

**February 11, 2026**

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

**RESOLUTION # 22  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026, seconded by Trustee Rowley. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.**

**RESOLUTION # 23  
APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to approve the agenda, seconded by Trustee DuBois. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.**

**GUESTS: John & Susan Sipos-Village Historian, Nancy Wickmark, Randy Carlson, RaeAnn Crandall, Liv Gworek**

**John Sipos – Village Historian – In 1940, the bandstand was built by workers from Fredrickson Builders on what is now known as Ames Common. In 1948, the Village Board passed a resolution to relocate the bandstand to its current spot on the beach. Park Avenue originally was not a through street. It was a lane from Maple to the house which is across from the entrance to the weed harvesting area. The lane from Dale Drive went to Hadley cabins. Once Park Avenue was completed, the village opened up the beach and moved the bandstand to accommodate larger crowds.**

**MAYOR ABERSOLD'S REPORT**

**Since our last meeting, I have had two conversations with Code Enforcement Officer Dan Delcamp. He remains in contact with Legal Advisor Joe Calemiri regarding the ongoing situation at 72 Lakeview. However, as of last night, there have been no new developments to report. Currently, Dan is maintaining custody of the file for this property.**

**LandPro Equipment has collected our tractor to install a new Erskine snowblower attachment. We may receive the tractor back as early as Friday. Once our equipment is returned, we will coordinate with Brian Anderson from the Town of Gerry to facilitate the return of their tractor and snowblower, which we have been using.**

**I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the employees from Gerry. When Biannca was excused from work last week, the Gerry team stepped in and cleared the sidewalks on Main Street and Maple Avenue. Their outstanding efforts ensured our walkways remained safe and accessible during her absence.**

**Discussions are ongoing regarding the potential merger of the village Department of Public Works with the Town of Stockton Highway Department. Earlier today, Jeff and I met with Dave Wilson and Aaron Barnett to discuss this possibility further. It is clear that additional meetings will be required before any agreement can be finalized.**

The village office will continue to be temporarily closed to the public for the remainder of February. Notices have been posted on the office windows, and the answering machine message now directs inquiries to me. Additionally, information about the closure is available on the village website.

Due to the absence of a village clerk and the lack of bookkeeping or accounting experience among current board members, I have reached out to Laura Napoli from Doeren Mayhew (formerly Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat) to provide accounting services for the village and help fulfill our fiduciary responsibilities. As we work to update our computers and software, we may eventually be able to return some accounting tasks to the office. At present, our computer's hard drive is full, and we are using an auxiliary drive to manage files. For example, Outlook still contains several old email folders, including one from a water engineer who passed away 15 years ago.

I have contacted Joe regarding the proposal from Doeren Mayhew. Before we can proceed with a resolution, several questions need to be addressed. Joe specifically asked whether an engagement letter or a defined length of service would be required. Additionally, he suggested that a confidentiality provision might need to be included in the agreement. I received an email from Laura Napoli explaining in the engagement letter a confidentiality provision is provided, per Joe a resolution for accepting the proposal is warranted this evening.

#### **RESOLUTION #24**

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to accept the proposal presented by Doeren Mayhew for accounting services with approval of the engagement letter by attorney Calimeri. Seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE 4 AYES 0 NAY

#### **RESOLUTION #25 CLERK'S REPORT**

A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to table the clerks report, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **WATER PROJECT**-Mayor Abersold stated that, according to a conversation with Matt Zerbo, the village should soon consider either developing a new well site on the ballfield area or pursuing the option available with the Todd property.
2. **72 Lakeview Avenue**
  - Update provided in the Mayor's report

## **PUBLIC WORKS BIANCCA RIGGLE'S REPORT**

**2/11/26**

**Biancca Riggle**

**DPW Utility Worker Report**

**Last two weeks**

**Still have been regularly plowing and clearing sidewalks when possible.**

**-Cold temperatures had left our salt relatively useless unless over-applied and with still possibly 1-2 more months of winter I have been trying to conserve our salt/sand supply Gerry's tractor started having more serious issues and has been taken out of use.**

