

Village of South Glens Falls  
46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, NY 12803  
December 17, 2025  
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	Chris Rich
Trustee Comstock	Xavier DeRush
Trustee Middleton	CJG
Attorney Bill Nikas	Bruce Lant
John Cox	John Smith
Nathan Voorhis	Brandon Hayes
Ben Vaillancourt	Tyler Corlew
Tim Snowball	Tim Pease
Austin Reynolds	Tanner Distasio
Bonnie Distasio	Robert Chadwick
Corey Kellogg	Pete Corlew
Harry Gutheil	Reed Antis
Anthony J. Defazio	DCT
Mnorman	

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Forum**

- 1. Joint Fire Protection District discussion:** John Cox asked the Board why the Fire Department's annual budget contract, which expires 12/31/25, has not been put on the agenda. The Fire Department has dutifully submitted both a 6-month and a 12-month budget contract, along with paperwork requested by the Board. Trustee Middleton responded that the Board, as a whole, has not met to discuss its contract and offered to set up a meeting. Mr. Cox will reach out to their attorney for their availability and contact Trustee Middleton. Charlie Granger asked about the difference between the Fire Department Village vs. Fire Company Inc., and then inquired about the Village's firetruck and its needed upgrades. He then asked about the budget contract negotiations with the Village. Mr. Cox responded that the Village hasn't talked to them. Harry Gutheil commented, as a previous Mayor and Board Member, that the Fire Department's current situation is disappointing. He then stated that he follows the meetings even when he is not in attendance. Mr. Gutheil referenced a Grievance filed, looking at the Village attorney

expenditures YTD, that there has been \$25,000 to an Albany firm. He questioned why there isn't a PBA contract done with only 2 union members and would like any updates. He noticed a September Financial Report on the agenda, questioned where October and November's Financial reports were, and asked for that information to be attached to the agenda for public review before the meeting, instead of having to FOIL for the information, which can take almost a month to receive. Mr. Gutheil then referenced the trees to be taken down and hoped more would be planted. Lastly, he asked if the RBT audit was completed. Trustee Middleton responded that the audit has not been completed. Mayor Orlow responded to the attorney's cost that if he had been allowed to do his job for the last 7 months, the Village would not have incurred this kind of debt, and there are Board members present who feel he can't do any of this. Trustee Middleton began to respond, but Mayor Orlow continued that Trustee Middleton is more the Mayor than he is. Trustee Middleton corrected the Mayor and stated that he has not spoken to the Police Department about their contract or to the PBA attorney. Mr. Gutheil stated that as a taxpayer, he wants to know where the money is going and being spent.

**Motion 121725-1 to renew the request for the NYS Assembly and Senate to reduce and pass legislation in the 2025 Session which will permit the Town of Moreau to extend the Town's Fire Protection District into the Village of South Glens Falls and to place the South Glens Falls Fire Company, Inc. under the sole control of the Town of Moreau for all reasons under the law:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

## 2. Grant Projects Update

- a. **CDBG Grant:** Signed forms have been received. Pre Con meeting will happen in February or early March with the contractor.

## 3. Motion 121725-2 to approve the Bills and Payroll as Audited:

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

**Discussion:** None

- a. **General** - \$37,825.99
- b. **Water** - \$9,243.04
- c. **Sewer** - \$4,030.26
- d. **Payroll** -
  - i. 12/03/25 - \$25,757.96
  - ii. 12/10/25 - \$27,268.56
- e. **Special** - \$7,215.00

## 4. Motion 121725-3 to approve the Medicare Reimbursement for Retirees of \$7,215.00:

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

**Discussion:** None

## 5. Motion 121725-4 to approve 11/19/25 Minutes:

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

**Discussion:** None

## 6. Motion 121725-5 to approve 12/03/25 Minutes:

Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. Mayor Orlow - yes, Trustee Baxter - abstained, Trustee Carota - abstained, Trustee Comstock - yes, and Trustee Middleton - yes, motion passed.

**Discussion:** Trustee Carota and Trustee Baxter were not present at the 12/03/25 Regular Village Board Meeting.

7. **Utility Accounts Audit:** Clerk Treasurer Berg reported that it doesn't look like the Village will be changing the structure, but the rates and minimums. The Clerk's Office will need time to review each account to ensure everything is correct for the April billing. She raised a concern about having sufficient time, in addition to their other office responsibilities. Trustee Baxter replied that any overtime needed to complete this project would be supported by the Board.

