

**Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
Of the Village of Bergen at
6:30pm on January 8th, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Chimino at 6:30pm with the following present:

Trustee Robert Capurso
Trustee Todd Cargill
Trustee Michael Fleming
Trustee Bernadette Thompson

Also present: Village Administrator Cortney Gale

Approval of Bills

A motion to approve the bills was made by Trustee Cargill and seconded by Trustee Thompson. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 11th, 2024, was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor

Grants

- The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Park Grant. We have been notified that the Village of Bergen has been granted \$100,000. for Hickory Park improvements, which will include a new rear pavilion. A webinar with the state is being scheduled to discuss how the grant will be administered to meet all compliance standards.
- Summer Recreation Program grant has been submitted for the summer of 2025
- Go-Art Grant (REACH) for the 2025 Concert in the park series. This grant was also awarded to the Village in the amount of \$4,900.00 and will fund the summer concerts in Hickory Park.
- Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Grant-This \$1,000,000 grant application has been submitted. We await notification.
- NYSERDA PON 5737 Grant \$200,000. For electric infrastructure upgrades. Pending notification.

Miscellaneous

- NYSDOT –The installation of two solar powered speed signs has been approved along Buffalo Road. I have received the permit, and our electric crew will install the two units at the locations approved by the DOT as time and weather permits.
- Cortney Gale, Todd Cargill and I were honored to be present at the Viking Valhalla/Rose Garden Bowl on December 18th for their induction into the State Historic Preservation Registry. Fifty years in business is the minimum to qualify for this award. Viking Valhalla/Rose Garden Bowl has now celebrated its 70th year of serving our community. Assemblyman Steve Hawley presented the award to Tom and Chris Sardou at the event.
- The Tree and Park committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on January 13th. The future planning of our parks, including park pavilion plans and the farmers market will headline the discussion of the meeting.

- I attended the Bergen Fire Department monthly meeting on January 6th Thank you to the BBCA for again providing a first responders dinner to the membership in a show of appreciation for all the Bergen Fire Department does for our community.
- 2025 (Citizen Advisory Board) CAB Meeting Dates January 21, April 15th, July 15th, October 21st
- The Municipal Electric Utilities Association (MEUA) of which the Village is a member is closely monitoring the proposed rate increase proposed by the New York Power Authority. It has been a good number of years since its last rate increase and improvements to their infrastructure are needed for reliability. MEUA lawyers and consultants will look out for its members' interests in this matter to see that the new rate, when presented, is in line and not overinflated. Hopefully legal interaction will not be necessary.

Administrator

Sewer:

- Chris Fay provided mutual aid to Churchville by using our camera to scope a sewer line.
- We have received the Monroe County Sludge Permit, which allows us to haul sludge to Van Lare sewer treatment plant if necessary.
- Chris responded to a call from the sewer plant regarding an issue with the RAS (Return Activated Sludge) pump and was able to repair it.

DPW:

- Eric and Pete painted the interior of the Sage Pavilion, which had started to look shabby.
- Christmas decorations have been removed and stored for next year. Keeping the Christmas Trees by the Sage Pavilion lit posed a challenge again this year.
- There is a problem with the Loader, and we suspect it may be a clogged gas filter. It has been taken to Cat in Batavia for inspection.

Electric:

- The linemen ran electrical lines for the Town's new charging station and future bathrooms at Robbins Brook Park.
- The electric truck booms were tested and passed inspection. The truck has recently had repair issues, including brake problems and an issue with the boom stabilizer. It has been sent to Altec in Syracuse for repairs.
- The linemen installed the new charging station behind the Village Office. It has been programmed by the company and is now operational.

Office:

- The closing of the last fiscal year is almost finished.
- The land survey for the Gibson Place property has been completed. It will be reviewed by the Planning Board for subdivision approval before we can proceed with the sale of the property.

Miscellaneous:

- I submitted the required documents to obligate our State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (COVID Relief). We have accounted for all the funds and will close the project when the Federal Government releases the final guidelines.
- In 2020, we led a community-wide COVID meal program. While we've been reimbursed for expenditures, the paperwork continues, and there's no clear end in sight to close the program.
- I submitted the required documents to the County for the \$5,000 grant we received for a grant writer. These funds paid for Labella Associates to write the Park Grant, which we were awarded in the amount of \$100,000.
- We received a \$4,900 grant from Go Art to fund our Summer Concert Series in Hickory Park.

Code Enforcement Officer

2023 Permits

- 60 S Lake Ave – Hot Tub and electric service
- 62 S Lake Ave – Verizon on cell tower

2024 Permits

- 38 S Lake Ave – Front Porch
- 51 Munger St – Roof
- 17 Hunter St – Mud room with washer and dryer in existing garage
- 28 Clinton St – Pool
- 20 S Lake Ave – Gazebo
- 40 S Lake Ave – Pool
- 12 Buffalo Rd – Roof over existing deck
- 2 Munger St – Fence / Front Porch
- 38 S Lake Ave – Driveway
- 62 S Lake Ave – Verizon on cell tower

Approval of Officer Reports

A motion was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Cargill to approve the officer reports. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Trustee Concerns

Trustee Thompson toured the Sewer Plant along with Trustee Cargill and asked about safety and the backup sewer operator.

Trustee Capurso asked about the approval process for the additional painting done on the Tulley Building.

New Business

2025-2026 Budget Proposal

Mr. Gale presented the proposed General Budget to the board.

Request For Proposal – FAST-NY Grant Administration

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson to advertise for Request For Proposals (RFP) administration for the FAST-NY grant. The motion was carried unanimously.

BEEP Commercial Lighting Rebate Requests

Mr. Gale requested that the Board approve an increased rebate for two upcoming projects, Oxbo and Town of Bergen.

A motion was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Capurso to increase the maximum rebate for the Commercial Lighting Program to \$10,000 for the Oxbo and Town of Bergen projects. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Fire Department Member

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson to approve Robert Wasigner as a new member of the Bergen Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was carried unanimously.

Union Contract Addition Language - MEO

A motion was made by Trustee Capurso and seconded by Trustee Fleming to amend wording in the union contract for the back up sewer operator's compensation. The motion was carried unanimously.

Old Business

None

Privilege of the Floor

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Capurso and seconded by Trustee Thompson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney W. Gale
Village Administrator