

REGULAR MEETING

June 12, 2025

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on June 12, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town of Liberty Senior Center, 119 North Main Street, Liberty, 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: Steven D'Agata, Police Chief; Stefanie Kellam, Patricia Kellam, Dan Ratner Sr., Lois Weinstein, Jean Dermer, Tami Van Leuven, Barbara Ramirez, Tina Tomkins, David Burke, Dara Williams, Teri Beimler, Sara Alvarez, Luis Alvarez, Town Supervisor, Frank DeMayo; Town Councilpersons Dean Farrand and Bruce Davidson, Nick Tsicalos, Annette Kasofsky, Larry Kurtz, Irina Kurtz, Maureen Stabak, Maureen Crescitelli, Sal Crescitelli, Doreen Shafarsky, Daniel Shafarsky, Dina Jester, Lee Cogswell, Patrick Galloway, Pamela Otero, Daniel DiVita, Janet Bennett, Judith Jean-Francois, Donald Bennett, Russell Reeves, Yoriko Cherry, Dan Fagnani, Delaware Engineering; Etta Barbanti, Jennifer Dunkan, Janet LeRoy, John DeCastro, Leslie Houser, Mary O'Shea, Peter Racette, Eric Liepens, Janet Martinkovic, Jean Dittmar, Susan Hamlin and Susan Curry as well as other Village Residents.

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

❖ **WORKSESSION MEETING - May 15, 2025**

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

- Letter from E. Montag Re: Noble Street

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Before Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to the public, she made a statement which attributed the tax hike to large increases the Village is facing in this new fiscal year, which include as follows:

Workers Comp Insurance	-	Increase over 20%
ERS and PFRS	-	Increase over 20%
Health Insurance	-	Increase over 25%
Sanitation disposal	-	Increase of 25%

In addition to these expenses, the Village had been faced with garbage truck mechanical difficulties and water and sewer mains that are consistently breaking.

Mayor Stoddard went on to explain that the Village, in the past, had a larger fund balance to help balance the budget and that expenditures have not increased.

She also explained that we are one of two Village in the whole state that are not made whole by the County they are in, which causes stress to the Village with the uncollected taxes. In addition to this issue, the County no longer includes the village in their tax foreclosure process.

Mayor Stoddard reminded the public that everyone on the Board is subject to the same increase and they will feel the hurt as well.

She explained that these increases come from the County and State level and she would like to see the Village residents attend the County Legislator Meetings to advocate for themselves and the Village.

Comments from the Public:

Sal Cresitelli (2 Green Lane) asked where the Village stood on installing parking meters for additional revenue.

Mayor Stoddard said they are researching and working on this matter.

Judith Francois (18 Delaware Avenue) discussed the condition of the roads, especially North Main Street and Delaware.

Nelson Mercado (49 Dwyer Avenue) said he is living around roosters, chickens, loose dogs and brown water. He also complained about excessive car speeds on his street.

Larry Kurtz (80 Dwyer Avenue) expressed his concern about the new bus route.

It was explained to him this is temporary until the Chestnut Street project is completed.

Terry Beimler (4 Dalton Avenue) thanked the Board for their service, stating she knows it is a thankless job. She spoke about the garbage, recycling issue and asked the Boards thoughts on continuing to do both.

Mayor Stoddard said they are currently in discussions with the County as to whether both should continue.

Terry also volunteered to be on a committee to work on issues that could benefit the Village.

Peter Racette (4 Delaware Avenue) asked if the Village would benefit from a Part Time Village Manager. He also volunteered to sit on a committee.

Lois Weinstein asked if Public Hearing dates can be sent out via text alerts.

Mayor Stoddard reminded everyone, that except for the summer months, the Board meets the First and Third Thursday of every month. The summer schedule is the third Thursday of the month.

Pamea Piure-Otero (83 Lake Street) discussed the Knights Inn, the Department of Social Services involvement and the possibility of holding the County accountable for the services the Village provides.

