

March 25, 2026

The regular meeting of the Village of Cassadaga was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Abersold on March 11, 2026. Trustee's present included Danna DuBois, Jeffrey Frick, and David Rowley. Absent Trustee Cathy Cruver

**RESOLUTION # 53
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Trustee Rowley to approve the minutes of March 11, 2026, seconded by Trustee DuBois. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS.

**RESOLUTION # 54
APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**With addition of Fire Hydrant Maintenance and Repair under Old Business
A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to approve the agenda, seconded by Trustee Rowley VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS.**

GUESTS: Randy Carlson, Cindy Flaherty, Judy Garncarek, Debbie Metzger, Terri Seibert, Bruce and Sue Penhallow, Nathan & Laura Pownall, Tammy Wichlacz, Mark & Holly Kimborowicz, Todd Anderson, Nancy Wickmark, Kathy Thorp, Alycia Willoughby, Nick Stern, Kent Marsh, John and Susan Sipos

Maple Avenue Academy representative Alycia Willoughby presented to the board the opportunity for community residents to utilize the community service the students of the academy.

Students at E2CCB Maple Academy will be conducting a community cleanup project for residents of the village. They will be raking leaves, collecting sticks, and removing yard debris to assist residents with spring cleanups. This will take place on or near Earth Day (April 22nd) - weather dependent. If you are interested, please reach out to Alycia Willoughby at: awilloughby@e2ccb.org or 716-679-6022

John Sipos reported that during WWII students at Cassadaga Valley Central School participated in civil air patrol on the roof of the school. This procedure took place to spot potential enemy planes during the war. Our valley served as a key spotting location.

**RESOLUTION #55
REAPPOINTMENT PLANNING BOARD MEMBER-Todd Anderson.
A motion was made by Trustee Rowley, Seconded by Trustee Frick,
VOTE 3 AYES 0 NAY**

**RESOLUTION # 56
A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to appoint Sue Penhallow to the position of Village of Cassadaga Clerk/Treasurer. Seconded by Trustee Rowley.
VOTE 3 AYES 0 NAY**

RESOLUTION #57

A motion made by Trustee Frick to appoint TammieAnn Wichlacz as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, seconded by Trustee Dubois. VOTE 3 AYES 0 NAYS

MAYOR ABERSOLD'S REPORT

After the March 11th meeting, I delivered former mayor Dorman his final compensation and ensured S&I Overhead Door received their payment in person due to a lost check; all other checks from the March 11th abstract were mailed March 13th. I extended an employment offer to our new clerk-treasurer as approved by the board and discussed the deputy clerk position with her before my trip to Georgia. While away, I remained responsive to village business via email, phone, and text.

Upon return, payroll was processed and a check issued for the post office box. With Deputy Clerk Tammie, I completed an e-form death certificate. I also assisted while Biancca finalized the annual water report. Jeff and I interviewed a DPW candidate and reviewed available equipment at the DPW building and barn, noting that open recalls remain on the 2018 Dodge truck and that the "damaged beyond repair" snowblower is still missing.

Today, I collected payroll checks, I spoke with those in attendance of the NYFORWARD core team meeting and spent three hours addressing an unpaid fire department insurance invoice, ensuring payment will be hand-delivered tomorrow. I called Chautauqua County Department Chairman Tim Card regarding the beavers plugging the culvert near Michelle and Scott Pattison's on Maple Avenue. At 4:45 pm Jeff reported that the county was working at clearing the plugged culvert. Hopefully this will relieve the flooding of our residents yard. Lastly, I provided Nancy Whitmark directions for her upcoming NYFORWARD presentation outline. The email sent to her is:

Nancy

I waited to respond to your email requesting guidance for your outline. Waiting after you held your committee meeting yesterday.

It was communicated back to me that you expressed a level of confusion about our previous conversations and village meetings about the NY Forward Grant and its direction and benefit for the village.

As reported in [today's](#) article in the Observer Today and the conclusion of the last village board meeting, we tabled the resolution by Trustee Dave Rowley to halt any more activity on the grant for 2026 to allow your committee to present its development plan for a senior/elder/daycare center in Cassadaga.

It is my understanding that you met with Sam Savarino to tour the Fredrickson property site to explore development options. With this information, your committee would be making a presentation at the [April 1](#) meeting to present the descriptive overview based on need, development plan, timeline, property footprint, development and construction costs, target

audience demographics and geographics and operational sustainability. AJ Witt is doing the same for his proposed hospitality/entertainment/housing destination on his property.

As stated at the meeting, in the presence of four of the core team members, the village has many pressing priorities. We believe it's best to postpone submitting NY Forward until 2027 to have a viable lead project that integrates with the major water initiative, Main Street Master Plan, potential Sports Complex Master Plan and beach development. All this helping to bring to life the village's approved comprehensive plan, to demonstrate and generate, direct and indirect economic benefit.

Please advise if I should continue to hold your place and AJ for a total of 15 minutes on the agenda for an [April 1](#) presentation?

With new clerks hired, I propose reducing public office hours to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm-4pm, with special appointments available on request. This change will give clerks time to learn without interruptions, and hours can be adjusted as needed. I recommend a resolution to update the village clerk's public hours.

