# Village of Herkimer
# Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
# Monday, October 5, 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**: Deputy 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:** 10

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

**VILLAGE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Trustee Ainsworth all in favor to approve the VB Regular meeting minutes of September 21, 2026.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick all in favor to enter Executive Session at 6:10 pm to discuss 7B Library Litigation and 7C Negotiation of Contracts.**

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick, all in favor to exit the Executive Session at 6:14 pm.**

**2. PUBLIC MEETING**

Yvonne Winter of 420 Margaret St. – Inquiring about the progress to have the pillar repaired at Brookwood Park. DPW Superintendent Cristman stated that repairs have not gone as previous stated. A bid was rec'd and not accepted by the business that hit the pillar, no one else has been found to place a bid at this time. The Village Board has been kept apprized of the situation and this is a work in progress to have those repairs completed. A police report was done at the time of the accident. Ms. Winter also asked about the code request she made regarding several vehicles on the front lawn of the property at the corner of Gordon & Willow Ave. Codes Enforcement Officer Steve Gay has notified the residents and they have 15 days to take action to clean things up.

Monica (? last name) of 315 Margaret Street. Inquired about holiday events like a tree lighting, Menorah, Nativity, tree selling, tree decoration contest possibly held at Myers Park. Trustee Curry suggested that she remain after the VB meeting for the Village Recreation Committee Meeting to discuss and get involved. Mayor Jory also spoke of his support and stated that she may want to join the committee.

**A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Trustee Kelley all in favor to close the Public Meeting.**

**3. PERSONNEL**

**3A.** The VB has been in discussions regarding Paula Dygert's change from Deputy Village Treasurer to Village Treasurer. Paula has accepted that proposal.

**A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Trustee Curry all in favor to approve the above personnel appointment.**

**5. RESOLUTIONS AND LOCAL LAWS**

**5A.** Resolution # 27-10 in the amount of $ 3,591.33 for DPW transmission repairs. Increasing the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget using ARPA Funds.

**A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Deputy Mayor Quick all in favor to approve this request.**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.A. Attorney Report** – Attorney Joseph Macri sent a letter with help from Codes Enforcement Officer Gay to a resident regarding a tree dispute. Conference later this week regarding the water project.

**6.B. Department Reports**

**Codes Officer Steve Gay** – Nothing new to report.

**DPW Justin Cristman** – Spohn's green waste pickup goes until November 9th. Village leaf pickup every Monday begins Monday, October 19th and all village streets are covered. Still working on repairs needed to pillar at Brookwood Park will submit strong response if needed.

**Police Chief Richard Bowman** – Report submitted. Noted that Arrests and Tickets are down due to short staffing.

**Fire Chief Michael Spisak –** Report submitted. Nothing else to report.

**Water/Sewer Dept Matt Spisak** – Hydrant flushing begins tonight from 9 pm to 1 am starting on German Street. National Grid installed new power to the sewer plant. The new generator was put on-line and tested.

**Trustees' Reports** – Deputy Mayor Quick spoke about the charging station behind the library which was out of contract in 2022. In essence since 2017 the village has been paying for people to charge their car there. It is now no longer in use and has been shut down. It was noted that there are 6 new docking stations behind the Town Office that can be used.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7.A. Change to Zoning Codes –** Codes Officer Gay in 2023 presented proposals. Nothing completed, it is now with the Macri law offices who is working on them at this time.

**7.B. Library –** In Executive session an offer was given to Attorney Macri to present to the library's attorney for negotiations.

**7C. Office Personnel –** Working with a part-time office employee putting together a benefits package and scheduling.

**7D. 115 North Main St. Property –** Project has been completed, the new grass looks great, a new fence will be installed, daily working on the financial bookkeeping side with the state and vendors. Macri law office will investigate the village's obligations and direction going forward as how it needs to be used, owned, etc.

**7E. Bellinger Brook –** Resilience Project was applied for several years ago – Meeting Thursday to discuss the second phase of this project and get more information to share.

**7F., 7G., 7H. Contract Negations –** Will go back into Executive Session at the end of this meeting.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. Notice of Claim –** A claim was received against the village about treatment received while in the Village. That has been turned over to the attorney and insurance carrier who will handle this claim.

**8B. Loaves and Fishes–** Requests permission to open in the village during November and December at the 209 N. Main St. location owned by Sandy Rotunda. There will be lockers, showers, beds for overnight sleeping 8:00 pm to 8:00 am, receiving food, water, supplies, clothing and laundry services. LL #8 of 2022 and Zoning Ordinance of 1974 of makes it currently not zoned for this request, to allow, they would have to work with the ZBA and a Special Permit will be needed. No decision made at this time the board will discuss with codes and the PD and Loaves and Fishes will be contacted.

**8C. Water BAN –** Village is delinquent on some water payments Macri law office to create a BAN to pay the arrears plus the next payment that will be due. These payments are totally 100% reimbursed with interest and attorney fees when the project has been completed.

**A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Quick seconded by Trustee Curry all in favor to approve the Macri law office to put together this BAN.**

**9. BANK RECONCILIATION** –

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

**A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Quick and seconded by Trustee Kelley all in favor to approve the August 2026 Bank Reconciliations.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Trustee Kelley all in favor to go back into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 6:45 pm.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Ainsworth seconded by Trustee Curry all in favor to exit Executive Session at 7:39 pm.**

Mayor Jory announced that progress was made regarding the contract negotiations. Meetings will be held with all union representatives this week and have a special meeting next Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm to hopefully close all three contracts in one meeting.

**A motion was made by Trustee Curry seconded by Trustee Ainsworth all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by JoAnn Duga Village Clerk**