

## REGULAR MEETING

**May 1, 2025**

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on May 1, 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, Trustee Ernest Feasel, Trustee Eveleese Lake and Trustee Jayneen Mills. Also Present: Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village, and Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer.

**ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor/Trustee Robert Mir

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steven D'Agata, Police Chief; Marisol Torrens, Code Enforcement Officer; Lois Weinstein, Jean Dermer, Tami Van Leuven, Barbara Ramirez, Tina Tomkins, David Burke, Claire Ferguson, Sam Ferguson, Etta Barbanti, Ysdirabelinna Manzi, Alyson Cogswell, Lee Cogswell, Thomas Willi, Annie Willi, Penny Medina and Kathy Aberman.

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

❖ **PUBLIC HEARING - APRIL 17, 2025 RE: BUDGET**

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

❖ **PUBLIC HEARING - APRIL 17, 2025 RE: TAX CAP**

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

❖ **WORKSESSION MEETING - APRIL 17, 2025**

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

- Letter from SC Office of Personne Re: Payroll Certification 4.24.25
- Letter from TOL Re: Special Use Permit

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

Several Residents spoke about the amendments to the Peddler, Transient and Mobile Food Vendor section of the Village Code. The letters submitted to the Board are annexed herein as Exhibit A.

Lois Weinstein (Academy Street) discussed several topics including the following:

- ❖ The Public Hearing about the Tax Cap.
- ❖ Street signage that is hidden due to vegetation growth
- ❖ Stops signs that have been removed and the Village speed limit
- ❖ Garbage that is strewn around her residence and the street.

Kathy Aberman (37 Delaware Ave.) spoke in support of Ysdirabelinna Manzi's icy cart and working with her to keep it active for the children.

Jean Dermer (Main Street Business Owner) spoke of some of the cons of the Peddler/Transient Merchant including blocking spaces in front of businesses that are trying to make a living on Main Street. She also mentioned that the cars that bring in the flowers have out of state license plates.

Rhoda Goldstein (Orange Lane) stated she has been a resident of the Village for forty (40) years and recently had to deal with some neighbors leaving their property unsightly as well as throwing late night parties with stages. She said she has nothing but praise for Code Enforcement Marisol Torrens and her efforts to keep the Village cleaned up.

Sam Ferguson (Town Resident) stated the Peddlers Permits in some of other Towns are considerably less than we are charging.

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

Parking

This item is still being worked on.

HONK

This item is still be reviewed.

**NEW BUSINESS: CONSIDER LOCAL LAW #4-2025 – INCREASE COST OF GARBAGE VIOLATIONS**

Consider Lead Agency on Proposed Local Law #4-2025

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to declare the Village Board of Trustees as Lead Agency on proposed local law #4-2025

Consider Negative Declaration – Proposed Local Law #4-2025

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried declaring a Negative Declaration for Local Law #4-2025, which will increase the cost of garbage violations.

### Consider Vote on Local Law #4-2025

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving Local Law #4-2025 which will increase the cost of garbage violations.

This local law was put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	ABSENT
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES <b><u>ADOPTED</u></b>
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES

There is no 239-m review required for this local law

### **CONSIDER LOCAL LAW #5-2025 – VIOLATIONS CHAPTER 87/ZONING**

#### Consider Lead Agency on Proposed Local Law #5-2025

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to declare the Village Board of Trustees as Lead Agency on proposed local law #5-2025

#### Consider Negative Declaration – Proposed Local Law #5-2025

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried declaring a Negative Declaration for Local Law #5-2025, which will increase the cost of garbage violations.

#### Consider Vote on Local Law #5-2025

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving Local Law #5-2025 which addresses violations in Village Code Chapter 87 – Zoning.

This local law was put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	ABSENT
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES <b><u>ADOPTED</u></b>
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES

### **CONSIDER LOCAL LAW #6-2025 – HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving Local Law #6-2025 which addresses housing/residential developments.

This local law was put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	ABSENT	
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES	<b><u>ADOPTED</u></b>
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES	
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES	

### **CONSIDER ADOPTION OF VILLAGE OF LIBERTY BUDGET 25-26**

**RESOL.#** Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried  
**44-2025:** approving Resolution #44 - 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget for the year 6/1/25 to 5/31/26 has been duly presented to the Board by the Budget Officer and a duly advertised Public Hearing has been held thereon,

**RESOLVED**, pursuant to Section 5-508 (4) of the Village Law that said tentative budget, as changed, altered and revised, be and hereby is adopted as the budget of the Village of Liberty for the year 6/1/25 – 5/31/26.

GENERAL BUDGET	-	\$5,481,211.00
WATER BUDGET	-	\$1,561,164.00
SEWER BUDGET	-	\$ 2,063,559.00
SANITATION BUDGET	-	\$1,648,922.00
TAX RATE	-	\$29.29 - PER THOUSAND
WATER RATE	-	\$11.80 - INSIDE
		\$20.75 - OUTSIDE
SEWER RATE	-	\$13.25 - INSIDE
		\$ 22.19 - OUTSIDE

#### **SANITATION RATEBASED ON CLASS**

\$ 422.00 - RESIDENTIAL
\$ 844.00 - TWO FAMILY
\$1264.00 - THREE FAMILY
\$ 887.00 - SMALL COMMERCIAL
(NO DUMPSTER)
\$2105.00 - DUMPSTER
\$1053.00 - OPT OUT FEE

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

MAYOR STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE MIR	-	ABSENT	
TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES	<b>BUDGET APPROVED</b>
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES	
TRUSTEE MILLS	-	YES	

## **CONSIDER UPDATED PERSONNEL POLICY**

Mayor Stoddard said the changes that are suggested by the Village Attorney will be made and the Board can vote on this matter at the next meeting.

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

There were no comments from the Public.

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

Trustee Feasel discussed the D.P.W. and the options the Village might have to continue operating the D.P.W. efficiently. They discussed the possibility of discontinuing recycling, which would free up some workers to do other work.

The other possibility that the Board could consider is outsourcing the whole sanitation operation.

Trustee Mills – No Comment

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Mayor Stoddard discussed the following issues:

- The Legislature meeting that she attended with Chief D'Agata to discuss the Knights Inn and the undue stress in is placing on our Village Police Department.
- Said the phones and computers in the Water Department need to be upgraded.

## **BILLS FOR**

**PAYMENT:** Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the payment of Post Audit Voucher #938 to Voucher #944 in the amount of \$393,081.80

## **CDBG Bills for Payment**

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

642PR120-23 - Delaware Engineering - \$ 1,643.85  
642PR120-24 - Delaware Engineering - \$40,072.50

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss a particular employee in the Code Enforcement Office.

Code Enforcement Officer Marisol Torrens, Police Chief Steven D'Agata and Director of Public Works was invited into the meeting.

Motion made by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake to come out of the Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:00 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**JUDY H. ZURAWSKI, CLERK-TREASURER**