**-Have been using our pull behind blade, cannot make it through many places on the sidewalk where snow is too deep.**

**-Our tractor has been picked up this morning by landpro to install new snowblower**

**-Clearing hydrants without a snowblower is difficult with one person and takes a lot of time to dig out by hand, please if there is one on/near your property and you are able to clear around it that would be incredibly helpful.**

**A sign was left outside the Royce Barn next to the Cemetery and must have fallen over before snow and was buried, I hit it with the plow and it broke through the siding of the lean to on barn.**

**- If you take a piece of village property from village grounds please let myself or the board know and if returning property please leave it inside where it was originally.**

**"It is important to clarify the village's plan regarding consolidation or continuation of the department out of respect for future employees. Additionally, general housekeeping and preparation of the DPW building should be completed prior to inviting job candidates to visit the facility."**

**- Most of the organizing/Prep cannot be done with nonstop snow and only one employee to be responsible of everything.**

**- I also feel it is important to express my safety concern with me being the only full time employee whether it be getting hurt working on something in the shop, getting stuck in equipment, an accident in the village or something as simple as slipping on the ice.**

**- Need a second person trained on our water system, our plowing responsibilities and equipment. I was sick for two days last week and the village is fortunate there was not a worse snow storm or else Stockton would have had difficulty keeping up with their streets and the village. I am also fortunate I could still get out of bed because our water system needs to be checked and tested every day.**

**- Stockton has had equipment issues and will not be at full staff soon and it is unfair to rely on other municipalities to perform our daily tasks when most are busy with their own towns. Have not gotten the computer/information from Chris back.**

**Found multiple recalls for dodge 1ton, but parts will not be in at dealer until mid march**

**- Waiting until recalls are taken care of to assess if it fixes the brake issues.**

**Next Two weeks:**

**Plow**

**Wait for JD tractor to come back to clear sidewalks**

**Organize office/shop**

**Complete 2025 water report**

## **TRUSTEE DUBOIS' REPORT**

- 1. Inquired on the status of the pending repair to the overhead garage door at the Village DPW. The last meeting, it was reported that SI Overhead Door was to order parts. Parts expected to take 2-3 weeks. Just looking to see if Bianca had an update.**
- 2. The letter of intent submitted to the CCPEG (Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth) for the EFG was approved and an invitation to write a grant application was awarded. The grant application period opened February 2 nd and is due by February 27 th . I met with the New York Forward Core Team on Monday, February 9 th to obtain more information and details about the Sporting Complex Project. Those in attendance were Nancy Wickmark, Cheryl Beichner, Barb Mallette, Dave Rowley, Holly Kimborwitz, and myself. A lot of information and plans were shared to begin writing the grant. Another tentative meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 16 th at 6 pm pending the progress made with the grant writing this week.**
- 3. Temperatures are expected to be in the 40s next week. We may be able to get some volunteers from the Fire Department to help clear out hydrants in the Village.**
- 4. No response from TJ Plumbing to provide an up-to-date quote for the plumbing project at the fire hall. Original quote received November 2024. I have requested a new quote with up-to-date costs of materials and labor. I have called and emailed twice. Still no new quote. Would like to use this quote to obtain at least two more bids for this project. This is not a high priority but something that I would like to get a bid for so that budgeting can be planned in the next fiscal period.**

## **TRUSTEE CRUVER'S REPORT**

**Protecting Our Records. Securing Our Systems. Saving Money Together.**

### **Village of Cassadaga**

- In Partnership with the Towns of Stockton and Charlotte**
  - NYS Department of State**
  - Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Grant**

### **Why This Matters**

- Cyberattacks on local governments are increasing • Aging IT systems and paper records increase risk**
- Records retention and FOIL requirements are expanding**
- One serious incident could exceed the cost of this project.**

### **Current Challenges**

- **Limited staff and office hours**
  - **No dedicated IT or cybersecurity personnel**
  - **Growing compliance obligations**

