

Village of Youngstown

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INCORPORATED:
APRIL 18, 1854

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Board of Trustees meeting Minutes- Organizational Meeting – September 18, 2025

Village attendees	Present	Absent	Village attendees	Present	Absent
Mayor Rob Reisman		X	DPW Supt. Greg Quarantillo	X	
Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky	X		Police Chief Shawn Bosi	X	
Trustee Catherine Stella	X		Recreation Director Jeff Gruarin		X
Trustee Kristel Stevens	X		Attorney Chris Trapp	X	
Trustee Nicole Quarantillo	X		Historian Peter Pfohl	X	
Village Clerk Alexandra Long	X		Building Inspector Jeffery/ Palermo	X	
Village Treasurer Kim Winning	X		Deputy-Clerk Treasurer Kristin Larson	X	
Estimated Attendance	25				

Reminder to all Trustees and Department Heads: Use the microphone closest to you while speaking. Turn the microphone off when not speaking.

QUORUM ANNOUNCEMENT: Village Clerk Long announced that a quorum was present, and the Deputy Mayor Stortecky was authorized to proceed with the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 P.M.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS: *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.*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Sales Tax:

June 2025 monthly Sales Tax distribution to the Village of Youngstown was received on July 25, 2025 in the amount of \$56,761.98 from Niagara County.

July 2025 monthly Sales Tax distribution to the Village of Youngstown was received on August 22, 2025 in the amount of \$48,184.43 from Niagara County.

Abstract of Audited Vouchers:

Vouchers for the period from through September 17, 2025:

General: \$ 46,783.41
Water: \$ 426.64

Sewer:	\$	288.00
H-Cap	\$	0.00
Trust:	\$	0.00
Total	\$	47,498.05

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers and asked if there was any further discussion. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Budget Amendments:

Falkner Park Splash Pad:

A budget amendment in the amount of \$14,480.00 is needed for the Falkner Park Splash Pad installation of the Aquavator (timer).

Money will need to be moved from A917 Unassigned Fund Balance and transferred to A7140.4 Parks and Playground to cover the costs associated with this project.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$14,480.00 for the Falkner Park Splash Pad installation of the Aquavator (timer) and asked if there was any further discussion. The motion was made by Trustee Stevens and seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Fuel Management System – Fleischmann Service Corp:

A budget amendment in the amount of \$4,995.00 is needed for the Fuel Management System through Fleischmann Service Corp.

Money will need to be moved from A599 (Fund Balance) and credited to A960 to cover the costs associated with this project.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$4,995.00 for the Fuel Management System through Fleischmann Service Corp. and asked if there was any further discussion. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

LED Sign:

A budget amendment in the amount of \$20,808.25 is needed for the new LED sign.

Money will need to be moved from A1990.4 Contingency and transferred to A1620.4, Village Center Contractual Expenses, to cover the cost of N-A-S Sign Company.

DPW Superintendent Greg was asked to provide an overview of the process regarding the Village sign, noting that there had been considerable discussion back and forth. Greg explained

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that the current sign is approximately 12–15 years old, the equipment is old and outdated, and replacement parts are no longer available. Greg noted that the sign could fail at any time and may be off for an extended period. Greg and Kim contacted numerous companies and met with several. Greg's recommendation to the Board was NAS Company, which Greg stated was the most cost-effective option with the best product to meet the needs of the Village. Greg added that the new system is updated, will be color-coded, and offers numerous capabilities for use.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$20,808.25 for the new LED sign and asked if there was any further discussion. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Website/.Gov:

The Village Clerk's Office has identified the need to update and maintain the Village website to ensure compliance with New York State law requiring municipalities to transition to a .gov domain and to meet ADA accessibility standards. This update will improve accessibility, provide timely information to residents, and ensure the Village's online presence meets current legal and technical standards. Board discussion is encouraged regarding the scope, priorities, and any additional features desired.

A budget amendment in the amount of \$7,166 is needed for website updates, including the .gov transition and ADA compliance improvements.

Money will need to be moved from A1990.4 Contingency and transferred to A1325.4 Clerk's Office – Contractual Expenses to cover the cost of website services.

Village Clerk Long informed everyone that she had conducted Zoom calls with five different website vendors to explore options for the Village's website transition to a .gov domain and ADA compliance. Clerk Long noted that, as a small municipality of approximately 1,870 residents, she carefully researched compliance requirements, including attending two training classes, to ensure the Village met all necessary standards.

