

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 18, 2026

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on June 18, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. in the Village of Liberty, 167 North Main Street, Liberty, NY. Mayor Joan Stoddard opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Joan Stoddard, Deputy Mayor/Trustee Robert Mir, Trustee Ernest Feasel, Trustee Eveleese Lake and Trustee Jayneen Mills. Also Present: Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village, and Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer.

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Steven D'Agata, David Burke; Water Department, Dan Fagnani; Delaware Engineering, Brenda M. Petro, Cathy Perno, Elizabeth Montag, Joseph Ghodsi, Rabbi Rabinowitz, Joseph Lansing, Members of the Liberty Police Department, Family Members of Police Officer Ryan Chous and Family members of Matthey O'Keefe.

RECOGNATION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

Mayor Stoddard administered the Oath of Office to the department's newest officer, Officer Ryan Chous. Officer Ryan Chous received his badge and took the oath. He recently completed the Police Academy and earned the Director's Award.

Officer O'Keefe was presented with the Exceptional Service Award, which honored his role in a February investigation involving a missing 14-year-old youth. His investigative skills resulted in the safe recovery of the youth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving the following minutes:

❖ WORKSESSION MEETING - MAY 21, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Stoddard said the Village received the following correspondence during this time frame.

- ❖ Report from Liberty PD – Utility Problems
- ❖ Letter from NYSDOT Re: Resurfacing 6.3.26
- ❖ Letter from No Limit Land Holdings – Re: 51 Sullivan Avenue

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to public comment.

Cathy Perno, Elizabeth Montag and Brenda Petro (Wawanda Avenue Residents) presented a Petition to the Village Board regarding the late-night soccer games that are being played in the R-2 High Density Residential area near their homes.

They complained of the loud microphones/speakers, lights and the parking up and down the street that they feel impede traffic in the area.

They asked the Board to ensure that the people in charge of the games are following all the zoning codes, special use permits, proper parking and traffic control.

The petition is annexed under Exhibit A.

Joseph Lansing spoke about the parking issue that arises from the soccer games.

Mayor Stoddard read a letter from Terry Beimler that spoke in favor of the games, stating it appears to be a great activity for the people involved.

Both Mayor Stoddard and Police Chief D'Agata said they would review the matter to make sure all compliances are met.

Rabbi Rabinowitz (38 Lake Street) spoke to the Board about an issue he had with his utility bill as he had discovered a leak that he was not aware of which made two cycles of his bill extremely high. He asked for the Board's understanding in working with him on the cost of the bills.

Mayor Stoddard said there is very little they can do as the water went thru our sewer system. She told him to bring documentation to the Village for David Burke to review.

Joseph Ghodsi (Orchard Street) discussed a Sanitation issue with his property as well as the summons he had received regarding his sanitation. He explained the street is narrow, people park illegally and substantially the garbage truck cannot make it down the street. Due to this issue, he received a sanitation summons.

The Board asked him to email his request for dismissal of Code Violation along with any pictures he has so the matter can be reviewed.

The email is annexed in Exhibit B.

TABLED BUSINESS: DELAWARE ENGINEERING UPDATE

Delaware Engineering's Report is annexed under Exhibit C

EVENT PERMITS – UPDATE FROM POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief D'Agata said that the May event has been cancelled and that the July event is still being considered.

LAMAR ADVERTISING – BILLBOARD

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried approving the Agreement of Consent to erect and Maintain an Advertising Sign in the Village of Liberty by Lamar Advertising of Scranton (700 James Street).

The yearly lease fee will be \$2,000 and all insurance requirements must be met.

DISCUSSIONS ON ALTERNATE PARKING LOTS, PARKING METERS, SPEED LIMITS

Alternate Parking Lots

The Board will work on this issue over the summer so that it is ready for the Winter of 2026-27.

Parking Meters

Mayor Stoddard said she will be setting up an on-line demonstration with the company so the Board can receive more information on the meters to make an informed decision.

CONSIDER FUND BALANCE POLICY

Clerk-Treasurer Zurawski said she would try to put together a **Fund Balance Policy** after tax season for the Board to review.

NEW BUSINESS: CONSIDER MEDICAL/TAXI PERMITS

RESOL. # 30-2026: Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Mills and unanimously carried approving Resolution #30- 2026:

WHEREAS, the applications for taxicab licenses (also known as Taxicab permits, such terms being intended to describe the license or permit described as a taxicab permit in the definitions provision in Article 1, Section 75-1 of Chapter 75 of the Village Code), having been submitted by the attached taxi company's pursuant to the Village Code, such as Sections 75-1 75-1.1, and 75-2 of the Village of Liberty Village Code; and

WHEREAS, the Village Code provides that the existing taxicab permits expire annually on May 31; and

WHEREAS, all permits for taxicab licenses are due to expire June 1, 2026;

WHEREAS, twenty-one medical taxi license and two regular licenses has been reviewed by the Village of Liberty Police and is now pending before the Village Board; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Liberty hereby issues twenty-one medical taxicab permit (also known as a Medical Taxicab license) and two regular licenses for the annexed applicant (said taxicab license not to be confused with the taxicab driver's license issued under Article II of Chapter 75 of the Village Code); and be it further

RESOLVED, those for reference purposes, the license/permits are for:

AmeriCare Transportation	-	21 Medical Permits
We Care	-	Permits 1, 2

CONSIDER BANNER PERMIT

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the **Banner Permit** for the Liberty Farmers Market to cover the 2026 Summer Season.

