

Village of South Glens Falls  
46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, NY 12803  
September 24, 2025  
Regular Village Meeting @ 7:00 PM

**Public Hearing and Regular Village Board Meeting**

MAYOR JOSEPH ORLOW PRESIDING

Minutes

**Attendance:**

Mayor Orlow	Clerk Treasurer Samantha Berg
Trustee Baxter	DPW Superintendent Alan Dubois
Trustee Comstock	Dennis Davall
Trustee Middleton	Dan Collins
Trustee Carota	Tim Pease
Attorney Bill Nikas	Linda Blackburn
Nick Havens	Alex Portal
Harry Gutheil	Bob M
Bill	DCT
CR	R2D2
JM	

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor opened the public hearing.

**Public Forum**

- **Dennis Davall - 209 Main St.:** NYS Village Law 7-718 authorizes Villages to establish Planning Boards with 5-7 members, and NYS Village Law 7-712 authorizes Villages to establish Zoning Boards of Appeal. The Village Planning Board and Zoning Boards need members. He would like the Board to pass a resolution allowing Trustee Middleton and Trustee Comstock the authority to solicit and appoint members to the Planning and Zoning Boards. He also wanted to address the speeding on Main Street. He suggested a 4-way stop where Wilson and Hudson intersect Main St., and in addition, a speed monitor sign near the Harrison and Main intersection. Another proposal is to ask the Town of Moreau to lower the speed limit on Fort Edward Road between Bluebird and William Street. The Mayor responded that he had an upcoming meeting at the Town of Moreau and would speak with the Supervisor. There have been 2 speed signs previously ordered and the Mayor requested Chief Gifford to purchase 2 more. Trustee Middleton stated the Village is waiting for a traffic study to be done on Main and Harrison. The 4-way stop on Wilson would have to be addressed by an engineer, and the speed signs purchased at \$3,000 a piece were done outside of procurement and without Board approval. The Mayor brought up that he and Trustee Middleton have a difference of opinion on this topic. He then stated, for the record, that there are Trustees not happy with the way he has

been as Mayor, and he'd like to have those issues aired in Open Forum and in the newspaper, not in Executive Session. Trustee Middleton replied that he would prefer to address the issues during the Trustee Reports part of the meeting. Trustee Baxter finished that 4-way stops are not traffic calming devices per NYS Traffic Law. Enforcement is the most effective way to deal with speeding. The Village needs to follow a procedure and wait for a traffic engineering company study, and better know what the road can handle, instead of incorrectly spending Village monies. Trustee Middleton, with the Board's approval, could reach out to AGFTC, who is already conducting a traffic study of Harrison Ave, and see if they could increase their scope to include Main St.

