

**Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
Of the Village of Bergen at
6:30pm on February 12th, 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 Fleming. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 8th, 2025 was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Capurso. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor

Grants

- The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Park Grant. Cortney has been in contact with the state to discuss how the grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 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. Four concerts have been booked utilizing this grant funding.
- Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Grant-. Unfortunately, the village was notified that the village will not receive this grant.
- NYSERDA PON 5737 Grant \$200,000. For electric infrastructure upgrades. Pending notification.
- Genesee County grant writing allocation was awarded to the village. Labella Associates has been hired to apply to the CFA on behalf of the village and town for grant funding of a joint comprehensive plan study/update. The last comprehensive plan was also a joint venture with the town and was conducted in 2016. An updated comprehensive plan is vital when seeking to obtain successful grant funding opportunities.

Miscellaneous

- NYSDOT –The installation of two solar powered speed signs has been approved along Buffalo Road. One unit has been installed heading east on Buffalo Road entering the village. The other will be installed heading west on Buffalo Road entering the village. Another DOT issue, I contacted their office concerning the filling of potholes on Route 19 in the village.
- The Citizen’s Advisory Board meeting was cancelled in January due to the inclement weather. The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th

- The Tree and Park committee met on February 3rd. We are awaiting information from vendors on options for a new pavilion, and we discussed ideas for the Farmers Market in detail.
- The Municipal Electric Utilities Association (MEUA), of which the Village is a member, is closely monitoring the rate increase proposed by the New York Power Authority. MEUA has asked all its members to pass a board resolution that NYPA is hereby requested and encouraged to re-examine the magnitude of its proposed rate increase, with particular emphasis on its requested profit percentage and its rapidly increasing administrative and general costs and its operation and maintenance expenses. A resolution vote on this matter is on our meeting agenda.
- Substation engineering is proceeding as we lay out final details for this project.

Administrator

Sewer:

- Chris Fay provided mutual aid to the Town of Riga by using our camera to scope a drainage line in their shop.
- We submitted the Annual Flow Certification Report for the sewer plant to DEC.
- The RAS (Return Activated Sludge) pumps are still having issues keeping prime. Chris and Eric will work on it when the check valves arrive.
- A new pump for caustic was ordered after the old one began to fail.
- Buffalo Rd lift station had a heater, and two out of three breakers failed. The heater was replaced, and we are running on one pump until new breakers come in.

DPW:

- Eric and Pete are working on repainting the welcome to Bergen signs in their spare time.
- There was a problem with the Loader, and as we suspected it was a clogged gas filter. While the loader was at Milton Cat they performed its annual maintenance.
- I am looking into replacing the fuel tanks at the Quonset Hut because they are over 40 years old. The company we receive our fuel from has a program where we may be able to get them replaced at no cost as long as the company remains our provider.

Electric:

- The electric squirt boom has had an interesting few weeks, it was taken to Altec in Syracuse to be repaired and the week we got it back it was rear ended. There was damage to the rear bumper and stairs, Matt was the only occupant and was not injured. I am working with insurance to make repairs.
- I put the RFP for grant administration in the Batavia Daily News and will send packets out to interested parties.
- Industrial Economic Development Program annual compliance report for Liberty Pumps was submitted. Next year, one will be required for Oxbo.

Office:

- Fiscal year 2023-2024 is closed and the (Annual Financial Report) AFR was submitted to the state.
- I filed the Gibson Place property subdivision with the county. We found that it didn't need to go to the Planning Board. Our attorney is working on the sale now.
- Constitutional Tax Form and the Tax Cap document have been completed and are ready to submit after we pass the budget.
- The closing for the newest sewer upgrade bond was Monday. The documents were signed and sent back to Bond Counsel to be completed and forwarded to EFC.

Miscellaneous:

- We received a \$5,000 grant from the County to pay for a grant writer to apply for a \$100,000 grant for a joint Town/Village Comprehensive Plan.
- I am sorry to say we did not receive the \$1,000,000 Catalyst grant for the substation. I am still waiting to hear about the \$200,000 NYSERDA grant.

- The language change for the back up sewer operator was approved by the union and now part of the contract.

Code Enforcement Officer

None

Approval of Officer Reports

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

Trustee Concerns

Trustee Fleming and Trustee Cargill thanked the DPW staff for the great job with the snow this season.

Trustee Capurso asked about the progress of the speed study on Route 33 near Liberty Pumps.

New Business

Planning and Zoning Board Alternates Local Law Proposal

Mayor Chimino discussed with the Board the need to set duties for the Planning and Zoning Board Alternates so that they may participate on more occasions. A Local Law will be needed to set the duties

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson to hold a public hearing for Local Law 1 and 2 of 2025 setting duties for Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board alternates on March 12th at 6:00pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Zoning Board of Appeals Member Appointment

Mayor Chimino appointed David Makowski as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson to approve David Makowski as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was carried unanimously.

Hickory Park Address

A motion was made By Trustee Capurso and seconded by Trustee Cargill to make Hickory Park’s address 1 Hickory Way. The motion was carried unanimously.

Fire Department Membership Approval

A motion was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Capurso to approve James Starowitz, Grace Mundell, GJ Donofrio, Emma Starowitz, Lea Donofrio, and Isabelle Best as restricted members of the Bergen Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was carried unanimously.

Old Business

2025-2026 Budget Proposal

Mr. Gale reviewed the proposed 2025-26 Sewer and Electric budgets with the Board.

A motion was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Fleming to accept the proposed budget as the Tentative Budget. The motion was carried unanimously.

Privilege of the Floor

None

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney W. Gale
Village Administrator