



INCORPORATED:  
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# Village of Youngstown

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## Board of Trustees meeting minutes – February 27, 2025

Village attendees	Present	Absent	Village attendees	Present	Absent
Mayor Rob Reisman	X		DPW Supt. Greg Quarantillo	X	
Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky	X		Police Seargent Joseph Palermo	X	
Trustee Catherine Stella	X		Recreation Director Jeff Gruarin		X
Trustee Kristel Stevens	X		Attorney Tom Caserta		X
Trustee Nicole Quarantillo		X	Engineer Bob Lannon	X	
Deputy Clerk Alex Certo	X		Deputy Clerk-Treas. Kim Winning	X	
			FOY Christine Rath	X	

*Reminder to all Trustees and Department Heads: Use the microphone closest to you while speaking. Turn the microphone off when not speaking. Please turn off or silence all cellular devices.*

### QUORUM ANNOUNCEMENT:

Deputy Clerk Certo announced there is a quorum and the meeting can proceed.

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Reisman at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Reisman stated a copy of all written reports submitted prior to the meeting are available for public viewing on the table with agenda and the sign in sheet in the board room.

Engineer Bob Lannon provided an update on the REDI Water Street project, noting that construction on the power to the pump station is still in progress. He described it as "a work in progress and hopefully we'll wrap it up here shortly." Discussion among him and DPW Superintendent Quarantillo confirmed that the pump station power is one of the last remaining tasks to be completed. Additionally, Engineer Lannon reported that the lighting on the cell dock is all set, with further clarification that while construction in the area continues, the lighting aspect has been completed. It was also confirmed that the stairs are finished. Overall, the project is nearing completion, with the power to the pump station being one of the final steps. No further concerns or questions were raised regarding this update.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

**Abstract of Audited Vouchers:**

Vouchers for the period from January 10 through February 26, 2025:

General:	\$	66,934.26
Water:	\$	540.00
Sewer:	\$	2,850.73
H-Cap	\$	0.00
Trust:	\$	0.00
Total	\$	70,324.99

Mayor Reisman asked for a motion for approval of the Abstract of Audited Vouchers. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor. Trustee Stevens abstained. Motion carried.

**Sales Tax:**

Mayor Reisman shared January 2025 monthly Sales Tax distribution to the Village of Youngstown was received on January 24, 2025 in the amount of \$52,848.59 from Niagara County.

February 2025 monthly Sales Tax distribution to the Village of Youngstown was received on February 21, 2025 in the amount of \$45,226.35.

Year to date Sales Tax is \$ 98,074.94. The same year to date for NC Sales tax was \$101,504.72.

So noted.

**Budget Amendment(s):**

**Legal Services:**

Mayor Reisman stated a budget amendment in the amount of \$33,510.04 is needed for legal services.

Money will need to be moved from A1990.4 Contingency and moved to A1420.4. Attorney retainer and expenses.

Deputy Certo and Trustee Stevens discussed the review of itemized bills and the impact of approving abstracts once a month instead of twice. Certo mentioned consulting with the auditor about allowing multiple abstracts per month to streamline approvals.

Stevens questioned a discrepancy in attorney fees, noting \$21,982 listed while the board was voting on \$33,510. Deputy Certo explained a new invoice had arrived, prompting a single

budget amendment. Stevens requested a full breakdown of legal fees, which Certo agreed to provide.

Mayor Reisman asked for a motion needed on the budget amendment for Legal Service. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor. Trustee Stevens abstained. Motion carried.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Mayor Reisman read on January 24, 2025, Amy Beaudreau resigned from her position as Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Youngstown, creating a vacancy in this role.

So noted.

## **RESOLUTION:**

### **Clerks Office Titles Resolution:**

#### **Resolution 1-2025 Resolution to Update Titles in the Clerk's Office**

WHEREAS, the Village Board is committed to enhancing accountability and transparency in financial management to ensure the effective administration of Village operations; and

WHEREAS, the current titles of Clerk-Treasurer, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and Deputy Clerk consolidate financial and administrative responsibilities, which may create potential conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, separating the roles of record-keeping and financial management will establish a system of checks and balances, ensuring that one individual is responsible for administrative duties (Clerk) while another oversees financial responsibilities (Treasurer);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby authorizes the following title changes within the Clerk's Office, effective immediately:

1. The position of Clerk-Treasurer shall be re-designated as Clerk to focus on record-keeping and administrative duties.
2. The position of Deputy Clerk-Treasurer shall remain unchanged as Deputy Clerk-Treasurer with duties to support both roles as needed and can act for and in the place of the Village Clerk and the Village Treasurer as needed.
3. A new position of Treasurer shall be established to manage and oversee all financial matters of the Village, ensuring oversight of funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this restructuring is intended to enhance accountability and transparency by clearly defining responsibilities, thereby improving governance and promoting public trust in Village operations.