- **Linda Blackburn-Winnans - 150 Hudson St. - Crossing Guard on Harrison Ave. and Main St.** She added that speeding is especially an issue during school drop-off and pick-up times, suggesting flashing lights, police presence, or signage similar to Wilson Avenue. Trustee Middleton noted the Village has mobile signs that DPW could deploy, which the Mayor agreed could help based on his experience on Harrison Avenue. The Mayor then shifted to discussing Village administration, stating efforts are underway to improve communication after past dysfunction, lack of transparency, and internal issues under previous administrations. He described challenges with executive sessions, communication restrictions, and departmental coordination, emphasizing that changes have been made to better serve residents. He also emphasized that Clerk Treasurer Berg was functioning in a mayoral capacity. He concluded that the Board works for the people and should prioritize community benefit over personal egos.
- **Harry Gutheil, Jr. - 21 Spring St.:** Mr. Gutheil wanted to know why there was an additional \$34,560 to Delaware Engineering for the closeout of the Water Meter project. Trustee Middleton responded that the additional engineering cost is covered under the grant and is force work for the delinquency and delay in this project. Mr. Gutheil requested an updated accounting record of the project. He then asked when the Ferry Boulevard project would be put out to bid Trustee Middleton answered in 3 weeks. Mr. Gutheil questioned why \$11,000 is being spent for an engineering firm to determine future water and sewer rates for the Village. Trustee Baxter answered that the Village will go into debt with the current Sewer rates, and Trustee Middleton added that the Sewer rates have not increased in the past 11 years. The Water Sewer Committee needs advice on how to proceed. Mr. Gutheil then stated he has been asking for a meeting with Trustee Middleton and the Mayor, who have not responded to him. He doesn't want to embarrass the Board, but would like to have answers and an idea of what is going on. He stated the Board is spending a lot of money. He then stated the Village spent \$11,000 for a PBA contract lawyer and asked if it also included travel time from Albany to South Glens Falls and back to Albany, to which the Mayor answered yes. The Village changed law firms to be more effective with contract negotiations. Mr. Gutheil commented, as a taxpayer, that he doesn't have any information on what the PBA's demands are or how close the Village is to closing its contract, as the Agenda doesn't give details of the Executive Session. He then stated that most of the information is confidential. He has FOILed the invoices, but they're not detailed, and he wanted to know how many hours have been spent on the PBA contract. On Agenda items 4 & 5, 2 proposals from Suozzo & Doty, he would like to see the attachments and what the rates are. He said that through reading the minutes and visiting the office that there are now 4 employees in the Clerk's Office, and wanted clarity on how it was staffed. Trustee Middleton commented that there are 3 full-time and 1 part-time employees. Mr. Gutheil then asked about an IRS voucher that had penalties. Clerk Treasurer Berg answered that he had already FOILed for that information, to which he replied that because he can't get answers to his questions, he has to FOIL. He doesn't want to bother staff with constant FOILs, but is entitled to answers to his questions. Mayor Orlow said he wouldn't go into detail, but for the last 6 months, if anyone

had questions on what took place for the last 4 years in this Village, it would be a surprise. Since April, he's had one housekeeping situation after another: internal, labor, and building up the departments again. In actuality, the Department Heads were micromanaged and did not run their departments. Things are moving at a slower pace as there is a lot of housekeeping. Before he ran for Mayor, he asked a lot of people to run, but as a Trustee, he felt responsible. He sat in this room for 4 years and, he's quoted in the minutes, got tired of all the fights because nothing got accomplished. There are 4 years of housekeeping that he's been trying to work on in 6 months. He has 3 new Trustees, a new staff, a new department head, and police contract negotiations. During his prior administration, he didn't retain lawyers and did the union negotiations internally. He has a lot of unhappy employees, some of whom have moved on. He has Trustees who feel he's incompetent. He is as overwhelmed as anyone else and is doing the best he can. If anyone wants to sit down with me, there is a lot I cannot discuss. He used Dennis Davall as an example and was glad Mr. Davall was able to work with a Trustee on the traffic situation. He hopes other residents who have concerns can come forward and work with Board members as was done in the past. The Village's reputation is one of the worst right now. He didn't want to say that, but he lives in and loves this Village and wants to see the boardroom full of residents again. The Post Star is in attendance today, and if he's doing a crummy job, he wants it stated for the public.

- **Dan Collins - 6 Wedgewood Dr.** inquired if the Public Hearing waiving of penalties would be addressed in the agenda to which Trustee Middleton answered yes. Mayor Orlow stated that in his prior administration, issues like this could be handled in-house, but he understands from the Clerk Treasurer Berg that the rules are different now. He is relearning what the Mayor's job is. Trustee Middleton then reported that during the NYCOM conference held last week, he met with attorneys attending, and Real Property Tax Law 924 states that a municipality's governing Board does not possess the authority to waive penalties, nor does any office. Delinquent taxes, as defined in Article 11, Real Property Tax Law, the governing body of the tax district can waive, but the Village does not participate in enforcing that district. Water Sewer penalty fees and Property Tax penalty fees cannot be waived for any reason. The Village does not have that authority. Mr. Collins responded that, except for his Village Property Tax bill, all the other documentation, including the Village Water Sewer bill, was sent to his updated address. He asked about the software issue that was discussed in the prior meeting. Clerk Treasurer Berg explained that a software error occurred when the assessment roll was uploaded; it did not remove the bank code from or update Mr. Collins' property tax account. The Clerk's Office receives over 1,500 property requests from the mortgage processors to print the bills according to the bank code. Mr. Collins feels he has done his due diligence. Mayor Orlow referred to Mr. Gutheil, who commented that there has to be some way to account for the mistake; if the Village is at fault, they should make it right. Trustee Middleton conferred with Attorney Nikas. Attorney Nikas shared an email from Attorney Beltramo of NYCOM in reference to Section 1182 of the Tax Law, which authorizes the Board of Trustees to cancel or reduce interest, penalties, and other charges if it is in the best interest of the constituent. It can only be waived by a majority vote of the Board after a public hearing. If the Village does this for one taxpayer, with the caveat that it does not legally have to do so for everyone else, but be prepared for everyone else who did not pay their taxes on time. Trustee Baxter commented that legally, the Board does not have to waive a penalty, but this section of the Tax Law can give the Board an opportunity, depending upon certain circumstances. It does not waive a penalty for a taxpayer who forgot to mail their payment or get it to the Village on time, but to a taxpayer who did not receive their tax bill due to a Village error.

