

VILLAGE OF FREEVILLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2026

A regular meeting of the Village of Freeville Board of Trustees was held on May 5, 2026, at the Village Hall.

Call to Order: Mayor McCarty called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Present: Mayor Miles McCarty; Trustees: David Fogel, William Olson, Stephanie Ortolano, Diana Radford; Residents Juan Vazquez Leddon, Rose Borzik

Privilege of the Floor: Resident Rose Borzik addressed the Board to advocate for the local beaver population. She emphasized her belief that the Village should find an alternative method to managing beaver-relating flooding other than removing the beavers. She reported that another village resident has been interfering with the ongoing remediation efforts intended to preserve the habitat. The board is already aware of this resident's interference and intends to call the DEC for recommendations. According to Borzik, DPW employee Dylan Schlee believes that he and the Village's permitted beaver trapper can manage the situation effectively if this interference stops. Although we are permitted via the DEC to remove beavers and their habitat for the reason of flooding, Borzik remains strong in her desire to pursue solutions that allow residents and beavers to coexist.

Minutes: Trustee Fogel motioned to approve the April 7, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes and Annual Meeting minutes as well as minutes from the April 17, 2026 Budget Hearing. Trustee Olson seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Planning Board: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to accept the Planning Board Minutes from their April 28th meeting. Trustee Fogel seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

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

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

Vouchers: Trustee Fogel motioned to approve abstract #0526. Trustee Radford seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Old Business:

DEC / WWTP: Mayor McCarthy reported on his recent discussion with Jeff Tubolino regarding the DEC's updated nitrate limits. The DEC has tightened its tolerance thresholds, which has significantly increased the scale of the Village's compliance challenges. This issue negatively impacts several municipalities in the area. As a result, the required upgrades to the outflow process will likely involve the use of additional chemicals at the discharge point. The revised standards have expanded the scope of the project, and the cost is now expected

to reach the upper end of the previously estimated 7 to 10 million dollar range. Excavation may be required as part of the expanded work.

New Business:

Resolution–Sewer Tax Relevy: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**Village of Freeville Resolution to Authorize Sewer Relevy
Board of Trustees Meeting May 5, 2026**

- Adopt a resolution authorizing Clerk-Treasurer Wallace to relevy unpaid sewer bills, in the amount of \$14,975.79.

Sewer Relevy:				
Tax Map#	Address	Original Amount	Penalties	Total Arrears
4.-5-21	11 Railroad St	683.05	70.01	753.06
4.-1-2	15 Groton Ave	710.41	72.82	783.23
3.-1-9	31 Railroad St	710.41	72.82	783.23
4.-4-4	1 Main St	710.41	72.82	783.23
5.-2-42.32	11 Cedar Drive	710.41	72.82	783.23
4.-5-9.2	27 Cook St	976.80	100.12	1,076.92
4.-2-19	6 Main St	303.58	31.12	334.70
4.-2-8	32 Main St	710.41	72.82	783.23
3.-2-8.23	22 Railroad St	710.41	72.82	783.23
5.-2-19	9 Yates Avenue	710.41	72.82	783.23
2.-1-3	11 Fall Creek Rd	75.89	7.77	83.66
4.-2-6	36 Main St	710.41	72.82	783.23
4.-5-3	4 Heath Place	710.41	72.82	783.23
3.-1-7	27 Railroad St	710.41	72.82	783.23
5.-2-15	21 Main St	710.41	72.82	783.23
5.-2-12	29 Main St	710.41	72.82	783.23
4.-4-12	7-9 Union St	177.57	18.20	195.77
5.-2-39	13 Johnson St	710.41	72.82	783.23
3.-2-8.21	28 Railroad St	710.41	72.82	783.23
6.-2-18	4 Tanbark Cir	710.41	72.82	783.23
3.-1-1	14 Cook Street	710.41	72.82	783.23
		12,900.40	1,322.33	14,975.79

Trustee Radford seconded. All members present voted aye.

Appointments: Trustee Fogel made a motion to appoint Mr. James Case and Ms. Rachel Dickinson to the planning board. Trustee Orotlano seconded. All members present voted aye. Motion passed.

Resolution-2026 Tax Warrant: Trustee Ortolano made a motion to accept the following resolution:

A Resolution Adopting the 2026 Tax Warrant

WHEREAS, the Tax Roll for the Village of Freeville for the fiscal year 2025-2026 has been duly prepared and submitted in accordance with New York State law; and

WHEREAS, the total amount to be levied and collected for Village purposes is \$137,893.00, and the total amount of delinquent sewer charges to be collected is \$14,975.79, for a combined total of \$152,868.79; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Board of Trustees to issue a Tax Warrant authorizing the Tax Collector to receive and collect said taxes and delinquent charges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeville hereby approves and adopts the the 2026 Tax Warrant, commanding the tax collector to:

1. Receive and collect from the persons listed in the tax roll in the amounts set forth opposite their names, totaling \$152,868.79;
2. Collect such sums without penalty from June 1, 2026 through July 1, 2026, inclusive;
3. Thereafter collect any unpaid amounts with a 5% penalty for the first month or portion thereof, and an additional 1% penalty for each month or portion thereof until November 1, 2026;
4. Acknowledge that all unpaid taxes will be forwarded to Tompkins County by November 15, 2026 for relevy onto the County Tax Rolls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk-Treasurer shall ensure that the Tax Warrant isn posted on the Village's website and published in The Ithaca Journal for two consecutive weeks beginning June 1, 2026, in accordance with the NYCOM Calendar of Dates and applicable public notice requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to sign the tax warrant dated May 5, 2026, and the Tax Collector is hereby directed to carry out the duties described therein.

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

Trustee Fogel seconded. All members voted in favor.

Discussion- David Fogel's Glass Coasters: Trustee Fogel presented a selection of handmade coasters created by Susan Ashdown using pieces of historic Freeville glass dating back to the 1880s. The glass fragments are embedded in an epoxy resin. The plan is to sell these coasters as a fundraiser for the Village's tree-planting program. There is also interest in hosting a workshop at the new factory where participants could pour epoxy and arrange the glass themselves. The goal is to begin selling the coasters during the summer or fall. Mayor McCarty noted that he may have access to an ultrasonic cleaner that could assist them in preparing the glass.

Discussion- Municipal Email Addresses: The Village of Dryden is issuing an official email address notice that lists all board and committee members. The board briefly discussed whether the Village of Freeville should adopt a similar system.

Discussion-Code Enforcement: The Town of Dryden will be sending a contract outlining Code Enforcement coverage for Freeville. The Board discussed whether the CEO will maintain established office hours within the Village. Concerns were raised about the need for consistent on-site presence to address issues such as automotive violations and deteriorating buildings. The Board also noted that expertise is needed to review and update sections of the LUDC.

Update-Fire Department Budget: Mayor McCarty updated the Board that he has informed WB Strong Fire Department Treasurer, Nelson Meade, that the Board can allocate a maximum of \$9,000 for their department. The Village has yet to receive a response.

Adjournment: Trustee Ortolano motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Foigel seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Wallace
Village Clerk