

THE RUSHVILLE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

August 11, 2025

DATE: 8/11/25

TIME: 7:00pm

PLACE: The Rushville Village Hall

PRESENT: Mayor Art Rilands, Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton, Trustee Doug Rigby, Trustee Cheryl Hilton-Vadner, Trustee Chandra Gilman, Clerk Jeannie Kesel, Code Officer Tim Pagel, Public Works Supervisor Neal Curtis, Fire Chief Jim Adams

Approximately 10 people attended the meeting (sign in sheet available at the Village Office)

The Mayor called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 pm

RE: Salute to the Flag:

The Mayor asked everyone to rise and join in the Pledge to the Flag.

RE: Approval of Minutes:

The Mayor asked the Trustees if they had any corrections to the board minutes from the July 14, 2025 Board meeting. Trustee Doug Rigby made a motion to approve the July 14, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Trustee Chandra Gilman made a 2nd to the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

The Mayor asked the Trustees if they had any corrections to the board minutes from the July 17, 2025 Public Hearing on Land Annexation meeting. Trustee Chandra Gilman made a motion to approve the July 17, 2025 Public Hearing on Land Annexation minutes with a correction. Trustee Doug Rigby made a 2nd to the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

RE: Public Comments:

- Lyn Magill, President and Joann LeClair, Co-Secretary of the Library presented two candidate names to fill open board seats.
- Laurie Adams – she is an author of children books, teaches creative writing at Keuka College, taught language arts for 26 years in Connecticut and is involved with the fire department.
- Jennifer Hubbard – she is a teacher's aide at the Marcus Whitman Middle School, runs book clubs, helps with summer camps and winter clubs and is involved with the band boosters.
- Both Laurie and Jennifer compliment the direction of the library and have good fund-raising ideas.

Trustee Chandra Gilman made a motion to approve Laurie Adams and Jennifer Hubbard to fill the open seats on the Mabel D. Blodgett Library. Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton made a 2nd to the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

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RE: Mayor's Report:

- The Mayor said the village received a notice of award for a \$50,000 grant for the infiltration and inflow improvements study. We have to let EFC know by August 29th about acceptance of the grant. We will be working with MRB. Trustee Chandra Gilman asked what amount the Village would have to put in for this grant. Art said the Village did not have to put in anything for this grant.

Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton made a motion to accept the \$50,000 grant for the infiltration flow study. A second was received from Trustee Doug Rigby. The motion unanimously carried.

- The Mayor contacted David McNight, the Rochester lawyer, Erica Masler, our Syracuse lawyer, and Jeff Graff and they cannot handle the Notice of Claim. They do not do litigation. Jeff gave us the name of Stacey Trien from Adams & LeClair about possibly representing the Village for the Notice of Claim. Art will reach out to Stacey and see if her firm will represent the Village. The Village has 90 days to respond to the Notice of Claim. Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton asked if the Village had insurance to cover the claim. Art said he spoke to our insurance representatives and because the claim has the word "contamination" in it, it is not covered under the Village's policy. The Village has liability insurance for board members. Art mentioned that all board members were listed in the Notice of Claim. Erica Masler did not feel that Jim Liebel has any grounds for this claim. DEC closed the environmental claim on contamination on the property out back in December of 2024. Art said that Jeannie found in the file an Inspection and Environmental Audit Waiver that Jim Liebel electronically signed on March 25, 2020. Art did go to the County Legislature meeting today. There was a list of properties that will be up for tax sale on August 26th. Jim Liebel's property was on that list.
- If anyone has comments on the new proposed zoning law, please get them to Linda Philips by the end of August so we can keep the process moving.
- Matt Tett, Stork Insurance, presented the new insurance policy. It has an 8% increase. Matt shopped around for the best price. Renewal starts September 1st.

Trustee Doug Rigby made a motion to accept the insurance proposal from Stork Insurance for \$33,356.06 for the renewal. Trustee Cheryl Hilton-Vadner made a second. The motion unanimously carried.

- We have not heard anything from DOH on the expensive water test for the water plant upgrade project. Art sent MRB an email and DOH works at their own speed.
- The intermunicipal agreement (IMA) – that is between the Village and the Town of Gorham would allow the Village to buy water from the Town of Gorham if there was an emergency at our water plant and the Village cannot produce their own water. The IMA is at the lawyers.

