

**VILLAGE OF FREEVILLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 3, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of Freeville Board of Trustees was held on March 3, 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; Clerk Julia Wallace; Planning Board members Juan Vazquez-Leddon and Tom Cavataio; Fire Department Members Jason Cuykendall and Mike Parker; Resident Michael Loweth

**Privilege of the Floor:** Resident Michael Loweth was given an opportunity to speak about his previously mentioned dog-walking concerns. He opted not to speak and explained that he was in attendance simply to observe. He also intends to request previous copies of Board of Trustees and Planning Board meeting minutes. Clerk Wallace agrees to coordinate this with him the following day.

Fire Department member Jason Cuykendall explained the submitted tax and call rate information to justify the 18 thousand dollars the fire department is requesting from the Village. Mayor McCarty assured Mr. Cuykendall that our loyalty and appreciation lies with the fire department, however the Village is currently under a restricted budget that may not allow such a large contribution to be given. The Village is aiming to rebuild it's reserves after taking several financial hits from the long-term WTP project and the increasing costs of operating.

Fire Chief Mike Parker also explained to the board what is happening with the Town of Dryden and their intentions to create a district-wide fire department; ending the independent contracting abilities of several firehouses throughout the county. Mr. Parker explained the negative implications this would have on tax payers along with the devastating loss that would incur given that the firehouse has been in his family for generations. Mayor McCarty shares his sympathy and concern and intends on attending the March 14 meeting in Dryden about the issue.

The firehouse members and the Board of Trustees agreed to reconvene on the issue at the March 28 budget session after more accurate budget numbers are produced and after gathering more accurate information on the future of fire departments from the March 14 Town of Dryden meeting.

**Minutes:** Trustee Fogel motioned to approve the February 6, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes and the February 17, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Trustee Ortolano seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

**Planning Board:** Chairperson Tom Cavataio gave the board a brief update regarding the work being done by his board. He hopes to finish up the revisions to Article 3 at their upcoming meeting in March. Planning Board member Diane Eaton and Clerk-Treasurer Julia Wallace will meet to begin revision prep for Article 4 ahead of the March meeting. Cavataio also indicated that the majority of his members are either completely finished or almost finished with satisfying their annual training requirements.

Trustee Fogel made a motion to accept the Planning Board Minutes from their February 24th meeting. Trustee Ortolano seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

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

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

**Code Enforcement:** Trustee Fogel motioned to approve the Code Enforcement Report. Trustee Olson 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 Ortolano motioned to approve abstract #0326. Trustee Fogel seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**DEC / WWTP:** Mayor McCarthy gave updates to the newly installed hot water heater at the WWTP. Although the sewer team assumed that their running water came from a well, it was recently discovered that the water to the plant is metered and may be flowing in from the Town of Dryden. Before the hot water heater is turned on, softener is needed to manage the hard water that comes from the WWTP sink and toilet.

**New Business:**

**Annual Organizational Meeting:** The Board agreed to meet 15 minutes prior to the start of their April meeting to have their Annual Organizational Meeting.

**Draft Laws 11 & 12:** Trustee Fogel made a motion to accept the language of draft laws 11 & 12. Trustee Ortolano seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion passed. These draft laws will be prepped for Public Hearing.

**Ballot Printing Quote:** Clerk-Treasurer Wallace wanted to make the Board of Trustees aware of the new printing partner, MAX Graphics, that Freeville will be partnering with for ballot printing. The board agreed that the quote of \$139.85 was a reasonable price for 100 ballots and five sample ballots. Clerk-Treasurer Wallace will confirm with the printing company and pick up ballots before the end of the week,

**Snowflake Increases:** Clerk Treasurer-Wallace made the Board of Trustees aware of the rising prices of decorative holiday street lights ahead of the upcoming budget session. Board members agreed that the current snowflake lights that we have will suffice through the next fiscal year.

**Updated Town of Dryden Voucher:** Board of Trustees members signed the updated Town of Dryden voucher. A new check needed to be submitted as the late fee was not included on the original payment.

**Adjournment:** Trustee Fogel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Ortolano seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Wallace  
Village Clerk