Mayor Reisman asked for a motion to approve resolution 001-2025 Clerk's Office Titles. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **Standard Work Day Resolution for Employees**

#### **Resolution No. 002-2025 Establishing Standard Workday for Village Employees**

WHEREAS, the Village of Youngstown is required to establish and report the standard workday for its employees for the purpose of determining retirement system service credit; and WHEREAS, the following standard workdays have been reviewed and established for designated positions within the Village;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Youngstown hereby establishes the following standard workdays for its employees:

- DPW Superintendent, MEO, and Laborer: 8-hour workday
- Police Chief and Police Sergeant: 8-hour workday
- Clerk, Treasurer, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer: 7.5-hour workday
- Recreation Director, Recreation Leaders, and Senior Van Driver: 6-hour workday

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be recorded in the minutes of the Village Board and filed in accordance with applicable reporting requirements.

Mayor Reisman asked for a motion to approve resolution 002-2025 Village of Youngstown employees standard work day. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **CONTRACTS/AUTHORIZATIONS:**

#### **Approval for Yoga Class in Sensory Space**

Request for approval for Jeff to add a Yoga class to the sensory space, to be conducted by Brenda Zechmeister. On May 3, 2025, Ms. Zechmeister plans to offer a sensory space yoga class for 30 minutes at a cost of \$50. Insurance is on file for Ms. Zechmeister's Yoga business. This initial session will be funded from our budget, while future classes will be supported by the Tower Grant. Since this item falls within Jeff's existing budget, a budget amendment is not necessary.

Mayor Reisman asked for a motion for boards support and approval to add a Yoga class to the sensory space, to be conducted by Brenda Zechmeister. The motion was made by Trustee Stevens and seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Planning Board Recommendation – Site Plan for 150-156 Jackson Street**

Request for approval of the Planning Board's recommendation to approve the site plan submitted by Benjamin Blankenship for the property located at 150-156 Jackson Street,

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Youngstown (Tax Map 45.14-1-1). The proposed project includes the construction of a four-dwelling unit.

Mayor Reisman stated that this would be tabled until the next meeting on March 13, 2025.

## **BUILDING/PARK USE REQUESTS:**

### **Friend of Youngstown, Inc - Girls Softball Tournament**

Friends of Youngstown has requested approval to use Veterans Park on August 29 through August 31 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a Girls Softball Tournament.

Sergeant Joseph Palermo provided information regarding the return of the "Battle of the Fort" softball tournament. He noted that the tournament had been held for years before being canceled approximately a decade ago. Sergeant Joseph Palermo, who has over 12 years of experience coaching travel softball at various levels, expressed that this tournament was one of the best he had ever been involved in. While the reason for its discontinuation was unclear, Sergeant Joseph Palermo shared his long-standing desire to bring it back. The board responded positively to the idea.

Mayor Reisman asked for a motion for boards support and approval use of the park for Friend of Youngstown, Inc - Girls Softball Tournament. The motion was made by Trustee Stevens and seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Friends of Youngstown, Inc – 31<sup>st</sup> Nancy Price 5k Run**

Friends of Youngstown has requested approval for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Nancy Price 5K Run on May 9, 2025. The request includes a road closure on Second Street from Griffon to William Street, while still allowing access for local residents and DPW. Additionally, they are requesting the use of Public Works barricades and the assistance of the Youngstown Police and Fire Departments for the event.

A motion is needed to approve Friends of Youngstown, Inc – 31<sup>st</sup> Nancy Price 5k Run.

### **Niagara Pioneer House League – Summer Soccer 2025 Sign Up**

Mayor Reisman read Niagara Pioneer House League Soccer has submitted a Building Use Form to hold sign-ups for the Summer 2025 season in the Village Gym on February 8, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and on March 22, 2025, from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. This request has already been approved by Recreation Director Guarin and DPW Superintendent Quarantillo therefore, no motion is needed.

## **Lewiston Porter Youth Football**

Mayor Reisman read that Lewiston Porter Youth Football has submitted a Building Use Form to utilize the Gym and Board Room on April 5, 2025, at 12:45 PM for a one-time use event. This request has been reviewed and approved by Recreation Director Gruarin and DPW Superintendent Quarantillo therefore, no motion is needed.

## **ITEMS / DISCUSSION/ CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **Correspondence from Solar Simplified**

Mayor Reisman shared Sasha from Solar Simplified provided an update regarding the delays in applying resident discounts due to National Grid's interconnection issues, which are outside of their control. The project was completed in May 2024, and they anticipate going live by the second week of March. Additionally, he mentioned that the Village applied for a \$10K Tier 2 Campaign Grant, which is awaiting approval from NYSERDA. While residents can choose any provider, Solar Simplified remains the official Community Solar provider for the village. To express gratitude for the village's patience, they will send a \$2,500 check for the first 50 enrollments. Sasha will ensure more regular updates as the live date approaches.