**Motion 092425-1 to close the Public Hearing:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**1. Grant Projects Update**

**a. GIGP**

- i. Motion 092425-2 to purchase and install Octave meters with a cap of \$7,000 per unit to replace Compound meters under the grant for the GIGP Project:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** After many attempts from both the Village and the contracted engineers, it has been proven that the compound meters don't work. Octave meters can be purchased from Ferguson through the grant at \$6,000 each, with no cost to the Village, to replace them, and will close out the project. Tom Ferguson contacted Clerk Treasurer Berg, who reported \$2,100.00.

- ii. Force work**

- 1. Motion 092425-3 to amend and increase Delaware Engineering's Contract to include \$34,560.00 of additional work needed for the meter project completion:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

- Discussion:** Trustee Middleton will set up a meeting with Delaware Engineering to proceed.

- 2. Technical Force Work for Village Employees of \$3,115.99 - TABLED**

- 3. Administrative Force Work of \$6,719.47 - TABLED**

- iii. Project Close Out**

Mayor Orlow stated the main reason that Clerk Treasurer Berg is so involved in a lot of things is that she was not only the Clerk Treasurer, but more the Mayor, for the last 4 years. He was on the Board for 4 years and didn't know anything, and stated that she knows more than anyone in the room right now. That's one of the reasons he asked and kept her on was due to her knowledge and experience. For the record, she knows more than he does.

- b. CDBG Grant:** Barton & Laguidice intend to have the project bid the first full week of October, pending confirmation of approval from OCR for the bid specs that were previously submitted.

**2. Motion 092425-4 to approve Transfers:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None.

a.

A 1990.400	A 1430.404	\$927.28	PBA Attorney
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3. **Motion 092425-5 to approve the Bills and Payroll as Audited:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None.

- a. **General** - \$30,118.06
- b. **Water** - \$11,558.81
- c. **Sewer** - \$1,597.68
- d. **Payroll** -
  - i. 09/03/25 - \$27,033.22
  - ii. 09/10/25 - \$25,715.65
  - iii. 09/17/25 - \$26,098.52
  - iv. 09/24/25 - \$31,634.43

4. **Motion 092425-6 to engage Suozzo-Dody to conduct a full Water and Sewer Rate Analysis SDA Proposal (FX 8310.411 for \$11,000.00 transfer from contingency):** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

5. **Motion 092425-7 to engage Suozzo-Dody to compile an Infrastructure Capital Improvements Multi-Year Water System Plan Proposal based on the findings of the Hydraulic Model (FX 8310.411 for \$17,500.00 transfer from contingency):**

Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

6. **Motion 092425-8 to amend previous motion (Motion 071625-11 to approve Senior Tax Exemptions) to Local Law #2 - Senior Exemptions:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** The Board passed a motion at the July 16, 2025, Regular Village Board Meeting to amend the income limitations for persons over 65 years of age. The Town of Moreau has requested that a formal Local Law be written into code.