Clerk Long reviewed each vendor: Revise offered a full website redo with extensive support, but the cost ranged from \$3,800 to \$8,800 initially, with annual fees of \$2,000, which she felt was more than necessary. 360 provided similar initial costs with lower annual fees but did not offer the level of support the Village required. Sarah Tassa's pricing was out of range and support was unclear. Munibit offered a very low-cost option (\$1,188 annually) but provided minimal support and training, leaving the Clerk responsible for managing the site.

Clerk Long's recommendation was CivicPlus, based on two Zoom meetings and consultations with other municipalities using the platform. CivicPlus offers all necessary features, including .gov transition, ADA compliance, and ongoing support and training. It allows selection from six templates that include a calendar, notifications, and search functionality for Village records.

Clerk Long noted that CivicPlus also allows for future expansion, such as water billing integration and additional notifications, and provides support 24/7.

Clerk Long concluded that CivicPlus is the best option for the Village based on cost, features, support, and compliance requirements, and invited questions from the Board.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$7,166 for website updates, including the .gov transition and ADA compliance improvements for CivicPlus, and asked if there was any further discussion. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

CONTRACTS/AUTHORIZATIONS:

Amendment to October 24, 2024 minutes/701 Nancy Price Drive Rezoning:

A typographical error was identified in the October 24, 2024 Village Board meeting minutes and the associated DOS filing regarding the zoning designation for the property at 701 Nancy Price Drive, Youngstown, NY. The minutes and filing incorrectly list the zoning district as RA-8. The correct zoning designation under Village Code §250-17 is R-8A. The Village Board needs to amend the minutes to reflect the correct zoning designation and authorize the Village Clerk to update the DOS filing.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to amend the October 24, 2024 Village Board meeting minutes to correct the zoning designation for the property at 701 Nancy Price Drive from RA-8 to R-8A and to authorize the Village Clerk to update the associated DOS filing accordingly. The motion was made by Trustee Stevens and seconded by Trustee Stella. Trustee Stevens – yes, Trustee Quarantillo – yes, Trustee Stella – yes, Deputy Mayor Stortecky – yes. Motion carried.

Recreation Department – New Hire

The Recreation Department requests approval to hire Jessica Fitzpatrick as a Recreation Leader to lead Children’s Yoga and potentially assist with other recreation programs, including toddler activities. This position will be year-round with flexible scheduling, and the hourly rate is \$16.80. While the start date is to be determined, programming is expected to begin in mid-October or November. Approval of this hire will allow the department to expand its offerings and enhance community engagement.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to hire Jessica Fitzpatrick as a Recreation Leader to lead Children’s Yoga and potentially assist with other recreation programs, including toddler activities, at an hourly rate of \$16.80, contingent upon completion of required training. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Resolution 010-2025 DECLARING DPW EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY:

September 18, 2025

Resolution 010-2025

DECLARING DPW EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has identified certain equipment, including a lawn mower and other miscellaneous items, that are no longer required for Village operations; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Village of Youngstown to declare equipment no longer needed for public use as surplus property;

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

SECTION 1. The lawn mower and other miscellaneous DPW items are hereby declared as surplus property.

SECTION 2. The DPW Superintendent is authorized to list said equipment on Auctions International or other approved public sale platforms.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DPW Superintendent Quarantillo noted that there are approximately five pages worth of equipment at the DPW that has not been used since he started over ten years ago. He stated the department is attempting to “clean house” in order to maximize the limited space. The goal is to remove items that are no longer in use. Other speakers agreed that clearing out unused equipment will help optimize the area.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 010-2025 declaring DPW equipment as surplus. The motion was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

ITEMS / DISCUSSION/ CORRESPONDENCE:

Modern:

Open discussion with Modern’s Kyle Bowser and Jennifer Aiple.

Jennifer Aiple of Modern Waste Management introduced herself to the village attendees and introduced Kyle Bowser. Jennifer Aiple thanked the Village for its trust over the past 60 years and highlighted Modern’s community involvement, including local events, parades, and library support. Jennifer Aiple acknowledged that the new containerized trash program represents a significant change and emphasized Modern’s commitment to assisting both residents and business owners.