8. **Motion 121725-6 to approve the existing FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** None

9. **Motion 121725-7 to approve the cost of removing DPW-identified dead and potentially hazardous trees in the Village:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** This will also include a tree replacement plan for the Village.

10. **Motion 121725-8 to approve the September Financial Reports:** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** Harry Gutheil requested that these reports be attached to the agenda and made available online. Clerk-Treasurer Berg explained that, because the reports contain bank account information and specific personnel financial details, a redaction process would be required before they could be posted. She offered instead to include a Revenues and Expenditures report.

## 11. Old Business

a. **48 Harrison Avenue:** The lienholder of the property has stated they are not responsible. Trustee Baxter will follow up on the Letter of Condemnation from Building and Codes and contract bids for the Village to proceed. Mr. Whiting, the owner, thinks he had insurance and had received a check for \$180,000, but, due to his state of mind at the time, ripped it up. If he did that, hopefully it's still payable, and the Village can get the lender to cooperate, as it would cover the balance of his mortgage and the demolition. He has agreed for Attorney Nikas to access his records from the insurance company and the lender to see if there is money available to reimburse the Village, and is serving him an Authority of Consent.

b. **Water tank powerwashing and inspection - TABLED**

**Discussion:** Trustee Middleton reported that he has a couple of quotes, but he and Trustee Baxter have to do some research with DPW Supervisor Dubois.

c. **Motion 121725-9 to approve the \$3,668.92 payment for and move forward with the RISE project from General Fund Balance:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Middleton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Discussion:** This project will replace most of the DPW lighting to LED, DPW exterior and interior lighting, Pump House, Fire House, Water Treatment, Aquifer, Museum, and museum bathrooms.

- d. **Motion 121725-10 to approve North Country Janitorial for the cleaning of the Fire Department and Museum Floors for \$1,784.50:** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.  
**Discussion:** None

## 12. New Business

- a. **Employee & Elected Official Travel & Training Policy - TABLED**  
**Discussion:** Trustee Middleton has been working on a Travel & Training Policy with Attorney Nikas and Deputy Clerk Treasurer Gollhofer. There are a few changes that need to be made.
- b. **Motion 121725-11 to approve the Annual Membership in the Saratoga County Highway Association for the DPW Supervisor (A 1640.410 - \$100.00):** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.  
**Discussion:** None

## 13. Trustee Reports

- **Motion 121725-12 to approve Suozzo Dody & Associates Proposal #25-098 Water Main Replacement for Tasks 01: Topographic and Utility Survey, 02: Subsurface Soils Investigation, and 03: Contract Documents, Permitting, and Opinion of Probable Cost for Baker Avenue for \$65,510.00 to be funded with PFAs Settlement monies:** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.  
**Discussion:** Trustee Baxter handed out Suozzo Dody & Associates Water Main Replacement - Baker Avenue Proposal for Board approval. This proposal covers the design phase of the project, which will make it "project-ready" for implementation. Suozzo Dody can prepare the DOH-approved plans necessary for the grant process that the Board agreed will fund the rest of the project.

## 14. Mayor's Report: None.

15. **Motion 121725-13 to end the Regular Village Board Meeting at 8:13 pm and enter into Executive Session for PBA Negotiations, Grievance, Fire Dept Contract, Possible litigation:** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Mayor Orlow left after the Regular Village Board Meeting at 8:13 pm and did not attend the Executive Session.**

16. **Motion 121725-14 to adjourn the executive session at 9:19 pm and enter the regular session with no action taken:** Trustee Middleton motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

17. **Motion 121725-15 to create a committee of two Board members for Fire Company Negotiations, Trustee Middleton and Trustee Carota, to be empowered to bargain on all negotiations on behalf of the Village with the Fire Company Representatives and their Attorney:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.  
**Discussion:** None.

- 18. Motion 121725-16 to have the Police Committee (Trustee Baxter and Trustee Carota) to be empowered to bargain on all negotiations on behalf of the Village with the Police Union Representatives and their Attorney:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Comstock seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- 19. Motion 121725-17 to adjourn the Regular Village Board Meeting at 9:25 pm:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Baxter seconded. All in favor, motion passed.