7. **Motion 092425-9 for Unpaid Sidewalk Invoice of \$700.00 for 79 Spring Street be added to the Village Tax bill as a Special Assessment with a final warning:** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** Sidewalk was completed in July 2024. The resident has failed to pay despite calls and certified mailings. Attorney Nikas stated the amount owed can be added to their Village Tax bill as a special assessment but he will make further contact with the resident in the hopes of avoiding that outcome.

8. **Bathroom Lock Procedure:** The bathrooms now have electronic locks, not deadbolts on the doors. With the upcoming cold season, the Village needs to prevent vandalism. Edwin Robbins, the Animal Control Officer and Crossing Guard for the Village, has performed this task previously and will be asked to provide his services for the Winter season. Mayor Orlow to follow up. Mayor Orlow stated that when he became the Mayor, he was told the Mayor didn't have a lot of power and was just a figurehead. He's been coasting for the last 6 months. He has suggested to the new Board and to people to educate themselves. When he was Mayor the first time, there was a whole job

description. Under Harry Gutheil, it totally changed, and the whole wheel was rewritten. Under Nick Bodkin, there was no assemblance. There are a lot of things that he doesn't share with the residents, and there's a lot of stuff that they shouldn't know, as it's embarrassing to the Board he was on. This Village used to be proud, and that has changed.

9. **Energy Audit Contract:** Andrea McMaster will be writing up our 12-month contract at \$.11/kw, which cuts our energy cost by about 40%. Other businesses are taking advantage of this. When the contract is received, the Board will review and present it at the next Regular Village Board meeting.

## 10. Old Business

- a. **Paving Project on Main Street:** Milling will be done on October 7, 2025. DPW has asked for no parking on both sides of the street for that day. Post NO PARKING signs on poles, letters to residents, etc. Paving will be done on October 28 and October 29, 2025. No parking on both sides of the street for a couple of hours each afternoon to allow the hot top to dry, prevent damage to vehicles, and enable the new paving to be set. Again, NO PARKING signs on poles, etc.
- b. **Update on Stop Signs - Wilson Ave. / Main St.:** previously discussed in the Public Forum.
- c. **Motion 092425-11 to appoint Trustee Carota and Trustee Baxter to the Personnel Committee:** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** Mayor Orlow is currently the only member of the Personnel Committee. Trustee Middleton stated that the only member on the Personnel Committee should not be the sole director of all personnel. Mayor Orlow stated that he supported the appointments, and Trustee Middleton commented that he didn't need to support the motion; the Board just needed to vote. Mayor Orlow stated he wanted to clear the air with Trustee Middleton. Trustee Middleton responded that he had scheduled 58 meetings with the Mayor, who has not attended a single one. The Mayor responded that Trustee Middleton has called him incompetent and has been yelling and screaming at him and sending him texts in the middle of the night. He stated that Trustee Middleton has been totally disrespectful, and he won't tolerate it anymore. He then said he wanted this to be printed in the Post Star. Trustee Middleton responded that he may not. Trustee Middleton handed out a list to the Board and began his report with the Water Sewer PFAs Settlement: the Village has received an initial check for \$642,000 and another check was received for \$1,437,000.00. Over the next 8 years, the Village will receive \$166,000.00 per year. If the Village had signed up for the one lump sum payment, we would have received \$1,300,000.00, earning interest. The Village did not receive this other lump sum because the email was not opened. Currently, the Mayor has not opened or responded to an email for the last 6 months he has been in office. He asked the Mayor if he was correct, and the Mayor answered that he was incorrect. The Mayor stated that Trustee Middleton had the opinion that he is incompetent and wanted to share this