The Farmers Market will run from June 21 until September 25 and is sponsored by the Catskill Mountain Keepers.

CONSIDER EVENT PERMIT – 09.26.26

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the **Event Permit** for the **5K – Dylan Dainack Memorial Run** to be held on **September 26, 2026**. This event will start and end at the corner of Darbee and Grant Street.

The 5K run is sponsored by Danielle D'Agata and Megan Hobby.

CONSIDER EVENT AND PARADE PERMIT – 07.04.26

Motion by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the **Event Permit** and **Parade Permit** for **July 4, 2026 Celebration** (Rain date July 5, 2026).

The Event will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., including a car show.

The parade will kick-off at 12 p.m. and start at the Liberty Elks and continue up Main Street, ending at the Liberty Elementary School.

The Event and Permit is sponsored by Liberty Rising and the Village of Liberty.

CONSIDER GOING OUT TO BID WITH TOWN OF LIBERTY FOR FUEL OIL, GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL

RESOL. # Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously
31-2026: carried approving Resolution #31-2026.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Liberty approves the joint fuel bid with the Town of Liberty;

WHEREAS, this bid is for fuel oil, gasoline; and diesel fuel;

WHEREAS, the bid will cover the period of September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027 and there will be a \$100 participation charge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Liberty Board of Trustees authorizes participation in the Joint Municipal Fuel Bid.

CONSIDER CDBG RESOLUTIONS

RESOL. # Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried
32-2026: approving Resolution #32-2026.

**RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE MAYOR AS THE CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR
 THE VILLAGE OF LIBERTY'S LAKE STREET AREA WATER SYSTEM
 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PHASE 2**

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approved to designate Mayor Stoddard as the Certifying Officer for the Village of Liberty's Lake Street Area Water System Improvements Project Phase 2 submitted as a CFA 2026 Public Infrastructure Application.

This resolution was put to a roll vote, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE MILLS	-	YES	
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES	

RESOL.# Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously
33-2026: carried approving Resolution #33-2026.

LAKE STREET AREA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS TO PROJECT PHASE 2

**COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LOW-AND MODERATE-INCOME
 PERSONS TO CONNECT TO THE VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM.**

WHEREAS, the Village of Liberty will apply to the NYS Office of Community Renewal Program Year 2026 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant via a Public Infrastructure application for the Lake Street Area Water System Improvements Project Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, the Village intends to assist persons of low and moderate income undertake public water system connections; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development annually establishes Low Income (80% of Median Family Income) income ceilings adjusted for family size; and

WHEREAS, the Village is committed to assist any persons qualifying as low and moderate income to undertake any new connections to the Village public water system;

WHEREAS, the Village is prepared to advertise the availability of assistance to person of low and moderate income to make new connections to the Village public water system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Liberty hereby commits to using Capital Reserve Fund monies to assist low- and moderate-income persons by providing grants to pay for proposed new public water connections within the Village of Liberty public water system. There is no expiration on this commitment.

This resolution was put to a roll vote, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE MILLS	-	YES	
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES	

RESOL.# Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried
34-2026: approving Resolution #34-2026.

**LAKE STREET WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PHASE 2
 CFA 2026 APPLICATION
 LOCAL FUNDING COMMITMENT**

WHEREAS, the Village of Liberty will apply to the NYS Office of Community Renewal Program Year 2026 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant via a Public Infrastructure application for its Lake State Area Water System Improvements Project Phase 2;

WHEREAS, the Village agrees to expend Village funds for the following line item:

Grant Administration \$60,000

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Liberty hereby commits \$60,000 of Village funds to the CFA 2026 Small Cities CDBG project.

This resolution was put to a roll vote, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES
TRUSTEE MIR	-	YES

TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE MILLS	-	YES	
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES	

A letter will be sent to Mr. Charles Philion, the Program Director for NYS Office of Community Renewal regarding the Village's commitment of \$60,000.

RESOL. # 35-2026: Motion by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving Resolution #35-2026.

Lake Street Area Water System Improvements Project Phase 2
CFA 2026 Application
SEQR Type II Action

WHEREAS, 6 NYCRR Section 617.5 (Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations) under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) provides that certain actions identified in subdivision (c) of that section are not subject to environmental review under the Environmental Conservation Law; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Liberty is proposing (1) continued replacement of watermain along Lake Street, continuing from the previous replacement work, (2) replacement of aging watermain, focusing on the Lake Street area, with the greatest risk or history of watermain breaks, oldest mains, or most undersized mains, (3) replacement of watermain in other parts of the southern section of the Village, potentially including Lake Street, West Lake Street, South Main Street, Carrier Street, Upper Ferndale Road, and nearby areas, (4) replacement of existing sanitary sewer mains in the vicinity of watermain replacement, as needed to improve separation distance or as needed due to anticipated or incidental damage during construction activities, and (5) possible well house improvements, including potential addition of telemetry equipment to communicate with the planned new PRV control valve on North End Avenue; and

WHEREAS, 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(1) identifies the "*maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility*", as a Type II action under SEQR and has been predetermined not to have a significant impact on the environment and is, therefore, precluded from environmental review under Environmental Conservation Law Article 8; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Lake Street Area Water System Improvements Project Phase 2 (CFA 2026 Application) does not meet or exceed any of the thresholds established in Section 617.4;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in consideration of the foregoing:

The Village of Liberty Board of Trustees hereby determines that the proposed "Project" is a Type II action and is, therefore, not subject to further review under 6 NYCRR Part 617.

CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE FOR 2026 CDBG PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving the letter to Program Director Charlie Phillion (New York State Office of Community Renewal) which states that the Village is willing to commit \$60,000 toward the 2026 CDBG Public Infrastructure application for its Lake Street Area Water System Improvements Project Phase 2.

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried affirming that the Village owns West Lake Street, Carrier Street, South Main Street and Upper Ferndale Road where we propose to undertake the Lake Street Area Water System Improvement Project Phase 2 through the Program Year 2026 CFA Small Cities Application.

REVIEW NOTICE FORM – LIBERTY CANNABIS LLC & ONDE LA CHILENA LC

The Board did not have comments on the renewals.

CONSIDER WWTP CHEMICAL BIDS/UV BULBS

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to go out to bid for Waste Water Treatment Chemicals for the period of August 1, 2026 thru July 31, 2027.

The bid opening will be Monday, July 13, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

CONSIDER WATER CHEMICAL BIDS

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to go out to bid for Water Treatment Chemicals for the period of August 1, 2026 thru July 31, 2027.

The bid opening will be Monday, July 13, 2026 at 11:15 a.m.

REVIEW AND PICK ENGINEER FOR LATEST CDBG PROJECT

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried appointing Delaware Engineering as the firm for Engineering Services for the 2026 CDBG Application.

This responding firm scored the highest and is the most highly qualified firm to provide the required services.

The firms that responded are:

Delaware Engineering P.D.C./Scoring 500
LaBella Associates/Scoring 450

DELAWARE ENGINEERING PROJECTS

SPDES

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to authorize Delaware Engineering to proceed with the SPDES Permit Renewal and Compliance Tasks 1 through 4, on a time and materials basis, with an initial amount of \$35,000, with the understanding that authorization of additional cost may be required.

ELM STREET WELL PIPING AND REMEDIATION

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to accept April 21, 2026 as the date of Substantial Completion for the Elm Street Well Piping Modifications and Hydrant Installation with final contract amount of \$84,800.

April 21, 2026 will serve as the start of the one-year maintenance bond period.

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to authorize Treasurer Zurawski to proceed to process Payment Application 1 (Final) for the General Contract No. VL1-G-26, for NGS Construction LLC for the period of March 11, 2026 through May 1, 2026 in the amount of \$84,800.

WWTP SECONDARY CLARIFIER VALVE REPAIR

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried authorizing Delaware Engineering to proceed with the engineering services for the Secondary Clarifier Repair at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried to authorize the Village Clerk to advertise for bidding of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Secondary Clarifier Value repair in the Village's official newspaper – Sullivan County Democrat.

HUDSON VALLEY FOODS (FORMERLY PEPSICO FACILITY)

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried authorizing the Village Attorney to develop an escrow agreement(s) with the owner/applicant for Village consideration, with an initial total deposit of \$70,000 (covering engineering review, contracting and environmental review services and Village Attorney Review services.

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried authorizing Mayor Stoddard to execute an agreement with Delaware Engineering D.P.C. once acceptable to the Village, to provide engineering review services, on a time and material basis, funded through the applicant's initial \$25,000 escrow account.

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried authorizing the Village Mayor to execute an agreement with Young/Summer LLC, once acceptable to the Village, to provide contracting with applicant coordination and environmental review services, on a time and material basis, funded through the applicants initial \$25,000 escrow deposit.

CONSIDER PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #4-2026

Motion by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to set a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6:55 p.m. to consider Local Law #4-2026, to amend Section 80-1 of the Village Code to reduce the speed limits on most Village streets to 25 miles per hour.

CONSIDER PERSONNEL HIRES & RATE INCREASE

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the following:

Jackalyn Litwak - Employee #356 - \$2.00 per hour increase

Sanitation New Hires:

Quincy Irby - Employee #376 - Laborer/\$22.47 per hour
Frank Salvemini - Employee #377 - M.E.O./\$25.18 per hour

TRUSTEE There were no comments from the Board
COMMENTS:

BILLS Post Audit Vouchers **FOR**

PAYMENT: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the payment of Post Audit Voucher #1011 to Voucher #1016 in the amount of \$377,155.82.

Vouchers for Payment

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the payment of Voucher #1 to Voucher #85 in the amount of \$309,934.38.

EXECUTIVE Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried
SESSION: to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried to
come out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURN: Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried
to adjourn the meeting.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:25 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JUDY H. ZURAWSKI, CLERK-TREASURER