Mayor Stoddard said that Police Chief D'Agata, as well as herself have been attending County Legislator meetings to advocate for the Village regarding this matter.

County Legislator Luis Alvarez discussed the issues and the County involvement stating he will drop off flyers in the Village Office for people to review. He also said he would look into the Sanitation issues for the Village.

Jennifer Dunkan said she is homeless and she was grateful for the warming center this winter, which included a bed and a couple of hot meals. She asked the Board to consider public restrooms for everyone to use.

Several Pinehurst Drive residents expressed their displeasure with the condition of the street.

Janet Martinkovic (43 Eagle Drive) suggested the Village cut back on the amount of Police they employ and rely more on the State Police.

Tami VanLeuvan (Business Owner) expressed her concern over the Food Truck on Main Street – where it parks, the out of state license plates and the fact that it takes away from business owners that are paying rent to make a living.

Dara Williams (62 Liberty Street) asked if the Board considered outsourcing the Sanitation.

Trustee Stoddard said that outsourcing would run each resident \$50.00 per month.

Daniel DeVita (140 Buckley Street) expressed his concern of being priced out of the Village.

Eric Lambert (32 Chestnut St) discussed property values and the rise in the taxes.

ATTORNEY Attorney Silver did not have any comments
COMMENTS:

TREAS. REPORT: Treasurer Zurawski said she is in the process of closing out 2024-25 Fiscal Year and she will have reports within a couple of weeks.

TABLED BUSINESS: **UPDATE ON SUB-COMMITTEES**

Noise Ordinance – Public Hearing set

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 17th at 6:55 p.m. to discuss proposed Local Law #7-2025 – which will repeal Chapter 55 of the Village Code and replace it with a new Chapter 55, to better regulate noise in the Village of Liberty and provide more concrete and verifiable methods by which violations can be established and prosecuted.

HONK

This item is still be reviewed.

NON-UNION PERSONNEL POLICY

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the **Personnel Policies and Procedures for Non-Union Village of Liberty Employees Manual** dated June 12, 2025.

TOM WILLI/UPDATE ON SURPLUS PROPERTY

Attorney Silver said once Mr. Willi completes the survey we can act on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS: **CONSIDER JOINT FUEL BID WITH TOWN OF LIBERTY**

RESOL# 50-2025 Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving Resolution #50-2025.

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, 2025 through August 31, 2026 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 RESOLUTIONS/LETTERS FOR 2025 CDBG APPLICATION

Consider Resolution to Designate the Mayor as Certifying Officer for the Village of Liberty's Phase 2 Water System Improvements Project Requested by 2025 CFA Application #149381.

RESOL. # 51-2025: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried carried approving Resolution #51-2025.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves to designate Mayor Stoddard as the Certifying Officer for the Village of Liberty's Phase 2 Water System Improvements Project submitted as CFA Application #149381.

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

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES	MOTION
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES	

Consider Resolution for Phase 2 Water Systems Improvements Project – CFA Application #149381 – SEQR Type II Action

RESOL. # 52-2025 Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving Resolution #52-2025

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) Replacement of aging watermain, focusing on areas with the greatest risk or history of watermain breaks, oldest mains, or most undersized mains (2) Replacement of the existing undersized watermain in the north-east section of the Village including lower North Main Street, Delaware Avenue, Wawanda Avenue, California Avenue, Summit Avenue, Kempfer Lane, Hillside Avenue, Woodlawn Avenue, Balsam Drive, Noble Street, Kaempfer Lane, (3) Replacement of watermain in the

southern section of the Village including 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 to improve separation distance or as needed due to anticipated or incidental damage during construction activities, (5) Well house improvements, including potential addition of telemetry equipment to communicate with the planned new PRV control valve on North End Avenue and (6) Water Plant improvements including 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 Phase 2 Water System Improvements Project (CFA Application # 149381) 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.

