

WORKSESSION MEETING

MAY 15, 2025

The Board of Trustees held the Worksession Meeting on May 15, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Municipal Building, 167 North Main Street, Liberty New York. 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: Attorney for the Village Gary Silver and Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer.

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Fagnani (Delaware Engineering), Police Chief Steve D'Agata, Lee Cogswell Alyson Cogswell, David Burke, Thomas Willi, Annie Willi and Ysdirabelinna Manzi.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – MAY 1, 2025 RE; LOCAL LAW #4-2025

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

PUBLIC HEARING – MAY 1, 2025 RE: LOCAL LAW #5-2025

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

PUBLIC HEARING – MAY 1, 2025 RE: LOCAL LAW #6-2025

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

REGULAR MEETING – MAY 1, 2025

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Stoddard said the Village has not received or sent any correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS: **DELAWARE ENGINEERING – UPDATE ON WWTP UPGRADE**

Daniel Fagnani presented the following report which is attached as **Exhibit A.**

UPDATE ON SUBCOMMITTEES

PARKING

Chief D'Agata said the Parking issue is still being addressed

NOISE ORDINANCE

The Board will review the ordinance and set a Public Hearing for a future date.

DISCUSS SURPLUS PROPERTY – THOMAS WILLI

Mayor Stoddard said she went to the property and reviewed the situation. The next step is for Mr. Willi to get a survey and a legal description. Once that is completed the Board can move forward with the sale of the property.

CONSIDER PERSONNEL POLICY

The Board has a couple of areas to review and this can be voted on at the next Board Meeting.

CONSIDER SURPLUS AND SALE OF PROPERTY ON SULLIVAN AVENUE 121.-3-7.2

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried to declare the above listed property as surplus (121.-3-7.2).

Mayor Stoddard will discuss the legalities of selling the property with County Treasurer Nancy Buck and report back to the Board.

Once everything is confirmed, the sale can move forward.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ysdirabelinna Manzi (Flavored Ices Cart) asked the Board to consider her Peddlers Permit as it stood in previous years.

NEW BUSINESS: **CONSIDER RESOLUTION – SANITATION FEES 25-26**

RESOL. # 45-2025: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving Resolution #45-2025.

VILLAGE OF LIBERTY CODE – SANITATION USER FEES

WHEREAS, the Village Board has authority pursuant to Section 35-17 of the Village Code to set, modify and change by Resolution sanitation user fees;

WHEREAS, the Village Board has previously set sanitation user fees effective June 1, 2024 by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid confusion since the Village, has, at times in the past, adopted and/or amended sanitation user fees by Local Law, and

RESOLVED, that effective as June 1, 2025, the sanitation user fees will be as follows:

COMMERCIAL

1 Dumpster/1 Pickup per week	-	\$ 2105
1 Dumpster/2 Pickups per week	-	\$ 3682
No Dumpster/1 Pickup per week	-	\$ 887
No Dumpster/2 Pickups per week	-	\$ 1550

RESIDENTIAL

Single	-	\$ 422
Two Family	-	\$ 844
Three Family	-	\$ 1264
Apartment/Dumpster	-	\$ 2105

OPT OUT FEES

Single	-	\$ 211
Two Families	-	\$ 422
Three Families	-	\$ 632
Commercial users/Apartment Units	-	\$1053

RESOLVED, that all the above sanitation user fees will be effective as of June 1, 2025.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO VOTE, WHICH, RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

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

CONSIDER RESOLUTION – WATER RENTS 25-26

RESOL. # 46-2025: Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving Resolution #46-2025.

VILLAGE OF LIBERTY CODE – WATER RENTS

WHEREAS, the Village Board has authority pursuant to Section 84-6 of the Village Code to set, modify and change by Resolution water rents, service changes and penalties for non-timely payment,

WHEREAS, the Village Board has previously set water rates effective March 1, 2025 by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid confusion since the Village, has, at times in the past, adopted and/or amended sewer, services charges and penalties for non-timely payments by Local Law, and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2002 the Village of Liberty has repealed such Local Law and has amended Section 84-6 of the Village Code to clarify its intent in order to avoid any further confusion, it is

RESOLVED, that effective as June 1, 2025, inside water rates in the Village of Liberty shall be \$11.80 per thousand gallons inside rate and \$20.75 per thousand gallons outside rate, and it is further

RESOLVED, that effective as of the date of adoption of this Resolution by the Village Board, all of the water rents (including service charges not paid within thirty (30) days shall be charged a 10% penalty fee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO VOTE, WHICH RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

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

CONSIDER RESOLUTION – SEWER RENTS 25-26 FISCAL YEAR

RESOL. # 47-2025: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving Resolution #47-2025.