Kyle Bowser, Driver Supervisor, explained his role overseeing drivers and labor staff, ensuring safe and efficient service. Kyle Bowser noted that transitioning to fully containerized collection reduces employee injuries and physical strain, while still providing full service for bulk items. Kyle Bowser also highlighted environmental benefits, including the use of CNG-powered trucks, fewer trucks on the road, and secure containers to prevent debris and pests. Kyle Bowser stated that updated collection schedules and a recycling guide were provided to attendees.

Resident Henry Sloma of Carrollwood Drive asked about the reasons for the change, noting that the new system represents a dramatic shift from the previous program, where almost any item could be placed for pickup. Henry Sloma mentioned challenges with the new container system, including having to purchase an additional canister and the associated cost.

Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky provided additional background, explaining that the previous contract dated back to 2016 and could no longer be extended. Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky explained that the transition aligns with safety recommendations from Niagara County's Division of Environmental and Solid Waste, as following the truck is one of the most hazardous jobs in the country. Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky stated that containerized collection reduces hazards for both employees and the community, while maintaining fairness and efficiency.

Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky outlined program logistics, including monthly bulk item pickup (four items per pickup), and stated that the program remains more frequent than nearby towns. Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky also addressed cost considerations, explaining that the program increases village expenses from under \$10,000 per month to approximately \$16,000, but still provides significant savings compared to private services, with an average annual cost of \$282 per parcel. Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky acknowledged challenges on Main Street with parked cars but emphasized that the program was designed to prioritize safety, cost-effectiveness, cleanliness, and fairness.

Rick Lohr of Main Street discussed concerns regarding the recent transition to the containerized trash collection program. Rick Lohr explained that he received a short notice from the Village indicating that five of his properties would no longer receive garbage collection under the new contract. Rick Lohr stated that, based on his review of the contract and inspections conducted by Village staff, two of the five properties should qualify for collection, along with three additional properties not included on the Village's list.

Rick Lohr described measures he has taken to comply with the new program, including placing dumpsters and garbage cans on certain properties, while noting constraints due to limited space and potential aesthetic concerns. Rick Lohr requested that garbage and recycling service be reinstated for the following properties: the bank property, Eldorado Marina, and another building on Main Street, citing their tax contributions and existing infrastructure.

Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky and Rick Lohr discussed potential solutions for these properties, including temporary continuation of service and the possibility of adding business-only recycling dumpsters. Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted that Modern Waste Management has agreed to continue

service for these affected properties on a temporary basis while the Village works to finalize a solution. Rick Lohr emphasized the need for the Village and Modern to follow the terms of the contract in resolving these issues.

Resident Sue MacNaughton of Main Street requested additional notice regarding the findings of the trash collection program review. Sue MacNaughton stated that having more than a day or two to understand the outcomes would allow residents sufficient time to prepare and coordinate any necessary adjustments or negotiations.

Resident Glynis Mieth asked a practical question regarding trash collection for homes on streets with heavy parking, such as Hinman Street. Representatives from Modern Waste explained that residents should place their carts at the end of their driveways, where the mechanical arm can typically reach. In some cases, drivers may need to adjust the carts slightly, but the system is designed to minimize manual handling.

Friends of Youngstown Free Library Thank You Card:

Maggie Steyn, Chairperson of the Community Garage Sale, sent a letter of thanks to the Mayor and Board of Trustees, expressing her appreciation to the board, police officers, DPW, and the Clerk's Office for working closely with her to make the event a financial success for the Friends of the Library.

BOARD REPORTS:

Trustee Stella reported on recent community events and recognitions. At the Niagara Falls Golf Club, the Youngstown Garden Club received the Community Service Award for maintaining village gardens, including the gazebo area. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to sculptor Susan Geisler by YBPA Board member Cheryl Butera, and A&M Automotive, owned by Mike and Cheryl Sanchez, received the 2025 Business of the Year Award from Town of Porter Councilman Tim Adamson. Trustee Stella also noted the success of the first annual YBPA golf tournament, held on September 15 at Niagara Falls Golf Club with approximately 60 golfers in attendance. She highlighted upcoming events in the community, including the Library Harvest and Tea on October 4 at the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, the Niagara Chamber Business Planner on October 9 at Bela Rosa Winery, Harvest and Hops on September 27–28, Lunch with Leaders on November 6 at Apple Grannies, Christmas in the Village in Lewiston on December 5–7, and the Niagara Chamber 20th Anniversary Celebration and Member Meeting on December 18 at Niagara Crossing. Trustee Stella expressed gratitude for the ongoing community collaboration and the contributions of local organizations and residents.