RE: Deputy Mayor's Report:

- None

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RE: Public Works Supervisor:

Streets:

- We are in the process of replacing a rotted culvert on Chapel Street. We are planning on paving Rubin Drive and part of Chapel Street on the 21st.

Water:

- I have been updating the Lead Service Line Inventory as I receive updates from the residents. We installed a new meter pit for the service at 295 Route 247, as the previous one was flooded and was not operable. We assisted Middlesex with a water main break last week. We began testing for HABS last Monday and will continue to do so weekly until probably October, or until DOH says we are good to stop.

Sewer:

- We received a new pump that was ordered for the sewer plant, so we now have backups for all lift pumps.

Miscellaneous:

- We completed the piping and installed the pedestal with a drinking fountain and hose bib next to the pavilion in the park. We also got a pad poured for a new bench, that was donated by the Lyons Club. The bench will get installed next week. Assisted Dave in getting the beams set for the new bridge. I called Spectrum out to repair their wire that was pulling off the front of the building, which led to them removing some equipment in the basement, after which there were some things that weren't working. Shane, our IT guy, came out and got everything back online.

RE: Fire Report:

- Chief Adams' report is attached.
- Jim said that July was an extremely busy month.

RE: Code Enforcement Officer:

- Issue Permits
- Inspection of projects in progress
- Training via Webinars
- Working with Canandaigua National to clean-up 9 Chapel Street. CNB has agreed to a meeting, date yet to be determined, regarding the path forward to resolving this matter.
- Working with Linda Philips on proposed zoning law. In order to keep this project moving forward, we need to have all comments to Linda by August 29, 2025.
- Reviewing new DEC regulations on building in the flood plain.
- Working with Beardsley Engineering Group on the Keuka Housing Project
- The cost for the bins for cleanup day was \$1,000.

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- Eric Lundquist from Document Reprocessing says he has a potential buyer for part of the building.
- The zoning code books should arrive in September. The cost is \$1,200 plus \$60 for shipping.

RE: Clerk:

- Jeannie followed up to the board regarding death certificates – the Town of Gorham and the Town of Potter each produce 20 plus death certificates each year.
- Jeannie said 2 village residents came in to inquire when the playground equipment would be installed in the park per the drawing presented at the comprehensive plan meeting. I suggested that they could reach out to any board member to get that answer.

RE: Bills:

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Trustee Cheryl Hilton-Vadner to authorize payment of the General bills in the amount of \$13,873.15. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Hilton-Vadner and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby to authorize the payment of the Cemetery bills in the amount of \$466.57. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Deputy Karen Gorton to authorize the payment of the Water bills in the amount of \$8,163.43. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Trustee Chandra Gilman to authorize the payment of the Sewer bills in the amount of \$33,303.69. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Cheryl Hilton-Vadner and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby to authorize the payment of the Capital Project bills in the amount of \$1,709.00. The motion was unanimously carried.

RE: Public Comments:

- Trustee Chandra Gilman wanted to remind everyone that the Yates County Household Hazardous Waste collection is September 13th and you have to preregister.
- Trustee Cheryl Hilton-Vadner wanted to update the board on the park dedication. It will be September 27, 2025 at 11:30 am. She said the board needs to pick a name for the park. Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton said a list of potential names will be presented at the September board meeting. She said that Dave LeClair has supplied a list of people who have helped with the park who should be invited to the dedication.

A motion to adjourn the meeting and to go into Executive Session was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton. The motion was unanimously passed. Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

A motion to open back up the Board Meeting was made by Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby at 8:15 pm. The motion was unanimously passed.

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A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby to litigate the Notice of Claim. It was seconded by Deputy Karen Gorton. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept Neal Curtis' letter of resignation was made by Trustee Chandra Gilman. Trustee Doug Rigby made a second. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion to hire Art Rilands in an emergency/limited basis at the rate of \$35.00 per hour was made by Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton and seconded by Trustee Cheryl Hilton-Vadner. Trustee Chandra Gilman abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Chandra Gilman and seconded by Deputy Mayor Karen Gorton. The motion was unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Kesel, Clerk/Treasurer