

**Regular Meeting  
Of the Board of Trustees  
Of the Village of Bergen at  
6:30pm on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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 Fleming and seconded by Trustee Cargill. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 was made by Trustee Capurso and seconded by Trustee Fleming. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

**Mayor**

**Grants**

- NYSERDA PON 5737 Grant \$200,000... Awarded and is currently being administered.
- Applied to the CFA for grant funding of a joint comprehensive plan study/update. We were informed that we did not receive this grant. A Town of Bergen and Village joint debriefing meeting was held on February 5<sup>th</sup> with representatives overseeing this CFA grant to discuss areas that needed to be strengthened in our grant submission. We were informed that our grant submission scored very well and they urged us to resubmit the grant application at the next round.
- The Fast New York Grant, that was awarded to the village in the amount of 1.26 million dollars for electric infrastructure, continues to be administered to assure grant compliance.
- Northern Border Regional Council (NBRC) Following the \$1,000,000 federal grant that the Village received we are still pursuing a Community Development Block Grant t (CDBG).
- Governor Hochul has announced opening of NY PLAYS Grant Opportunities to Expand Playgrounds across NYS. The village will be applying for this grant.
- ESD Housing Grant-Met with Genesee County Economic Development Center on February 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss future development of land located in the village and how this grant could benefit the village as well as a developer by lowering infrastructure cost associated with a project.

**Miscellaneous**

- I, along with deputy mayor Michael Fleming, attended the Bergen Fire Department monthly meeting on Monday February 2nd. The department continues to be very busy averaging more than a call a day. I informed the body that the Village Board of Trustees passed a resolution dedicating the new pavilion at Hickory Park to the Fire Department in recognition of the never-ending commitment to serving our community. A plaque presentation and dedication of the pavilion will take place when warmer weather prevails.

- Sealed bids for the electric substation site work were opened on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. These bids will be reviewed by PLM engineering to ensure the bids meet all the specifications of the bid process. Upon advisement of PLM the board at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting awarded the bid to Northline Utilities in the amount of \$1,581,243.00 which was \$357,852.00 lower than the next bid.
- With the well below average temperatures, we have recently experienced a strain that has been put on the electric grid throughout NYS. NYMPA, which we are a member, called special meetings on February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the situation and how the supplemental power we purchase would be considerably more expensive due to increase in demand and decrease in generation. An emergency vote of the membership took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> to raise the price per kwh charged to its members so they could raise enough revenue to pay the New York System Operator for the power that was delivered to the NYMPA agency. This vote passed unanimously by the membership. The new rate passed by the body went to 16 cents a KWH with a ceiling of 20 cents. Hopefully with warmer weather these rates can return to pre polar vortex rates. A letter has been drafted detailing this situation and will be mailed to all Bergen electric customers informing them of the increase in their electric bill for January usage. This letter was mailed on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Administrator

#### **Sewer Department**

- I met with Richard Sutherland of the Finger Lakes Regional Council regarding the \$1,000,000 Northern Borders Regional Commission grant to review updated information and discuss next steps. The grant is now in the award phase.
- Mayor Chimino and I also met with the Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC) and the owners of the Park View property to discuss a potential county grant opportunity. Additionally, we met with County Manager Matt Landers to review the grant details and timeline.
- The monthly and quarterly Discharge Monitoring Reports were submitted to the DEC.

#### **Department of Public Works (DPW)**

- The DPW continues to perform exceptionally well managing the recent snow and cold weather, putting in many extra hours over the past month.
- When not engaged in snow removal, Pete has been performing preventative maintenance on equipment, while Eric has been assisting at the sewer plant to accumulate hours required for a future certification test.
- I also completed the annual FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) Clearinghouse report for all CDL drivers.

#### **Electric Department**

- On December 29, a vehicle slid off the road and damaged one of our poles. A claim was filed with our insurance company, which will seek reimbursement from the driver's insurer.
- This week, representatives from the Power Authority inspected several pieces of our new equipment prior to their installation at the new substation.

#### **Office**

- We are still awaiting the final map for the Park Grant from Avery Surveyors.
- The Office for the Aging will use the boardroom on April 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to provide public information and raise awareness about their programs.
- Rene' Vurraro and I met with Mike Cocquyt of LaBella Associates to discuss a grant opportunity for a new playground.
- The village election will be held on Wednesday, March 18, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the village boardroom. The deadline for independent nomination petitions was Tuesday. Letters were sent to the election inspectors with necessary information and a request to sign the oath book.

## Miscellaneous

- The Industrial Economic Development Program (IEDP) provides additional hydroelectric power to new commercial/Industrial customers. We currently have two participants—Liberty Pumps and Oxbo. I completed the annual report for Liberty Pumps and contacted Oxbo to coordinate when they will be fully operational so that we can provide the required information to the Power Authority. Once Oxbo meets the power consumption and employment criteria, the village will receive additional hydropower.
- The new pavilion roof has held up well through recent windstorms. One small area on the upper roof lifted but can be easily repaired.
- Crown Castle, owner of the cell tower near the Sage Pavilion, informed us that they are selling the tower to another company. Our existing contract will remain valid under the new ownership. Additionally, Dish Network has removed its equipment from the tower, which will slightly reduce our revenue.

## Code Enforcement Officer

### 2025 Permits

- 33 Munger St – Addition
- 1 McCabe Court – Shed
- 50 South Lake – New Steps
- 42 Rochester Street – Half Wall
- 37 Canterbury Lane – Addition to Garage
- 29 Canterbury Lane – Prefab Shed
- 11 Buffalo Rd – Wood Fireplace

### 2026 Permits

- 13 Buffalo St – Prefab Shed
- 37 Canterbury – Remodel unfinished room in basement
- 8073 Clinton St Rd – Fireworks Tent

Number of new permits - 11

## Approval of Officer Reports

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

## Trustee Concerns

Trustee Cargill voiced his concern over snowmobiles driving down sidewalks on Rochester Street

## New Business

### Designation of Substation Equipment as Surplus

A motion was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Capurso to designate equipment being removed from the old electric substation as surplus. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## Old Business

### Proposed Local Law – Tree Ordinance

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson to schedule a public hearing for Local Law 1 of 2026 a Tree Ordinance required for Tree City USA recognition. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

### 2026-2027 - Budget

The Board discussed the 2026-2027 electric and sewer budgets.

**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 8:16pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney W. Gale  
Village Administrator