**These responsibilities already exist—resources do not.**

### **Shared Services Solution**

**Cassadaga, Stockton, and Charlotte will jointly:**

- **Secure IT systems and email**

- **Implement modern cybersecurity protections**
- **Digitize and manage municipal records**
- **Share professional IT support**

**This does not consolidate governments or eliminate positions.**

### **Why These Partners**

- **Similar municipal size and staffing**
- **Shared exposure to cybersecurity and records risk**
- **Geographic proximity**
- **A cooperative, practical approach.**

### **Grant-Funded Components**

**Cybersecurity & IT Infrastructure**  
**(~\$120,000)**

- **Managed IT services**

- Firewalls and endpoint protection
- Secure email and multi-factor authentication •
- Encrypted backups

#### Records Digitization (~\$80,000)

- Scanning priority records
- Secure, searchable digital storage

#### Implementation & Oversight

- Project coordination
- Vendor onboarding
- Policy alignment
- Intermunicipal agreement support

Estimated Cost: ~\$50,000

#### Project Cost Summary

- Total Project Cost: \$250,000

- **Required Local Match (10%): \$25,000** •

**Match shared among participating municipalities.**

### **Benefits to Each Municipality**

**Cassadaga:**

- **Modernized records and secure systems**

**Stockton:**

- **Professional IT services without new hires**

**Charlotte:**

- **Improved security despite limited office hours**

### **Long-Term Benefits**

- **Reduced cybersecurity risk**
- **Improved records access and compliance**
- **Lower long-term IT costs**
- **Scalable shared-services model**

### **Governance Structure**

**Lead Applicant: Village of Cassadaga**

**Shared Services Committee:**

**One representative per municipality**

**Single shared IT vendor**

**Local control retained**

**Board Action Requested**

**Authorize:**

✓ Submission of LGE Grant application  
✓ Partnership with Stockton and Charlotte  
✓ Commitment to required local match

◆ No expenditures occur unless grant is awarded.

**RESOLUTION # 26** A motion was made by Trustee Rowley and seconded by Trustee Dubois to continue the grant application for the LGE Conservative Grant 4 AYES 0 NAYS

**TRUSTEE FRICK'S REPORT**

Asked Biannca for a list of what locks and keys we have and how they were keyed so I can get our locks changed.

Asked about our 1-ton Dodge truck will be repaired. She informed me that they are several call back items and is taking it to a dealer.

Discussed plowed snow in the sidewalks. I have talked to 2 contractors. Next year we should issue a press release in the Fall. Rudy and I should go out and talk to some people informing them not to push snow on our sidewalks.

**TRUSTEE ROWLEY'S REPORT**

1) As a member of the NY Forward core team, I have attended two meetings held this month, including a core team meeting that was held on February 2 nd and a meeting that we held Tuesday evening to assist Danna with the village's grant application. Our next NY Forward meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 16 th at the Library.

2) I also attended the Cassadaga Lakes Association Winter Meeting that was held

**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Red House as a trustee and as a member of CLA's Board of Directors.**

**3) I attended some of the events held during the recent Winter Fest. Among the activities, the Vendor Showcase and Cornhole tournament at the American Legion Post 1280. Both events were well attended by members and the community at large.**

**4) And as part of my report, I will give you an update on the village's snowfall total. As a Cooperative Observer for the National Weather Service, I can say we have had 140.4 inches of snowfall in the village so far this season, including 9 inches that has fallen this month. And it's safe to say there will likely be more on the way, even with Dunkirk Dave's prediction of early spring!**

**RESOLUTION #27**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**A motion was made by Trustee Frick to table the Financial Statements, Seconded by Trustee DuBois. 4 AYES ) NAYS**

**RESOLUTION #28**

**A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to table bills and payroll, seconded by Trustee Rowley. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.**

**RESOLUTION #29**

**Being no further business, Trustee DuBois moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Cruver at 7:50 PM. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rudy Abersold  
Mayor, Village of Cassadaga**