## **BOARD REPORTS:**

Trustee Stella provided an update, noting that the Youngstown Business Professional Association is looking forward to the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade on the 15th, which is always a great event for the community. She also mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce recently introduced their new president at the awards dinner, which was a successful evening for both businesses and members. Trustee Stella concluded by stating she had no further updates at this time.

Trustee Stevens reported on the Youngstown Free Library's 4th annual Stone Jug 5K, held on February 1st, which raised funds for the library's Friends of the Library program. This year, a one-mile fun run for children was introduced, with 60 runners participating, including a small number of children.

Trustee Stevens also shared updates on the Clean Energy Communities benchmarking reports for 2024, which included Building Energy Use, Emissions Project Performance, and Energy Performance reports for the Red Brick and DPW buildings. The reports indicated that the village is performing better than the national average, mainly due to comparisons with coal-based energy.

Additionally, Trustee Stevens congratulated the village on the successful sale of the cold storage building. Despite its deterioration, the property will soon have new life. She thanked Anthony D'Amiglio and his team, along with the board, building inspectors, and attorney Tom Caserta, for their hard work on the project.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky provided an update on the Friends of Youngstown, a 501C3 organization that serves as a fundraising arm for the village. Deputy Mayor Stortecky announced that the next meeting would be on Sunday, March 9th, with more updates to follow at the next meeting in March. Deputy Mayor Stortecky also highlighted the Nancy Price Memorial Run, scheduled for May 9th, and mentioned the success of last year's fundraising efforts. Deputy Mayor Stortecky encouraged attendees to visit the organization's website, where they can now find a form to sponsor various events, including the Nancy Price 5K, the second annual Celebrity Bartending at the Griffin, and Christmas in the Village.

Friends of Youngstown founder Christine Rath assured that more details on the Celebrity Bartending event would be publicized through emails and social media. Friends of Youngstown founder Christine Rath added that the date for the event has not yet been set but is tentatively scheduled for June 18th, as June 19th is a day off and the Griffin would be available for the event.

Mayor Riesman provided an update on the cold storage property, stating that the village has received a tax refund, which is likely deposited. He also announced that the Department of Transportation (DOT) will hold a public meeting on March 20th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the fire hall to discuss the reconstruction of Route 93 from Elm Street to Main Street. Details will be posted on the village's website and social media.

Mayor Riesman also addressed the need for water line replacements from Cherry Street to Main Street, with pricing to be obtained for the necessary work. The village will share an itemized list once available.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mayor Reisman stated that all comments shall be kept to 3 minutes and directed to the Village Board of Trustees.

Resident Jim Carminati of 210 Mary's Lane addressed the board about the services provided to the private road where he and his neighbors live. He explained that for the past 36 years, residents on the lane have received garbage, leaf pickup, and snowplowing services from the village. However, snowplowing was not provided this year, affecting garbage pickup. Jim clarified that the road was originally owned by Teresa Ventry's grandparents and was later transferred to the eight residences on Mary's Lane in 2009 through a homeowners' association. He requested that the village continue providing these services, as residents pay the same taxes as others in the village. The group discussed the road's narrowness and the possibility of dedicating it to the village for better management. A follow-up meeting was planned to discuss potential solutions.

Resident Henry Sloma discussed private roads, noting that some are maintained by residents while others are dedicated to the town. He emphasized that residents who pay taxes should receive services and suggested the board could grant exceptions or variances to ensure this. Mr. Sloma also thanked the board for addressing the long-standing issue of cold storage, appreciating the leadership in

resolving the matter. He mentioned his hearing deficit and raised concerns about the microphones, which often fail because people leave them on after meetings. He proposed upgrading the audio system to improve communication.

Resident Tim Adamson, from 510 Church St., thanked the entire village board for successfully completing the cold storage project. Having previously served on the board for eight years, Mr. Adamson recalled the past difficulties with the project, including failed bids, and praised the current board for their perseverance. He highlighted the positive impact the project will have, with new buildings and tax revenue. Mr. Adamson also requested the board work with the new owner of the Rite Aid property to bring a quality store to the area, expressing confidence that the board would address the community's needs.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Reisman announced there will be a Zoning Board meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 for a variance request at 120 Main Street.

The Village Board will have a board meeting Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

The board will enter into executive session immediately following the board meeting to discuss employment history of a particular person. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. was made by Trustee Stevens and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alexandra Certo*

Alexandra Certo  
Deputy Clerk