

VILLAGE OF FREEVILLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2026

A regular meeting of the Village of Freeville Board of Trustees was held on January 6, 2026, at the Village Hall.

Call to Order: Mayor McCarty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Present: Mayor Miles McCarty; Trustees: David Fogel, William Olson, Stephanie Ortolano, Diana Radford; Clerk Julia Wallace; Residents Ron Szymanski, Juan Vazquez-Leddon, Kevin Dean; Dryden Rail Trail Task Force Chairperson Alice Greene

Privilege of the Floor: Dryden Rail Trail Task Force Chairperson Alice Greene discussed where her team is at in applying for a Transportation Alternative Grant. She requested feedback regarding their idea about adding a 4-foot wide stone dust path for bikes, strollers, and wheelchairs in the grassy patch of the trail between Union Street and Johnson Road. She assured members that this part of the project would be included in the grant, but could be removed in the event residents do not want the addition. She also asked if the Village would supply a letter in support of the entire grant proposal, not just the small patch in the Village. She will return for February's meetings for updates from the board.

Juan Vazquez-Leddon came to the meeting to introduce himself to the board members and witness how a board of trustees meetings usually run. He asked members to sign his independent nomination petition as he intends on securing one of the two board seats that are to be vacated in May.

Resident Kevin Dean came to express his concerns about signs with explicit language being posted in view of the road in Freeville. There is little the board can do to enforce the removal of signage due to free speech protections. However, members said they'd be happy to have friendly conversations with those who post signage to ask that no foul language be used.

Minutes: Trustee Ortolano motioned to approve the December 2, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Trustee Radford seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Planning Board: Trustee Fogel motioned to approve the December 16, 2025 Planning Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Olson seconded. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Public Works: Trustee Ortolano motioned to approve the Public Works Report. Trustee Radford seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Trustee Fogel motioned to approve the Treasurer Report. Trustee Ortolano seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Code Enforcement: Trustee Olson motioned to approve the Code Enforcement Report. Trustee Fogel seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Clerk: Trustee Olson motioned to approve the Clerk Report. Trustee Ortolano seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Vouchers: Trustee Fogel motioned to approve abstract #0126. Trustee Radford seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Old Business:

DEC / WWTP: Mayor McCarthy gave updates regarding noncompliance forms and provided evidence that they've improved greatly in quality and completeness. He provided updates about the completion of the chlorine shack and the quotes provided by NYSEG and Erhart Energy. The installation of the Johnson Road pump station generator should begin next week.

Local Laws 1-5 of 2026: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to adopt local laws 1-5 of 2026. Trustee Fogel seconded. All members voted in favor. Laws adopted.

Well Overflow Solutions: Brief discussion was held regarding potential vendors to hire for the repair of the overflowing well cap on the corner of Fall Creek Road and Railroad Street. There has been no response to any of the correspondence regarding this issue from the property owners. Cost of repairs will be levied onto their next property tax bill. The board permitted Clerk Wallace to start calling for estimates.

Sidewalk Liability: Mayor McCarty presented a report produced by Heather Murray about sidewalk liability. There was a lot of confusion surrounding who would be liable in the event of a slip and fall. The provided report only outlines the rules for New York City sidewalks. Casey Drader had insisted at the previous meeting that we would still be liable. The board members agree with Casey's evaluation.

New Business:

Resolution-Election & Village Registration Day: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to accept the following resolution:

A Resolution Abolishing Village Registration Day and Designating the 2026 General Election Day, Polling Place, and Hours

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2025, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeville duly adopted a resolution designating Wednesday, March 18, 2026 as the date of the 2026 General Village Election, pursuant to New York Election Law § 15-104(1)(b), because the third Tuesday in March falls on March 17 in 2026; and

WHEREAS, New York Election Law § 15-188(3) authorizes a village to adopt a resolution providing that there shall be no village registration day, in which case only those persons registered to vote with the County Board of Elections as of the tenth day before the village election shall be eligible to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that maintaining a separate village registration day is unnecessary and that voter registration conducted solely by Tompkins County Board of Elections is sufficient to ensure accurate and accessible voter roll; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes to formally establish the polling place and polling hours for the 2026 General Village Election in accordance with New York Election Law § 15-104(3)(b)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeville as follows:

- Pursuant to New York Election Law §15-118(3), the Village of Freeville hereby abolishes village registration day.
- Only those persons registered to vote with the Tompkins County Board of Elections as of the tenth day prior to the 2026 General Village Election shall be eligible to vote.

