

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on February 25, 2025, at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830. The Audit Committee met at 7:00 P.M. and Regular Board meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

**Present were:** Deputy Mayor Dale Leach, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Mary Branham, OIC Adam Francis, WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout, SPW Bill Kelsey, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

**Absent:** Mayor Terry Stark, Trustee Dustin Hedricks, Fire Chief Ron Martin, EMS Captain Mark Forrest, Zoning Officer/Dog Warden Roger Barrows

The Village Trustees (Audit Committee) reviewed each of the invoices in the abstract for February 2025.

Deputy Mayor Leach called the Regular meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Gary Eckert addressed the board. He said that his neighbor is in a nursing home and he is taking care of her sidewalk and noticed the sidewalks are icy around the village. Deputy Mayor Leach spoke to Code Officer Roger Barrows and he said leaving the snow on the walk helps with the ice. Gary also asked about parking in front of the stone wall on Ross Street behind the house at 16 South Washington Avenue. He said they have an air B & B and they need to fix the parking to accommodate the residents. He thinks having a six to seven hour parking limit is good for that area. There should be ample parking space for those people.

If the fire station receives a grant, it is supposed to be applied toward the \$2.8 million that we applied for. People voted on this project and the grant we got should help reduce this amount of money. Gary feels that the people should vote on this again. We will check with Mayor Stark on the money issues for the grant and Gary wonders what we plan to do with the grant money that we received.

Gary said that the village needs to flush our hydrants but we need to upgrade them before we can do that. SPW Kelsey told him that the hydrants are self-drain. Gary said he is going to call our insurance company again saying that we refuse to drain our hydrants in the village. Gary told SPW Kelsey that he does not even know about hydrants and he wonders who forged the insurance paperwork saying that we do flush our hydrants. There is no one that signs something like this that we know of. Gary said that we are going to flush the hydrants and he walked away and talked to SPW Kelsey again.

Rich Rice also addressed the board. He asked about the twenty-eight uniforms for the fire department and why we replaced them all at once. What we buy now is only for working inside a building during a fire. He read in December that the ambulance is being replaced. He asked why we cannot use some of our grant for the ambulance instead of increasing our tax levy. We should get a split heater but instead we have separate air conditioning and we should look for a split unit for the station. He asked about running out of money for the plant. Do not want to put stress on the budget for taxpayers for the ambulance.

If the village is interested in selling Preston Spring, he is willing to pay us \$27,500 for that property. Deputy Mayor Leach told him that we are not interested in selling that property. Rich Rice argued about us wanting this and said we should think about it. He wants the village to shut off the electricity at that location on Preston Road.

**ABSTRACT:**

Trustee Marks seconded by Trustee Branham made a motion to approve Abstract #009 as presented. All voted aye and motion was carried.

General Fund	\$ 72,723.83
Water Fund	\$ 27,947.18
Sewer Fund	\$ 45,236.59
Water Project	\$ 1,300.50
Fire Station Project	<u>\$ 40,245.00</u>
	\$187,453.10

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Trustee Branham moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to approve the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Branham seconded the motion to approve the December 2024 and January 2025 treasurer’s report. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**JUSTICE REPORT:**

Trustee Branham moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to approve the January Justice Report from Judge Ross. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Beckwith approved the application from Michael Beckwith to join the fire department. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

OIC Francis presented his report to the board. He is waiting to get locks with code instead of keys for the police department, booking area and police garage. Money has been spent on the locks and they need to be installed, this has been in the works for two years. If these locks were not ordered, he would like to get a company in to do this. Unadilla has a guy that has knowledge of municipal agencies. Deputy Mayor Leach said to get two quotes for this key issue. We also need a sign for the court being outback of the building so people know that it is at the back of the building for the court. OIC Francis will talk to SPW Kelsey to get us a sign for the court and install this sign on the building. He is working with the school nurse and superintendent to get a grant for medical supplies to help them handle things at the district.

**WASTEWATER PLANT:**

WWTP Operator Rideout reported to the board. He had an independent guy come to fix their generator that came highly recommended. The generator had a puff of smoke and then it would not start up. He came to the plant twice.

Brent changed the oil on both digester blowers and the RBC blowers. He got a quote to repair the two pump station boxes. One was about \$12,000 and the other one was \$16,000. The one on Route 12 would be the priority because that is rusted right through.

They were called out for someone that had a plugged service line. The plug ended up being on the homeowner’s end so we are all set. He has been doing some housekeeping and cleaning up around the plant along with some small winter projects.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

SPW Kelsey reported to the board. There was a leak on Butler Street. It has been dug up twice and he is getting water from the neighbor. This will be repaired once the weather is better. They did pavement patching at Lafayette Park. There is not much pavement in some spots and it is down to the bricks in several spots. They got all of downtown done yesterday. Called Josh at the State to see if there is a plan for the future for paving. He said there is nothing in the works. He just drives through but still sees the issues. Drag things out to get maintenance done for the spring, grinding and painting sign posts. Well #3 was painted blue by Brent and Bill so it does not rust. They have been doing a lot of busy work. They salt, plow, etc. every morning. Snow removal in parking lots and around downtown.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Guilford and the Village of Oxford was sent to the Town of Guilford Supervisor, Susan McIntyre. She will present this to her board at the next board meeting and get back to us.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Roger Barrows was not present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Cable Franchise Contract – Trustee Branham and Trustee Marks have been working on this to see if we can have faster service, etc. They are updating the contract as it has been since 2012 when we had the last contract. Trustee Branham will call Alexander about options to renew this contract.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Riverview Cemetery board has submitted a written request to store records in the village Hall, they have two, four drawer filing cabinets.

Trustee Branham moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to experiment with the favor of granting free storage to the Riverview Cemetery Board for their two filing cabinets that contain historical records of prior transactions regarding the Riverview Cemetery located on Albany Street within the Village of Oxford. It is understood that access will be coordinated through the Village Clerk during normal business hours. (It is intended that the Cemetery Board's records will be stored separately from Village materials. It is further understood that the Village will not be responsible for any loss or destruction of equipment or documents that belong under the authority of the Riverview Cemetery Board.) All voted aye and motion was carried.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Deputy Mayor Leach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks  
Clerk-Treasurer