fund has a \$199,067.00 gap per year and the Sewer Fund has a \$367,697.00 gap per year. The recommended changes to close the Village's Water Fund gap would be a \$175 rate for 20,000 gallons every 6 months (40% increase) and \$4.00 per thousand gallons, sprinkler fee would remain the same. Year 1 flat rate would be \$141.50, Year 2 flat rate would be \$158.00 and Year 3 would be up to the \$175.00. The Village did not receive PFAS money to pay for Sewer and the City of Glens Falls' contract has an annual increase of 15%. The recommended changes to close the Village's Sewer Fund gap would be a \$215.00 rate for 20,000 gallons every 6 months (95% increase) and \$3.00 (standard) \$4.00 (industrial) per thousand gallons. Year 1 flat rate would be \$144.65, Year 2 flat rate would be \$179.30 and Year 3 would be up to the \$215.00. If the Village has to take on more projects, these rates would have to be adjusted. It would be best to do Sewer right away. An informative workshop will be set up Wednesday, 02/11/26, for the public to address the Village with any questions or concerns.

- c. **Motion 020426-10 to transfer \$88,646.93 out of the DPW Major Equipment Reserve and approve the purchase of a Multi-Use Van per the State Contract Price:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: Superintendent Dubois first brought up replacing the DPW Water Sewer Van. Superintendent Dubois then inquired about a DPW position that was never filled and wanted the Board to approve. Harry Gutheil interjected that the Village has done a lot of spending and during Mayor Orlow's last administration, the Village went through all the fund balance and was going to raise taxes 35%. Mayor Orlow questioned if Mr. Gutheil really wanted to address this topic as he was "in a damn good mood to address it", to which M. Gutheil replied "this is how and where it starts". Mayor Orlow stated he "was bankrupt and we wouldn't be having this conversation if you weren't so freaking cheap on doing the repairs that we're now paying for. We accumulated a hell of a war chest and that's why we had auditors for 7 months and we were penalized for saving too much money. We accumulate that by not wanting to spend it." Mr. Gutheil commented on seeing what the audit will show and Mayor Orlow responded "the audit showed that we should have been spending money and we shortchanged our residents."

Motion 020426-11 to approve the process to hire for an open DPW Position: Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

11. Trustee Reports - None



12. Mayor's Report: The Mayor reported an update on the PBA negotiations that he has communicated with the lawyer on many occasions to double check what he can and cannot do.

13. Motion 020426-12 for a Workshop Meeting to be held Wednesday, February 11, 2026 to discuss Water and Sewer Rates with Suozzo, Doty & Associates: Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: None

14. Motion 020426-13 to adjourn the Regular Village Board Meeting at 8:38 pm with no Executive Session: Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