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

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES	MOTION
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES	

CONSIDER RESOLUTION – COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME PERSONS TO CONNECT TO THE VILLAGE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

RESOL. # 53-2025: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving Resolution #53-2025.

WHEREAS, the Village of Liberty will apply to the NYS Office of Community Renewal Program Year 2025 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant via a Public Infrastructure application for the Phase 2 Water System Improvements Project; 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.

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

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES	MOTION
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES	

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR PHASE 2 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT CFA APPLICATION #149381 – LOCAL FUNDING COMMITMENT**

RESOL.# Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried
54-2025: approving Resolution #54-2025.

WHEREAS, the Village of Liberty will apply to the NYS Office of Community Renewal Program Year 2025 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant via a Public Infrastructure application for its Phase 2 Water System Improvements Project;

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 2025 Small Cities CDBG project.

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

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES	MOTION
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES	

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING MAYOR STODDARD TO EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING LETTERS FOR THE CDBG PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTRE APPLICATION CFA #149381

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried authorizing Mayor Stoddard to sign the following letters in regard to the CFA #149381 2025 Application:

- ❖ Local Funding Commitment of \$60,000
- ❖ Status of Site Control

These letters will be sent to Charlie Philion, Program Director – Division of Housing and Community Renewal in Albany, New York.

CONSIDER WWTP CHEMICAL BIDS/UV BULBS

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to go out to bid for Waste Water Treatment Chemicals for the period of August 1, 2025 thru July 31, 2026.

The bid opening will be Tuesday, July 15, 2025 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, 2025 thru July 31, 2026.

The bid opening will be Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 11:15 a.m.

CONSIDER BANNER PERMIT – FARMERS MARKET

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried approving the **BANNER PERMIT** for the Liberty Farmers Market.

The Banner will be on North Main Street between June and September and will be put up and taken down by NYSEG.

CONSIDER EVENT PERMIT – 5K WALK /RUN

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the **EVENT PERMIT** on September 27, 2025 for a 5K Walk Run sponsored by Danielle D'Agata to help end the stigma of addiction.

The route will start at Darbee Lane/Grant Street.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to comments from the Public.

Matt DeWitt (Town of Liberty DPW) commended Mayor Stoddard on the way she conducted the meeting and the facts and figures she brought forth.

Jennifer Duncan asked for a response to the bathroom issue.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: Mayor Stoddard opened up the meeting to comments from the Board.

Trustee Feasel – No Comment

Trustee Mills – No Comment

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Mayor Stoddard thanked the committee for their work on the Non-Union Personnel Policy.

BILLS FOR **Post Audit Vouchers**

PAYMENT: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the payment of Post Audit Voucher #1014 to Voucher #1019 in the amount of \$345,768.89

Bills for Payment

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the payment of Vouchers #2 to Voucher #81 in the amount of \$225,355.03.

CDBG Bills for Payment

Motion by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried Approving the following CDBG Bills for payment:

642PR120-24 - Delaware Engineering - \$7,387.50

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session at 9:15:10 p.m. to discuss a particular Employee in the Clerk's Office, contract negotiations and a Code Enforcement Office matter.

Police Chief D'Agata, David Burke; Director of Public Works and Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer.

Motion made by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake to come out of the Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

CONSIDER RAISES FOR PART TIME DISPATCHERS

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving the following pay raises (effective immediately) for the Part-Time Dispatchers:

Greg Brewer (#118)	-	\$28.00/Per Hour
Luke Ellison (#104)	-	\$21.00/Per Hour
Michael Ward (#111)	-	\$24.00/Per Hour
Christopher Lee (#116)	-	\$19.00/Per Hour
Tyler Black (#119)	-	\$21.00/Per Hour
Jeffrey Ashdown (#102)	-	\$21.00/Per Hour

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

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:30 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JUDY H. ZURAWSKI, CLERK-TREASURER