publicly. Trustee Middleton believes that the Mayor has not opened or responded to any of his emails and has asked the Clerk's Office to print them out so he can read them. Trustee Middleton then asked if the Mayor knew of any other action regarding the Water Sewer PFAs, to which the Mayor answered that he did not. Trustee Middleton continued that he took it upon himself, since the Mayor did not, and has been in contact with the Dupont settlement coming in by the end of the year for \$387,000.00 minus fees. BSAF and Tysco will be totaling about \$300,000.00 less fees that will hit the next quarter. Ten other companies are in settlement talks now that should be closed out by the middle of next year. Those companies and amounts have not been disclosed. He has set up a meeting with the attorneys from the law firm to discuss CERCLA funds that may be available to the Village for a continuous revenue source. To be part of these actions, you have to respond to their emails. He referred back to the PFAs settlement that if the email had been answered, the Village wouldn't have incurred the 3.5% penalty for administrative and attorney fees and would have had an additional \$1,200,000.00. Trustee Middleton asked the Mayor if he was correct and if he had a comment. The Mayor replied, "If you say so," and asked if Trustee Middleton was done. Trustee Middleton responded that he was not, and then reported on the numerous calls and emails from companies and residents that have not been returned. Trustee Middleton stated that he is in the office 6 hours a day and hasn't seen the Mayor in 3 weeks. The Mayor was signed up for two NYCOM conferences that he did not attend. The Village paid for one, and for some reason, the Mayor left after arriving. Trustee Middleton paused and asked if he had left. The Mayor did not answer but asked Trustee Middleton to continue. Trustee Middleton said that the Mayor left the conference. In his opinion, not speaking for the Board, the Mayor doesn't know what he's doing. Mayor Orlow first responded to the NYCOM incident. He and his husband both took off from work and paid for the hotel room. Upon arrival, the desk clerk couldn't find his reservation. He asked the desk clerk to cross-reference the NYCOM conference, and there was no information about his registration there. He was quite heated and expressed that to Clerk Treasurer Berg. Superintendent Chagnon later told the Mayor that he was being set up and they would never have done that to former Mayor Bodkin. Mayor Orlow stated he would let the issue go. Trustee Middleton asked if Mayor Orlow attended the conference. Mayor Orlow responded that they couldn't find his name, and he left in a huff. Trustee Middleton stated that every other employee attended the conference and did not have a room. Mayor Orlow responded that he paid for a room and planned on staying there. Mayor Orlow stated that he did show up, circumstances prevailed, and he gave the benefit of the doubt to everybody. Trustee Middleton started to comment, and the Mayor told him that he had his minute and now it was his. The Mayor then responded to the unread emails. The Village is undergoing a 5-year audit, and the auditors will be at the Village Office for about a year. Having gone through 4-5 audits during his first administration, he wanted them to have a private room to go through the last 5 years of information. He then commented that he was embarrassed to have been a part of that time period. The office he had previously, when he was Mayor, is now the Building and Codes office, and

the Building and Codes office is now storage. He was told that if he needed an office to contact the DPW. He contacted DPW, who told him they wouldn't do it, so he came in with his own crew. They moved the cabinets and boxes, painted, brought in the furniture the Mayor furnished, and now he has an office. For a while, he didn't have a computer. He stated he is not an IT person and asked the Clerk's Office for assistance since the Clerk's Office used to be the support staff for the Mayor. He was told they have their own duties, so a part-time employee was added to assist him. The Mayor had a conversation with Clerk Treasurer Berg about not only needing to know what a Clerk Treasurer does, but also training 3 new staff and working with him, as he has no idea what is going on because the job has changed. The Mayor then thanked Harry Gutheil for all his emails, even though he didn't like how many there were. He then said that during Nick Bodkin's administration, he never came into the office or did much of anything, which is why he refers to Clerk Treasurer Berg as the Mayor. He then started to look at all the emails and to simplify what was immediate, Clerk Treasurer Berg assigned Deputy Clerk Treasurer Gollhofer to go through them every day. The Mayor then addressed his office attendance by stating he had a full-time job. The Mayor said that Trustee Middleton told him that the Trustees are supposed to complete 30 hours a month, and the Mayor 50 hours. Trustee Middleton interjected that the Mayor was wrong with that statement. The Mayor asked if he allowed Trustee Middleton to speak. Trustee Middleton continued that he could show the Mayor, in writing, that sets the boundaries of what the Trustees and Mayor should be working from the NYSLRS retirement account. Mayor Orlow asked if Trustee Middleton was done. Trustee Middleton replied no, but that the Mayor could finish. Mayor Orlow thanked him for allowing him to continue. Mayor Orlow then shared that he had been dragged into running for Mayor, wanted to clear the air, and have all issues written up in the newspaper because he doesn't mind. He's doing the best he can. "Hell no", he did not want to be here, but gave his word. Trustee Middleton had asked him to run, and only hesitated to research who he felt he could work with, and who's going to be doing a good job. Mayor Orlow said to Trustee Middleton quite a few times that he should be the Mayor, and stated that Trustee Middleton told him, "they don't shoot the Vice President." Mayor Orlow then referenced that Mr. Gutheil can agree he's not a good "yes" person. He will do what he feels is going to benefit the people in this Village. As for failure to engage in day operations, he is at the Village office every day. If he doesn't answer his calls, he does have a job, and he does respond ASAP if he's notified. Touching on failing to engage on a day-to-day basis, he's been down at the DPW and the Police Department. He's engaged in the community, doing what he feels the Mayor should be doing for good housekeeping. If there is a good Board of Trustees, as he had in his first administration, which he inherited, and they did their job during the last administration. There were memos sent out that the Trustees weren't supposed to be talking with anyone, and he has those memos. Responding to the fact that the planning and zoning board was not seated, he has spoken with several people and was told they weren't interested. He has relayed that information to Trustee Middleton. Mayor Orlow then stated that if anyone in the Village knew of

