

## **Village Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting**

**February 9, 2026**

**The monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was held on the 9th of February 2026 at 7:00 PM, in the Auditorium of the Snow Memorial Building, 4917 North Jefferson Street, Pulaski, NY 13142.**

Members Present: Jeffrey Fowler, Mayor; Melissa Wadkinson, Deputy Mayor; Shale Holmes, Trustee; Jan Tighe, Trustee; and Devon Fetzer, Trustee.

Absent: None

Village Staff/Officials in Attendance: Catherine Spinney, Village Clerk/Treasurer; Jennifer Gibbs, Deputy Clerk; and Jim Sprague, Code Enforcement.

Guests: Tricia Hax, Karl Hax, Tim Crouch, Eric Pappa, and Larry Atkinson.

Agenda Item #1: Mayor Jeffrey Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

Tricia Hax and Karl Hax followed up on the proposal to update the village zoning to allow chickens within the Village

Agenda Item #3: Report from the Tug Hill Circuit Rider

Heidi Tompkins dropped off the February 2026 North Shore and Salmon Rivers Council of Governments Monthly Bulletin before the meeting for the board members. There will be a Salmon River Council of Governments meeting on Wednesday February 25, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the Snow Memorial Building.

Agenda Item #4: Haldane & Comprehensive Plan Minutes

Haldane advisory board minutes and the Comprehensive Planning/Energy Board minutes for January 2026 were not available because there was not a meeting. There was a Comprehensive Planning Board meeting on February 5, 2026. The minutes will be available at the next regular meeting. The Comprehensive Planning Board meets the first Thursday of the month.

Agenda Item #5: Approval of November, December 2025, & January 12, 2026, Minutes

Jan Tighe made the motion to accept the minutes of November 10, 2025. Melissa Wadkinson seconded the motion, and it passed with Jeffrey Fowler, Jan Tighe and Melissa Wadkinson voting yes and Shale Holmes and Devon Fetzer abstaining.

Jan Tighe made the motion to accept the minutes of November 14, 2025. Melissa Wadkinson seconded the motion, and it passed with Jeffrey Fowler, Jan Tighe and Melissa Wadkinson voting yes and Shale Holmes and Devon Fezter abstaining.

Melissa Wadkinson made the motion to accept the minutes of December 1, 2025, Jan Tighe seconded the motion, and it passed with Jeffrey Fowler, Melissa Wadkinson, Jan Tighe and Shale Holmes voting yes. Devon Fezter abstained.

Melissa Wadkinson made the motion to accept the minutes of December 22, 2025, Jan Tighe seconded the motion, and it passed with Jeffrey Fowler, Melissa Wadkinson, Jan Tighe and Shale Holmes voting yes. Devon Fezter abstained.

Devon Fezter made the motion to accept the minutes from January 12, 2026.

Jan Tighe requested that the minutes be corrected to note the IMA with the Town of Richland referenced in agenda item #11D regarding water sharing. Shale Holmes seconded the motion, and it passed with Jeffrey Fowler, Shale Holmes, Jan Tighe and Devon Fetzer voted yes. Melissa Wadkinson abstained.

It was also noted that the names and titles should be corrected on December 1, December 22, and January 12, 2026, to read; Jeffrey Fowler as Mayor, Melissa Wadkinson as Deputy Mayor, and Jan Tighe as Trustee.

#### Agenda Item #6: Staff Reports

Jan Tighe made the motion to approve the Code, DPW and Police reports. It was noted that there hasn't been activity for the enforcement officer. Jim Sprague, the current Code Enforcement Officer, thanked the Board for the opportunity to be of service to the Village while John Howland was out. The Board thanked him. There was no discussion on the Police or DPW reports. Melissa Wadkinson seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

#### Agenda Item #7: General Capital and TA Vouchers

The motion to approve the abstracts for the Main Street Project (\$88,160.25), TA/Payroll (\$1,521.73), and the General Fund (\$34,748.11) was made by Jan Tighe. The Main Street/Anchor Project voucher was for progress made on the property at 4817-19 Salina Street. Melissa Wadkinson seconded the motion.