Trustee Stevens shared some positive news, noting that the Village of Youngstown was featured in the latest issue of *Buffalo Home* magazine with a five-page article highlighting the village's "small town charm, scenic views, and hidden gems." She extended thanks to Chief Bossi and Officer Palermo for representing the village in the Peach Festival parade and expressed appreciation for all who supported the Labor Day parade. Trustee Stevens recognized several individuals for their volunteer

efforts, including Sheila, Dennis, Dave Truesdale, and Alexandra Long, as well as other volunteers, Youngstown Fire Police, the DPW, Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company, the Niagara Sheriff's Office, the Clerk's Office, and participating groups. She highlighted that the parade had the largest number of participants in many years and noted that the parade procession was longer than in previous years, with memorable highlights such as the MON truck and the school bus. Trustee Stevens concluded by expressing her excitement for planning future community events.

Trustee Quarantillo provided information on upcoming community events and initiatives. She noted that the annual Trunk or Treat event will take place on Saturday, October 23rd, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with registration for the bus, costumes, and parade beginning at 11:30 a.m. The parade will follow, with judging and the Trunk or Treat activities occurring afterward. Trustee Quarantillo encouraged all community members, including business owners, to participate in the event as a safe and fun way for children to receive treats. She also highlighted a new initiative called "File for Life," being implemented in collaboration with Clerk Long and the Fire Department. This program provides a red magnetic sleeve for the refrigerator containing pertinent health information, emergency contacts, and current medications to assist first responders in emergencies. Trustee Quarantillo noted that these sleeves will be distributed to seniors, available at the library, the Clerk's Office, and the fire hall, and emphasized that the program is intended for all residents, not just seniors. She invited anyone interested to pick up a sleeve or contact the fire hall for more information.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky addressed the board on behalf of the Mayor, who was unavailable due to personal business in the Capital District. He noted that the board plans to review and potentially vote on a new Employee Handbook, which has been in development for over a year. Trustees were asked to review the document over the next month and submit any questions or feedback to ensure it is finalized without multiple revisions. Deputy Mayor Stortecky also thanked Kristin Larson for her work revising the Short-Term Rental Policy, which has been tabled until the October meeting. Drafts of the policy were made available at the meeting and can be obtained from the Village Office. Finally, he mentioned that the October meeting will include discussion of potential financial strategies for financing upgrades to the water line and sleeving the sewer line on Lockport Street in conjunction with the upcoming state road project, noting that Municipal Solutions is assisting in evaluating options.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nancy Smithson of Second Street inquired about ongoing noise issues related to a code violation under Sections 145.3 and 145.4. She reported three specific instances of early-morning noise: February 27, 2025, at 6:40 a.m.; August 15, 2025, at 5:55 a.m.; and September 16, 2025, at 4:58 a.m. She asked whether she was submitting the proper form and sought guidance on how to proceed. Village representatives stated that they had previously contacted the developer regarding the noise ordinance and would follow up again with the contractor responsible for the current foundation work, as the prior demolition crew had completed their work. Ms. Smithson was informed that the Village would address the ongoing concern.

John Stepien of Carrollwood Drive addressed the deterioration of the Veterans Memorial in Veterans Park. He recently met with representatives from the Lewiston VFW Post, who were impressed with

the memorial, which includes nearly 2,000 names dating back to the Revolutionary War through the Spanish-American War. Mr. Stepien discussed plans to expand the memorial to include names from 2004 to the present, potentially reaching approximately 2,500 individuals. He suggested forming a committee to oversee the project and mentioned contacts and resources for assistance, including Stoneheart Memorial and potential grant opportunities. Village representatives noted prior discussions with VFW members and Friends of Youngstown and indicated that grant funding could be pursued through existing channels. Mr. Stepien estimated the cost for four granite panels with names on both sides, emphasizing that the project would be smaller in scale than comparable memorials elsewhere but would enhance the current site, which already includes a stone base and flagpole.