RESOLUTION #58

A motion was made by Trustee Dubois to change the hours which the village clerks office is open to the public to allow interuppeted tasks to be completed. Public hours will be 1 pm - 4:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday or by special appointment by calling the office at 716-595-3007. Seconded by Trustee Rowley. VOTE 3 AYES 0 NAY

RESOLUTION #59

CLERK'S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Rowley to table the clerks report, seconded by Trustee DuBois. VOTE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. WATER PROJECT-Mayor Abersold no new communications with Matt Zerbo**
- 2. 72 Lakeview Avenue-Nothing to report at this time**
- 3. Fire Hydrant Maintainance and Repair-Trustee Dubois stated several fire hydrants are currently out of service. The cause is two or more of the hose connections will not unscrew from the hydrant. The DPW will be instructed to address this issue promptly.**

NEW BUSINESS-No new business report

PUBLIC WORKS BIANCCA RIGGLE'S REPORT-Absent

TRUSTEE DUBOIS' REPORT

- *Provided the Cassadaga Fire Department's Monthly Report for February 2026 EMS calls 19, Fire calls 2, MVA calls 2, Alarm Activation 2, Single Company 1, Mutual Air Given 14, Mutual Aid Received 1, Total Call 27 Total Man Hours 143*
- *No word from CCPEG EFG if application for the \$20,000 grant was awarded or not. Notification expected 'late' March*
- *Is there something being done about the residence on North Main Street that has garbage piled on the roof? Has our Code Enforcement Officer been notified?*

MAYOR ABERSOLD responded to the question raised in regards to 52 North Main Street-The Village Code Enforcement Officer is investigating the situation at the property. Expect more information available on April 1, 2026

TRUSTEE CRUVER'S REPORT-Absent

TRUSTEE FRICK'S REPORT

Worked on a maintenance program for our equipment. Found a truck mechanic who can repair and do maintenance if it is something we can't do. He will also service and inspect our vehicles. It is CRD services on RT 83.

Talked with the Town of Gerry about putting a new motor in our Dump/Plow truck. Will start 3-30-26

Checked on the Village sign on the South Side of the Village. Will contact Chautauqua sign. Bought to the Board an idea to have Ryan Edson from the Village of Sinclairville to check water while Biannca is off. Will pay him \$40.00 a day on weekends.

Asked Dana to help me in putting new locks on our buildings.

Thanked the new member of the planning board Todd Anderson and Clerk and Deputy Clerk Sue Penhollow and Tammie Wichlasz.

RESOLUTION #60

Trustee Frick made a motion to compensate Ryan Edson \$40 per day for checking the Village's water on Saturday and Sunday for the two weeks during Bianca Riggle's vacation. Totaling \$160.00 for his services. Seconded by Trustee DuBois. VOTE 3 AYES 0 NAY

TRUSTEE ROWLEY'S REPORT

1) The mayor and I met with Sheriff Jim Quattrone on Friday, March 13 to discuss speed enforcement efforts in the village. We discussed the use of speed display signs, which the Sheriff felt could help in calming traffic. We also discussed a possible school speed zone at the former elementary school, now the Maple Avenue Academy. The Sheriff plans to bring this to the attention of the County Traffic Safety Board, which promotes street and highway safety in Chautauqua County. We also spoke about the crosswalks that were planned for Maple Avenue, and he was going to check into their status. As a follow up, I contacted a maker of speed display signs to get the cost estimate of two signs that could be securely attached to existing speed limit signs. The signs can be detached and easily moved to any location with

an existing speed limit sign. No word yet on those estimates, but I did email a PDA about the signs to the mayor and the other trustees. In other action, I reached out to State Senator George Borrello to see if there were any grants available to help cover the cost. As a result, he intends to contact both the State DOT to check about efforts to calm traffic on Route 60 and the county to discuss the speed issues on Maple Avenue. I hope to have updates at future meetings.

2) I attended the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation's LED Committee held on March 19, of which I'm a member. LED stands for Local Economic Development. Among the items discussed during the meeting, the annual report on the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth activities for 2025. Among the highlights of the report, Economic Growth Fund Projects that include the Cassadaga Main Street Master Plan and the Cassadaga Nature Trail Access Road Project.

3) Here's an update on snowfall for the season. The village has received 11.5 inches of snow this month and 171.5 inches for the season.

RESOLUTION #61

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Rowley to approve the Financial Statements, Seconded by Trustee DuBois. 3 AYES 0 NAY

RESOLUTION #62

A motion was made by Trustee Frick to accept bills and payroll, seconded by Trustee Rowley. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS.

RESOLUTION #63

A motion was made by Trustee Rowley to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Seconded by Trustee DuBois at 8:00 pm. VOTE 3 AYES 0 NAY

RESOLUTION #64

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to end Excutive Session at 8:40 pm, Seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE 3 AYES 0 NAY

RESOLUTION #65

Motion made to Adjourn made by Trustee DuBois, Seconded by Trustee Rowley at 8:45 pm

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rudy Abersold
Mayor, Village of Cassadaga**