someone, please reach out to him. Mayor Orlow pointed out that there are some things that the Mayor can do and later notify the Board ASAP, or that was how it used to be. He then asked Mr. Gutheil to correct him on that. Mayor Orlow stated that he felt that “obviously, they have a problem with that,” referencing the Clerk’s Office opening his emails. Clerk Treasurer Berg noted that she was not getting drawn into this. Mayor Orlow responded he didn’t say her name, and that he meant the Board. Clerk Treasurer Berg disagreed that it was how it sounded. Mayor Orlow responded she could take as much offense as she wanted but it was not directed at her. He then stated that they had come to an arrangement. It didn’t come from anyone. Clerk Treasurer Berg has access to the Mayor’s emails through the resolution that the Board made. Trustee Middleton stated that he answers all the questions here. Mayor Orlow stated that he assigned Trustee Middleton to a certain committee. He did not want to get drawn into a “He said, She said” discussion. Mayor Orlow stated that he felt the Trustees should learn what their job is just like he is. Mayor Orlow also stated “the general consensus is that there are a couple of people here that would like to see me gone. If that’s the case, if the Board decides I’m incompetent. I’m doing the best I can at this point. I inherited this sh-t show from the last four years. And, as TJ said, they never would have treated Nick that way. Harry, you would never tolerate any of this and I wish I could be a lot more like you. So that’s my version of it.” Mayor Orlow asked the Board if anyone had any input. The majority of the Board declined to address the Mayor’s comments. Trustee Comstock stated he felt the work is not being done. He has offered to be available for whatever committees the Mayor would like him on. “It seems like there are a lot of important things that you should be addressing that aren’t getting addressed.” Mayor Orlow stated he’s been cautious because he’s been told that the Board controls the show and he has no authority. He suggested that Trustee Comstock should find out what his job description actually is. He has also been told that this is a soft mayorship where the mayor doesn’t have any say on anything. He has contacted Saratoga County Civil Service to find out how things changed under former mayor Bodkin. He also stated he appreciates that Trustee Middleton is able to spend so much time at Village Hall. He feels there is so much that we have to do in the course of a new administration, between hiring new employees and addressing the tension among the employees. “Why did TJ, who ran a department for 16 years and did a great job , why are people leaving? My point is, you've got to have a stable department and stable staff before you move on with other stuff. And there’s a lot of stuff that I’m really not at liberty to discuss. People have come to me, and I’ve said we’re going to play it out. I was sworn in on April 7th. The week that you guys were gone, I was here every day. I’m in this office every day. I might miss a day, or I will call and say I’m going to be here.”

Trustee Middleton made a motion [092425-12](#) to censure the Mayor.