Susan Bray of Campbell County stated, "First, I want to thank Mrs. Stevens for entertaining and for the work on the parade. Many jurisdictions came. I saw neighbors from all over. So thank you again." She continued, "I have been here at pretty much every meeting for the last year. And what I'd like to encourage the Board to do is when you're going to make a big change, give the residents some time to digest what is going on, thus we don't have to backtrack on things. I believe it was brought up one month, and the garbage changes were going to happen the next month and it was voted on. So I'm going to encourage more time for the residents to have some feedback."

Ms. Bray then addressed 701 Nance Price Drive: "I was kind of dismayed, and I always have been, that the Zoning Board was never used for this big project. I think if it was used this time, the typographical error wouldn't have happened and it wouldn't have put Mrs. Long in more work to be done." Village Attorney Trapp clarified, "The Zoning Board of Appeals would have nothing to do with changing the zoning of a particular property. That would go before either the Planning Board and then ultimately the Village Board. The ZBA is just separate here. Appeals are either interpretations of the current code or for issuance of area or use variances, not for determining zoning."

Ms. Bray continued, "Somehow there should have been more input from the residents. As far as people said, why don't we save a little bit of the stone from the building and put it around the side, but you know, the way it was set up, there was a hearing on a Wednesday, people got four days to hear about it. That was one of the biggest changes in the whole village, putting 15 condos in there. So I'm just saying, please give the residents some time to mull over some things. I know it had to come down. It was a liability. I know. But still, it was stuff like, I live near, so that could be my kind of bugaboo here."

Finally, Ms. Bray asked, "I did leave a phone call to Mr. Jeffries, and I wanted to know the purpose of the orange mesh around the old cold storage area. Like, what is the purpose of that? Does anyone know here?" The Board responded that it is required to fence off the area during construction, and Ms. Bray added, "I got it. But literally, if you took fly paper, it'd probably be better than that." She requested that the Village pass on her concerns to Mr. Jeffries or Joe, noting the fencing is out of whack.

Village Historian Peter Pfohl stated that he was contacted by John Stepien in early July regarding the condition of the existing Veterans Memorial. At that time, he was not aware of any plans to address the memorial but committed to looking into the matter and serving as a liaison with the Village Board.

Mr. Pfohl conducted a personal inspection of the memorial, noting that while the walkways need some maintenance, the benches and the large rock with the plaque are secure, and the gardens are well maintained. The primary concern is the triangular display containing the names, where rust coloring has appeared on two of the three sides, and the flags, which require replacement due to rips.

He explained that he spoke with the Clerk to identify responsibility for maintenance and submitted a letter summarizing his findings and recommendations. Mr. Pfohl emphasized that, while he is willing to act as a liaison, any significant changes to the memorial would involve multiple considerations, including permits, insurance, financing, accountability, and the fact that the memorial is on village property. Proposed changes discussed included removing the triangular display, updating walkways, adding a bike rack, new flags, four engraved panels, landscaping, and additional lighting, while retaining the rock and benches.

Mr. Pfohl requested guidance on next steps, suggesting that a plan and committee be formed to review potential improvements. Village leadership responded that the item should be placed on the agenda, and a committee including Mr. Stepien, Mr. Pfohl, and representatives from the VFW could develop a plan and associated costs. Once a vision and budget are established, outreach could occur to the town, county, state, and local organizations such as Friends of Youngstown to explore potential funding sources. Village staff, including DPW, would assist with maintenance and planning as appropriate. Mr. Pfohl concluded by reiterating his willingness to serve as liaison and to help coordinate the development of a plan to present to the Village Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The final concert of the Summer Concert Series was held on Friday, August 22, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Falkner Park. Since its start in 2001 under former Mayor Neil C. Riordan, the series has become a cherished Youngstown tradition, bringing live music and the community together each summer. A special thank you goes to Dotty Riordan for her continued dedication and hard work in making the concerts such a success year after year. Her passion and commitment have truly enriched Youngstown's cultural life. The finale was a wonderful celebration of another successful summer of music.

The next Village Board meeting will be October 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Deputy Mayor asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. to discuss the employment of a particular person. Trustee Stella made the motion, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All were in favor.

The Deputy Mayor asked for a motion to close the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Trustee Quarantillo made the motion, seconded by Trustee Stella. All were in favor.
Meeting adjourned.