

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY, held
February 24, 2025**

Present: Mayor Rossi, Trustee Price-Bush, Trustee Baskin, Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, Trustee Raymond,
Village Clerk O'Connor, Village Administrator Moskowitz, Attorney Buettner

1) Call to Order

2) Pledge to the Flag

3) Minutes

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush that the minutes of the 10/27/25 meeting be approved.

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush that the minutes of the 10/27/25 Special Meeting be approved.

Ayes All

4) Presentations (None)

Mayor Rossi explained the 2 walk-on motions that will be voted on and Trustee Baskin asked that Zoning be put under Old Business.

5) Public Comment on Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Liz Kormos of 89 Hyde Blvd. gave her opinions on the zoning code and also stated she supports motion "h".

Genevieve Rand of "Housing Justice for All" spoke in favor of motion "h."

Mike Iacolucci of 3 Encore Drive asked when the bill for the water tower will be payable and asked for an update on the work.

John Cromie, 132 Bath Street suggested that the historic district overlay should include the property at 20 Church Avenue.

Karen Avenarius of 10 East High Street noted she is not in favor of Motion "h".

Marilyn Stephenson, 45 West High Street, asked how much the Village has paid the zoning consultant to date and also feels that 8:00pm is too late for door-to-door solicitation.

6) Consent Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush to approve the items on the following Consent Agenda:

i) Motion that the Village renew the NYS Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program Insurance at a cost of \$8,536.89.

ii) Motion that Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Co. #1 be authorized to expend the amount of \$625.00 for window film.

iii) Motion that Union Fire Co. #2 be authorized to expend the amount of \$10,144.44 for emergency electric repairs.

7) Motions/Resolutions for Consideration/Vote

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, to approve the design and installation of a fencing wrap for screening at 2013 Doubleday Avenue and 2017-2019 Doubleday Avenue while the site is being remediated. The wrap is to be paid for with funds from the BOA grant and managed by LaBella.

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Mayor Rossi, that Slic Fiber be granted permission for 4 additional solicitor permits to solicit door to door from 11/12/25 through 11/20/25 from 10:00am to 8:00pm. This is in addition to 2 previously authorized solicitor permits.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez feels the end time of 8:00pm is too late.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-no

Trustee Price-Bush-yes

Mayor Rossi-yes

Trustee Baskin-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes

Motion Passed

c) Motion made by Trustee Price-Bush, seconded by Trustee Baskin, approving the MOU between the Ballston Spa Public Library, SALS and Comfort Foods.

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee Price-Bush, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, that the Library be authorized to expend the amount of \$1,655.50 for a walkthrough contamination assessment with Ambient Environmental.

Ayes All

e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin, to approve the attached art projects for the Village of Ballston Spa Fiscal Sponsorship for the 2026 Saratoga Arts re-grant program, as recommended by the Ballston Spa Committee on the Arts and authorize the Mayor and Village Attorney to execute any final paperwork required.

Ayes All

f) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that the BSBPA be granted permission to conduct the Annual Holiday Parade (route attached) and Tree Lighting in Wiswall Park on 12/5/25 from 6:30pm until 8:45pm. Proof of Liability Insurance has been provided.

Ayes All

g) Motion made by Trustee Price-Bush, seconded by Trustee Raymond, that the bid of Neoplanta Restoration, Inc. for \$49,000.00 be accepted for the asbestos abatement at the Ballston Spa Public Library, and authorizing the Mayor to execute paperwork/an agreement consistent with this bid acceptance after review of the Village Attorney.

Ayes All

h) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Raymond, to have counsel for the village finalize the attached draft Good Cause Eviction Law in preparation for a public hearing on Dec. 8, 2025

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-no

Trustee Price-Bush-no

Trustee Baskin-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes

Mayor Rossi-abstain

Motion Failed

i) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$65 per member to attend upcoming NYCOM Planning and Zoning webinars.

Ayes All

j) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, to authorize the payment to USG Water Solutions of the 2025 payment of \$361,935.00 for the work related to the John St. Water Tower, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the documentation related to the payment.

Ayes All

k) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, to approve the attached language interpretation services Request for Quote for submission to the Office of Government Services for processing, and authorize the Mayor to sign any documents relating to the submission.

Ayes All

l) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, to approve Brian Thiem to fill an open position on the Committee for the Arts.