Mayor Orlow asked to explain what censure meant. Trustee Middleton responded, “Censure is essentially an act of disapproval”. Mayor Orlow shared that he had spoken to Trustee Baxter and that he has agreed to be the Deputy

Mayor. He felt Trustee Baxter had an outlook for this community that would be beneficial. The Deputy Mayor can, if the Mayor is unable, run a meeting or fill in for the Mayor if something comes up. Mayor Orlow shared that, until recently, he wasn't sure if his cancer had reoccurred, and he knew people in attendance could appreciate that. He wanted to be sure and had some other medical stuff going on that he was not afraid to share. He restated that, while he was running for Mayor, there would be a lot of stuff that he didn't have the time to do. He has a lot of housekeeping to do with personnel and committees. Trustee Middleton commented that the Mayor has said this repeatedly, and it almost sounds like he's not in a position to do the job. Mayor Orlow shared he just received word that he had a 10-year clearance, and he was cancer-free. Trustee Middleton responded that it just seemed like he had so much going on outside of the Village that he couldn't focus. Mayor Orlow stated that his focus was on the Village, and he wished it weren't. Trustee Middleton replied that it wasn't based on his actions. Mayor Orlow said if people wanted him to resign, he had no problem with that. He's just someone who might be the Mayor and doing the best he can with everyone having an opinion. Trustee Middleton asked if he felt like he was doing a good job. Mayor Orlow responded that he's doing the best he can with what he's been given, yes. He commented on a plan he had in place to have the Clerk Treasurer's office staffed, and that Trustee Middleton worries about the Clerk Treasurer. "Because if the Clerk Treasurer is doing their job and it's no offense to you, they are the running aspect. As you put it, it's a part-time job, and no one's going to tell me what to do." Trustee Middleton stated he never made that comment. Trustee Middleton asked Mayor Orlow to give him three things that he's done outside of DPW and PBA contract, and setting up his office. Mayor Orlow responded that he's overseen what he had assigned to Trustee Middleton. Trustee Middleton responded that he had not been assigned all the work that he had done and had done so on his own. Mayor Orlow said he would not dispute Trustee Middleton and that he had a right to his opinion. Mayor Orlow then said he wasn't going to give credibility to this whole sh-t show. He understood some of the dynamics that were happening, and he would prefer them not to be in the open. Trustee Middleton stated that Mayor Orlow had wanted this discussion in open session. Mayor Orlow replied that he did want an open session. Trustee Middleton again asked Mayor Orlow to name three things. Mayor Orlow responded that he's not stepping down and that Trustee Middleton could have his opinion. Trustee Comstock commented that Trustee Middleton is at the Village Office every day, working with NYCOM, and working with the lawyers. He continued that Trustee Middleton has a lot on his plate, is organized, retired, and is working his tail off every day. He commented that Trustee Middleton probably makes about \$2.00/hour because he puts so many hours into the job. Trustee Middleton then told Mayor Orlow that he made \$150.00/hour in comparison. Trustee Comstock admitted he had not done much work, but his health was improving, and he had recently been able to contribute more. Mayor Orlow stated that Trustee Comstock could bring up a health issue, but that his health had no relevance. Trustee Comstock continued that Mayor Orlow had so much going on with his health, relationships, outside life, and business that there isn't time to