VILLAGE OF LIBERTY CODE – SEWER RENTS

WHEREAS, the Village Board has authority pursuant to Section 67-7 of the Village Code to set, modify and change by Resolution sewer rates, service changes and penalties for non-timely payment,

WHEREAS, the Village Board has previously set sewer rates effective June 1, 2024 by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid confusion since the Village, has, at times in the past, adopted and/or amended sewer, services charges and penalties for non-timely payments by Local Law, and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2014 the Village of Liberty has repealed such Local Law and has amended Section 67-7 of the Village Code to clarify its intent in order to avoid any further confusion, it is

RESOLVED, that effective as June 1, 2025, inside sewer rates in the Village of Liberty shall be \$15.82 per thousand gallons inside rate and \$23.07 per thousand gallons outside rate, and it is further

RESOLVED, that effective as of the date of adoption of this Resolution by Village Board, there shall be a \$1.50 per month service charge for sewer line maintenance (i.e. \$4.50 per quarter), and it is further

RESOLVED, that effective as of the date of adoption of this Resolution by the Village Board, all of the sewer rents (including service charges not paid within thirty (30) days shall be charged a 10% penalty fee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO VOTE, WHICH RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

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

RESOLUTION TO RELEVY UNPAID WATER/SEWER BILLS AND ACCOUNTS
BUSINESS: RECEIVABLE BILLINGS TO 2025/2026 VILLAGE TAXES

RESOL. # Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried
48-2025: approving Resolution #48-2025.

RESOLUTION TO RELEVY UNPAID WATER/SEWER BILLS AND ACCOUNTS
RECEIVABLE BILLINGS TO 2025/2026 VILLAGE TAXES

RESOLVED that pursuant to Chapter 67.5 and Chapter 83 of the Code of the Village of Liberty pertaining to unpaid water and sewer rents, the following listing of unpaid rents billed from April 1, 2024 and unpaid by May 1, 2025 shall be added to the real property tax of the owner of the property whose property benefited by the use of the water/sewer systems, and the Village services to wit:

The total amounts are:	Water	-	\$35,532.53
	Sewer	-	\$47,844.98
	AR		3,100.00

TOTAL TO RELEVY: \$86,477.51

DISCUSS FLOWER BASKETS FOR SUMMER 2025

Mayor Stoddard and the Board said the main issue with the flowers is trying to get them watered. The Village does not have the equipment and manpower to handle the operation.

Mayor Stoddard said she would check with Liberty Rising to see if there would be any volunteers willing to help.

CONSIDER MEDICAL TAXI PERMITS

RESOL.# Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously
48-2025: carried approving Resolution #48-2025.

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, 2025;

WHEREAS, seventeen medical taxi licenses have been reviewed by the Village of Liberty Police and are now pending before the Village Board; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Liberty hereby issues a taxicab permit (also known as a Taxicab license) 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, that for reference purposes, the seventeen medical/permits for:

Americare Car Service - Seventeen Medical Permits

CONSIDER NEW NYSEG LIGHT FOR SKATE PARK/BASKETBALL COURT

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving a new NYSEG LED light for the Skate Park/Basketball Court located off Grant Street providing there is no cost to the Village other than the electricity used reflected on the Village electric bill.

DISCUSS/APPROVE THE SOLAR CREDITS PROGRAM FOR VILLAGE UTILITY BILLING

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving **Solar On Earth** (Scott Fritzgerald, Principal) to apply solar credits to the Village of Liberty electric bills (NYSEG and Constellation).

The average savings per year for the Village will be five (5%) percent.

CONSIDER PARADE PERMIT – MEMORIAL DAY

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving the **Parade Permit for Memorial Day** to be held on **May 26, 2025** at 10:30 a.m.

The parade is sponsored by the Village of Liberty and the Town of Liberty.

DISCUSS RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Board discussed the current recycling program and the possibility of discontinuing it. Mayor Stoddard said there is no market for the recyclables and the Village receives very little bill adjustment for their efforts.

Mayor Stoddard continued the conversation by saying that the amount of time and vehicle use does not warrant the savings and people that wish to recycle can continue to do so by bringing the product to the transfer station.

The Board said they would need to request something in writing from Edward McAndrew (Commissioner) for the Sullivan County Department of Public Works that the Village will not be out of compliance if they discontinue the program.

CONSIDER LOAN TO WATER FUND FROM GENERAL FUND

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to loan the water fund from the General Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for the purpose of a bond payment.

This loan will be paid back as soon as possible.

CONSIDER CARRY OVER OF VACATION TIME

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the following employees to roll over the amount of vacation time legally allowed to the new fiscal year:

POLICE CHIEF D'AGATA
ANGELA GIACALONE
HOLLY HUEBSCH
MARK KELLAM

CONSIDER SUMMER BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving the Summer Regular Board Meetings as follows:

JUNE 12TH at 7:00 P.M.
JULY 17TH at 7:00 P.M.
AUGUST 21ST at 7:00 P.M.

The Worksessions for the above months are cancelled.

BILLS FOR Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried
PAYMENT: approving Voucher #945 to Voucher #1013 in the amount of \$296,860.48.

EXECUTIVE Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously
SESSION: carried to go into Executive session at 7:55 p.m. to receive attorney advice, a contract issue and to discuss personnel an issue in the Code Enforcement Office.

Director of DPW David Burke and Police Chief Steven D'Agata were invited into the Session.

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session at 8:22 p.m.

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENT OF PEDDLER PERMIT FEES

Motion by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried approving the following changes to the Peddlers Permit Resolution adopted on January 16, 2025:

One Day	-	\$ 25.00
One Month	-	\$100.00
One Year	-	\$300.00

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

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:23 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JUDY H. ZURAWSKI, CLERK/TREASURER