Village of Herkimer
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, October 19, 2026 Minutes
6:00 P.M. in Municipal Hall

6:00 P.M. the **Meeting** was called to order by Mayor Jory and roll call was taken

PRESENT:	Mayor Mike Jory	Deputy Mayor Howard Quick
	Trustee Mark Ainsworth	Trustee Miriam Curry
	Trustee Erin Kelley	Attorney Joseph Macri

Department Heads Present: Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Paula Dygert, Police Chief Richard Bowman, Fire Chief Mike Spisak, DPW Superintendent Justin Cristman, Water Superintendent Matt Spisak, Codes Enforcement Officer Steve Gay, Village Clerk JoAnn Duga.

Public Present: 16 (4 were Herkimer High School Seniors).

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Mike Jory.

A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick all in favor to move into Executive Session @ 6:02 PM to discuss 3A., 7A., 7C., 8B.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Trustee Ainsworth, all in favor to exit the Executive Session at 6:44PM.

Mayor Jory recognized the four Herkimer High School seniors who were in attendance and asked them to stand, say their name and their reason for attending which they did.

At this time Mayor Jory opened the Public Meeting.

2. PUBLIC MEETING

Jeff Ball of First Ave., Herkimer – Mr. Ball spoke about the home at 117 First Ave. (a dead-end street with several homes belonging to long-time residents) that was recently purchased by an out-of-town investor. This new homeowner let five families including children live there which included a registered sex offender. The sex offender has since been removed due to complaints. Mr. Ball stated that each family does not have their own bathroom, kitchen areas and with housing subsidies this is not allowed each family must have their own private areas. Mr. Ball would like to see a moratorium against out-of-town investors. Mr. Ball stated that he believes that rent is being provided by RCIL and/or RISE.

Response from Attorney Macri: a moratorium would be difficult, suggested instead work through Codes and Local Law.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Quick seconded by Trustee Kelley and all in favor to close the Public Hearing session at 6:57 pm.

3. PERSONNEL

3A. Appointment of Heather Bannister to Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer.

A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick all in favor to approve the appointment of Heather Bannister as Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer at a yearly stipend of $2,500.00.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

4A. Catholic Charities – Lawn Sign Request signifying Domestic Violence Month.

Mayor Jory has been in contact with Mary Spenfelner and she is aware of the current village laws regarding lawn signs. This request is allowed as long as all village laws are adhered to.

5. RESOLUTIONS AND LOCAL LAWS

5A. Resolution #27-11 Treasurer to increase 2026-2027 General Fund Budget $6,016.49 for funds received from the FEMA Fire Grant this money is reimbursed from the grant when submitted.

A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Trustee Curry all in favor to approve Resolution #27-11.

5B. Local Law #3 of 2026 Temporary 6-month Moratorium on Convenience Stores or Smoke Shops.

A Public Hearing will be held on November 2, 2026 regarding this law.

5C. Local Law #4 of 2026 Residency Requirement for Certain Village Officers.

A Public Hearing will be held on November 2, 2026 regarding this law.

6. REPORTS

6.A. Attorney Report – Information received from Financial Advisors regarding BAN (approved at the last VB meeting) that is being completed. Work done on Local Laws # 3 and 4 of 2026. Working with Chief Bowman regarding an old FOIL request.

A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick all in favor to accept the Attorney Report.

6.B. Department Reports

Codes Officer Steve Gay – 117 First Ave. not illegal per the current zoning laws. Some things needed to be corrected but basically, it's not too bad inside. Chatter heard about 150-152 N. Main St. told Justin to go there and pick it up and get rid of it. That building is not abandoned. Issue on 2 Gordon Ave. has been corrected only one unregistered vehicle there given time until next month (November) then another discussion will happen. Illegal shed at 416 N. Main will be taken down by Justin with a bucket loader.

DPW Justin Cristman – Began leaf pick up today and will continue once a week covering the whole village until the snow flies. November 9th last date for Spohn's to pick up green waste.

Police Chief Richard Bowman – None.

Fire Chief Michael Spisak – Dept. Report submitted. Responded to 179 calls 142 were medical related.

Water/Sewer Dept Matt Spisak – Reported on the last couple of weeks hydrant flushing throughout the village. Started the lead and copper sample testing, working with residents by dropping off sample bottles and then picking them back up weekly. Cleaned wet wells up north, replaced chlorine lines. Closed and winterized the village pool. 19 service calls plus standard weekly jobs.

6C. Trustees' Reports - None

Mayor's Report – None

6 D. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – 10/5/2026

A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick all in favor to approve the VB Regular meeting minutes of October 5, 2026.

6 E. Special Village Board Meeting Minutes – 10/14/2026

A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Trustee Ainsworth all in favor to approve the **amended** October 14, 2026 minutes. Amendments to include yes vote number from 3 to 4 and to state reason for Trustee Ainsworth's abstention to include that he is not opposed to raises but is worried where the money will come from to pay for these raises.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.A. Office Personnel – Had a discussion with a part-time office staff member to adjust her scheduled hours and provide her with 7 ½ hrs. of PTO per month not to be sold back or carried over going forward. That MOU will be put together and presented to her for approval at that time.

A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Trustee Kelley all in favor of this plan.

7.B. Loaves & Fishes Warming Center – Mayor Jory feels more investigation is needed to interpret the definition of residence completely and include Attorney Macri's office for assistance.

A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick all in favor to table this discussion at this time.

7C. Fire Department Negotiations – The fire department union president was invited to discuss their contract with the village board. There are more questions to be addressed before a decision can be made. The board asked for another meeting with the fire department contract committee next Tuesday, October 27th at 5:00 pm and will then have a Special Village Board Meeting to follow at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Trustee Kelley all in favor to table this decision with the Fire Department until next Tuesday.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. New desktop for the Village Clerk's office using ARPA grant money.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Quick seconded by Trustee Curry all in favor to have IT Brian order that desktop computer.

8B. New IT Service and Computer Repair company search.

Trustee Kelley will research possible companies and get quotes to discuss a contract.

9. BI-WEEKLY AUDIT

General Fund	$ 80,458.32
Water Fund	$ 22,972.73
Sewer Fund	$ 20,466.59
Capital Projects	$1,360,955.16
GL	$ 50.00

A motion to approve the audit was made by Deputy Mayor Quick and seconded by Trustee Curry all in favor.

A motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm the meeting was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Trustee Kelley all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by

JoAnn Duga, Herkimer Village Clerk