- The Board of Trustees hereby reaffirms the 2026 General Village Election will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 as previously established by resolution adopted November 4, 2025, pursuant to New York State Election Law §15-104(1)(b).
- The polling place for the 2026 General Election shall be Village Hall 5 Factory Street, Freeville, New York.
- The polls shall be open from 12:00 noon until 9:00PM, in accordance with New York Election Law §15-104(32)(b).
- The Village Clerk is hereby directed to publish and post this resolution in accordance with all applicable provisions of New York Election Law and Village Law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of January, 2026 by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeville.

Trustee Olson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Draft Law 6 of 2026-Special Meeting Fees: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to accept the language of draft law 6 of 2026. Trustee Olson seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Risk Management: A brief discussion was held regarding the beginning conversations between Clerk Wallace and Risk Management Representative Mr. Mike Falls from Bailey Place Insurance. Clerk Wallace said she will begin presenting various RM documents to ensure that our more vulnerable points are covered. She also presented Sub-Contractor Agreements and Construction Agreements created by Mike Falls for the Board's reference.

Resolution- Bank Signature Cards: Trustee Fogel made a motion to accept the following resolution:

A Resolution to Change Account Signature Cards

WHEREAS, The Village of Freeville maintains official municipal accounts at the First National Bank of Dryden for the deposit, withdrawal, and management of public funds; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to designate authorized signatories to ensure proper fiscal oversight and continuity of operations; and

WHEREAS, the Village intends to add an authorized signatory without altering or revoking existing signatory authorizations previously adopted by the Village Board of Trustees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

- The Village of Freeville hereby designates the following official as an authorized signatory on all Village accounts at The First National Bank of Dryden:
 - Julia Wallace, Clerk
- The bank is authorized to honor and charge the Village accounts for checks, withdrawal requests, and other instruments bearing the signature of Julia Wallace, Clerk.
- Julia Wallace, Clerk, is authorized to request the bank to stop payment on checks drawn on Village accounts, and the bank is authorized to act upon such requests.
- This resolution does not rescind, amend, or otherwise affect any prior resolutions or authorizations granting signatory or related authority to any other Village officials. All such prior authorizations remain in full force and effect.

- The clerk is authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to The First National Bank of Dryden on behalf of the municipality.
- The bank is authorized to rely upon this resolution and the certification thereof until it has received written notice of any amendment or rescission and has acknowledged receipt of such notice. The bank shall be indemnified and held harmless from any loss or liability incurred by it in continuing to act in accordance with this resolution prior to such acknowledgment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in force until amended or rescinded by subsequent resolution of the Village Board of Trustees.

ADOPTED by the Village Board of Trustees on this 5th day of January 2026.

Trustee Ortolano seconded. All members present voted aye.

Draft Law 7 of 2026-Defense and Indemnification of Board Members: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to approve the language for draft law 7 of 2026. Trustee Fogel seconded. All members voted in favor.

Opening of Sealed Bid: The Board of Trustees received a sealed bid for the 2021 Ram Truck for the price of \$28,500. Trustee Olson made a motion that the board accept the bid. Trustee Ortolano seconded. All members voted in favor. Truck sold.

Draft Law 8 of 2026-Tax Cap Override: Trustee Fogel made a motion to accept the language of draft law 8 of 2026. Trustee Ortolano seconded. All members voted in favor.

Resolution-TCCOG Appointment: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to accept the following resolution:

Village of Freeville
A Resolution Appointing the Village of Freeville TCCOG Representative for 2026

WHEREAS, the Village of Freeville participates in the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) to coordinate intermunicipal communication, planning, and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Village of Freeville to designate an official representative to TCCOG for the 2026 calendar year;

NOW, THEREFORE, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeville hereby appoints Miles McCarty as the Village of Freeville representative to the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) for the year 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointment shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force through December 31, 2026, unless modified by further of the Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 6th day of January, 2026 by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeville.

Trustee Olson seconded. All members present voted aye.

Draft law 9 of 2026-Board Trainings and Removal Procedures: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to accept the language of draft law 9 of 2026. Trustee Radford seconded. All members voted in favor.

Draft Law 10 of 2026-LUDC Update Nursing & Congregate Care Homes: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to accept the draft language of draft law 10 of 2026. Trustee Olson seconded. All members voted in favor.

FYI:

Chief's Report: Trustees reviewed the chief's reports from December. No comments made.

Adjournment: Trustee Fogel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ortolano seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Wallace
Village Clerk