focus on the Village. Mayor Orlow clarified that when Trustee Middleton approached him about running for Mayor, he hesitated for many reasons. It was not what he wanted to do; no one else wanted to, and he had a lot of stuff going on. Trustee Middleton retired from his position as a crossing guard and had the flexibility, which was another reason he was appointed Deputy Mayor. He didn't feel it was a good mix, but that was his personal thought. Mayor Orlow then asked the Board what they wanted to do: "resigning, I'm not, so impeach me or whatever the hell you want to do." Trustee Comstock replied that the Board doesn't have the authority, but as a group, the Board felt the work was not being done. Trustee Baxter abstained from any comment. Mayor Orlow asked if there was anything explicit about what he should be doing. Trustee Carota wanted to move this discussion to Executive Session. Mayor Orlow replied that he did not want this in Executive Session. "It's about me, and I think I have a choice about where I want it. I'm not going to hide behind Executive Session." Trustee Carota abstained from any additional comment. Trustee Middleton added that the original direction was for an Executive Session, and the Mayor called for this to be in open forum. Mayor Orlow agreed and added that there's been too much behind the scenes in the last four years. It got so that all that happens is a fight in executive session. Trustee Middleton replied that that was what the Board was doing. Mayor Orlow stated he was there for the people. He addressed Mr. Gutheil about how the Trustees didn't know what was going on and how he had to ask a lot of questions during meetings, and appreciated that he asked all those questions. Trustee Middleton wanted to know what Trustee Comstock's question was. Trustee Comstock asked about the water tower update. Mayor Orlow replied that Attorney Nikas was working on it. Attorney Nikas replied that he was not. Mayor Orlow commented that he believes in delegating and that he is not a one-man show. Department heads should be able to do their jobs without being micromanaged, and committees to do their job with the Mayor as an overview. He is reacquainting himself with the current Mayor's job, noting that the position has changed from his first administration, and the Mayor has no responsibilities except for overseeing things. He then asked if the Board had any questions. Trustee Carota asked about the committee appointments and for a copy of them. Mayor Orlow told Trustee Middleton that Clerk Treasurer Berg suggested he be put on most of them. Trustee Middleton asked Clerk Treasurer Berg about the committee assignment suggestion. Mayor Orlow said Trustee Middleton was appointed to several committees, most importantly, the Water Sewer committee. His appointment to the other committees was at Clerk Treasurer Berg's suggestion, following Trustee Gutheil's retirement. Mayor Orlow said that Trustee Carota had served on previous committees. Trustee Carota replied that he has not been asked to be on a current committee. Mayor Orlow admitted it was his fault. Mayor Orlow asked if the Board was done with how awful he is, to which Trustee Middleton replied that this would be continued in Executive Session.

## **11. New Business**

- a. Board Policy for Waiving of Penalties - TABLED**
- b. Motion 092425-13 to approve the Annual Alarm Inspection quote of \$960.00**

**from Foresight:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** The quote includes all three buildings.

- c. **Motion 092425-14 to approve the Waiver of 30-day Notice Requirement - 35 Main Street for O'Malleys:** Trustee Baxter motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** Clerk Treasurer Berg referred to the packets distributed to the Board.

- d. **Employee Payout - 24 hours Personal Time - TABLED**

**Discussion:** Clerk Treasurer Berg asked the Board to approve the payment of 3 personal days to Gavin Holligan, who was terminated. The Board decided to table for more information.

## 12. Trustee Reports

- Trustee Comstock reported that a resident from Stewart Avenue has a new neighbor who is using a bow and arrow in his backyard. The resident called the Police Chief, who told him that we don't have any ordinance against it. He called DEC, who told him that any bow-and-arrow use has to be more than 250 feet from any building. Attorney Nikas stated it is a penal issue and needs to be followed up by the Police Department.

**13. Mayor's Report:** The Mayor reported he is doing many things behind the scenes: trying to empower the department heads and personnel to make sure the Village has personnel. He said that although he has a full-time job in addition to being the Mayor, he comes into the Village office every day and can be reached by either phone or email. In the first three months, he did not have an office or a computer, and did not have a lot of access to anything. Trustee Comstock asked why the Mayor did not access his email from home which the Mayor replied that he's not computer savvy. He came into the Clerk's Office and set up to have the emails read there. He now has that set up in his office. Mayor Orlow also stated that if anyone wants to interview him, he'd be happy to speak to them.

**14. Motion 092425-15 to adjourn the Regular Village Board Meeting at 9:05 pm and enter into Executive Session for PBA Negotiations and Grievance Received:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Trustee Middleton left Executive Session at 9:15 pm.**

**15. Motion 092425-16 to adjourn executive session at 9:46 pm and enter the Regular Village Board Meeting with no action taken:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**16. Motion 092425-17 to adjourn the Regular Village Board Meeting at 9:47 pm:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Attached is the Post Star Article printed September 27, 2025 - Discord exposes SGF trustee's mistrust in mayor, by Alex Portal.**