Jim Sprague let the Board know that Jacob Ponzi of Last Chance Ministries was interested in purchasing the Congregational Church and has been it cleaning up. Mr. Ponzi mentioned that he would address the Board at the next regular meeting on March 9, 2026.

#### Agenda Item #8: January 2025 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was tabled.

## Agenda Item #9: Old Business

- a. The Village trifold has been updated. The Village would like to send a copy of these with the taxes June 1, 2026. The three changes the Board requested were 1.) rewording the bullet point about nonprofits requesting to post information on the South Park Sign, 2.) adding “objects” to the line under the Med-Safe Medication Drop-Off regarding not putting sharps in the box, and making a note that the non-emergency phone number for the police will roll over to 911 if not answered.
- b. The review of the building permit fees was tabled.
- c. The Board will review, update, amend and implement Chapter 26, Article II of the Village Code, Rental Registry Law. There will be an inspection schedule, including fire and safety, progressive penalties, and fees attached for both short-term and long-term rentals.
- d. Jeffrey Fowler and Jan Tighe met with representatives of the Town of Richland to discuss the water bill the Village received from the Town for their help with the water supply while the Village water tank was undergoing regular maintenance and working on a draft of a 5-year intermunicipal agreement (IMA) for emergency water sharing. The Town of Richland representatives proposed 3-day emergency water supply for free, then \$4.50/1,000 gallons thereafter. This draft, if approved by the Village and Town, will be renegotiated every five years. The Town Board will vote on this at their next Board meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2026. The motion to allow Mayor Jeffrey Fowler and DPW Supervisor Dustin Wood to sign the pending agreement for the Village of Pulaski, if the Town of Richland passes the IMA within the perimeters listed above, was made by Jan Tighe. Melissa Wadkinson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Eric Pappa made the point that this help is not a guarantee against a boil water advisory if the Oswego County Health Department determines it is necessary.
- e. The Board revisited the Subdivision of Land Law proposed and passed earlier this year because there were some open questions about drainage requirements, density ratios, and the SEQR was not complete. A motion to complete SEQR parts 1 and 2 and hold a public hearing at the next regular meeting was made by Jan Tighe and seconded by Melissa Wadkinson. The motion passed with all in favor.
- f. Jeffrey Folwer presented the employer contribution annual rates 2026 and 2027 for the Police and Fire Retirement System at the Tier 6 level. The Village Police Department is currently on the Tier 2 Career Plan. The Tier 6 20-year allows members in the listed plans to retire under an age-based plan at age 55 without age reduction. The 2026 plan would have an estimated total of \$46,451.02 including a retrospective payment, due by May 2026, of \$21,049.00 if approved by the Board by March 31, 2026. The 2027 plan payment would have an estimate cost of \$53,663.79. The Village will look at the 2026-2027 budget and revisit the change next meeting.
- g. The Atlantic Legal States will be holding their third meeting this Thursday February 12, 2026, to do the final mark-up of the locations of the 73 trees that will be planted this

spring. This was possible with a grant. The plants will be planted with the help of volunteers including the Village Tree Committee.

#### Agenda Item #11: New Business

- a. The board tabled the decision to adopt the drive at the Haldane Center to gather more information.
- b. The Board received and began reviewing the village employee handbook and will come back with suggestions at the next meeting.
- c. Police Officer Kathrine Burnham presented to the Board her argument for why the police department should adopt the Tier 6 retirement program including the stresses of the job and competitive benefits compared to other police departments.

#### Agenda Item #11: Other

The Board expressed gratitude to those residents who are helping their neighbors remove snow from the sidewalks during this difficult winter.

#### Agenda Item #12: Executive Session/Adjournment

Melissa Wadkinson made the motion to go into executive session at 7:55 PM to discuss the promotion of personnel. Jan Tighe seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Melissa Wadkinson made the motion to go out of executive session at 8:07 PM with a second from Jan Tighe. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to approve a raise for Maddox Sprague to \$20.00/hour with a one-time retrospective payment of \$576.00 to compensate him for the difference since January 1, 2026, was made by Jan Tighe and seconded by Melissa Wadinson. The motion passed with all in favor.

Presented & Approved

Jennifer Gibbs

Deputy Clerk