Ayes All

m) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond, to approve an additional amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for the purpose of Fisher Associates to finish their work related to the Village's amended Zoning Code, and authorizing the Mayor to execute any change in their retention agreement consistent with this additional amount.

Ayes All

n) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, to approve the Administrative Services Proposal from WEX related to HRA services (including the estimated annual fees), and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement related to the Proposal after review by the Village Attorney.

Ayes All

o) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that Union Fire Co. #2 be authorized to utilize their facilities for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner throughout the week of 11/24/25.

Ayes All

p) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, authorizing the payment to Sutphen Corporation upon the preparation and delivery for the custom Sutphen Pumper that was ordered in 2022 by the Village of Ballston Spa for a total of \$936,854.00 and authorizing the Mayor to sign any paperwork consistent with necessary delivery and payment.

Ayes All

Mayor Rossi explained that the paving on East High Street to repair the damage done by CHPE will possibly start tomorrow.

8) Treasurer's Report

9) Liaison Reports

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez encouraged everyone to shop Small Business Saturday on 1/29 and the Holiday Parade on 12/5.

Trustee Price-Bush announced that Breakfast with Santa will be held 12/6 at St. Mary's and there is a tentative Menorah Lighting date of 12/15.

Reporting on the Committee on the Arts, Trustee Baskin said the Sounds of Winter Concert will be held at Brookside on 11/15 at 3:00pm and stated that the 1st Friday of every month is open mic night at the Real McCoy.

The Park and Tree Board is happy to help if anyone has questions about winterizing trees.

Trustee Raymond stated that the 1st round of brush pick-up has been completed, leaf pick-up continues and hydrants, the pool and Kelley Park are being winterized.

10) Mayor's Announcements

a) Congratulations to our newly elected candidates, Trustee Elect Charlene DuBuque, Trustee Elect Paul Dunkleberger and Justice Elect Julie Gazetos. Thank you to Trustees Baskin and Raymond for their service.

b) The DPW building plans should be ready soon.

c) Due to asbestos abatement, the Library will temporarily close, and meetings will temporarily be held in the Village Office. The closure date will be forthcoming.

d) Thank you to the DPW for the paving job they did.

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, to approve the hiring of Cameron Checca pursuant to a background check for a full time DPW laborer position.

There was no public comment on the motion.

Ayes All

11) Old Business

a) Sidewalk Law

The discussion focused on mandatory sidewalk repair, reimbursements, and the need for a better sidewalk code.

b) Zoning

Trustee Baskin requested that zoning be on every agenda through December and would also like another special zoning meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the way the process has been thus far.

Motion made by Mayor Rossi, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that the edits be finished up by Chris Kuschel and Attorney Buettner consistent with the last meeting and that the draft be pushed for review by the Planning Board, the County Planning Board, the Zoning Board and available for public review.

Ms. Stephenson asked what the timeframe is for the draft going to the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Mayor Rossi answered it is 30 days.

After a lengthy discussion regarding Trustee Baskin's issues with the zoning draft as well as no further special meeting on the matter:

Moton made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, to suspend debate, and vote.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes

Trustee Price-Bush-yes Trustee Baskin-no

Trustee Raymond-yes

Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

12) New Business (None)

13) Public Comment on Any Issue (3 Minutes)

Ms. Kormos continued her comments on the zoning law.

Ms. Kormos asked what the Village is doing to assist people who relied on SNAP benefits.

It was explained that the Churches and LifeWorks have food pantries and programs to help.

Ms. Avenarius said the schools help out also.

14) Other Business (Including, but Not Limited to Board Response to Public Comment)

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez shared that the Ballston Area Clergy Association has a Church on call each month to help people in need of emergency help, including food and paying heating bills.

15) Executive Session

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush to enter into Executive Session at 9:04pm to discuss a settlement agreement and potential litigation.

Ayes All

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:32pm.

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin approving the settlement agreement between Kiewit and the Village of Ballston Spa and authorizing the Mayor to execute said agreement after Attorney review.

Ayes All

16) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:

Motion made by Trustee Price-Bush, seconded by Trustee Raymond, that the Vouchers be audited, and the meeting adjourned at 9:34pm.

General Fund	\$ 268,235.61
Sewer Relevy	82.89
Capital Projects	625.00
Library Fund	3,037.24
Trust & Agency	<u>635.65</u>
Total	\$ 272,616.39

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri L. O’Connor
Village Clerk