

January 28, 2026

The regular meeting of the Village of Cassadaga was held on January 28, 2026 at 7:00PM with Mayor Rudy Abersold presiding. Trustees present included Danna DuBois and Jeffrey Frick. Also present was Clerk Annette McChesney. Absent was Trustee Cathy Cruver.

RESOLUTION # 14

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to approve the minutes of January 14, 2026, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS.

RESOLUTION # 15

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to approve the agenda, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING BOARD-RANDY CARLSON (2026-2031)

RESIGNATION LETTER PLANNING BOARD-DAVID ROWLEY

Acceptance and Gratitude Statement

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the board for approving my appointment to fill this trustee seat. I am equally grateful to the mayor for inviting me to consider this opportunity.

I want to especially thank my wife for her unwavering and loving support throughout this process. At the age of 64, this was not something I had anticipated or planned for. My career as a long-time broadcaster typically meant steering clear of political involvement.

However, having been a resident of this village for 33 years and being retired, I believe the time has come for me to step forward and get involved. Our village is currently facing several challenges, but I am confident that a team-oriented approach will lead to positive outcomes.

We are fortunate to have many dedicated individuals and local businesses in our community. I am eager to collaborate with the mayor and my fellow trustees as we address these challenges together. Now, it is time to get to work.

APPOINTMENT TO VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES-DAVID ROWLEY (2026)

RESOLUTION # 16

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to accept the resignation of David Rowley from the Planning Board, appoint Randy Carlson to the Planning Board and David Rowley to the Village Board of Trustees, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS.

GUESTS: Helen Runge-Lakeview Ave., John & Susan Sipos-Pennington Rd.&Village Historian, Deborah Metzger-Maple Ave., Braden Carmen-Observer, Buz & Michele Smith-Frisbee Rd., David & Cheryl Rowley-Burnham Pl., Nancy Wickmark-Pettit Pl.,

Randy Carlson-Burnham Pl., Nathan & Laura Pownall-Lakeview Ave., Rae Crandall-Maple Ave., Cindy Flaherty-Lakeview Ave., Ryan Burlingame-Maple Ave., Teri Seibert-Dale Dr.

John Sipos- Village Historian - 49 years ago today was the blizzard of '77, there was 12" of snow accumulation but 69MPH winds caused snow drifts up to 40' high, also four businesses at the four corners of the village were destroyed by fire that following Monday, see below

January 31, 1978



CASSADAGA FIRE DAMAGE: Official damage estimates are still being tallied on the fire which leveled four Cassadaga businesses early Monday. The Main Street blaze destroyed Gems and Junk, Bowl

Again bowling lanes, Titus TV and Service and the Cassadaga Youth Center. The top photo is looking south and the bottom picture is looking north at the fire scene. —(OBSERVER Photo)

Nancy Wickmark – she wanted to commend Rudy for all of the things he has laid out over the next four years, she reiterated the importance of having a Program Management Team. She noted it was amazing to see the number of people attending the last couple meetings and hopes it a new trend. She also wanted to mention that the Chautauqua County Planning Board’s recommendations on the new Zoning Laws were taken into consideration by each member of the Zoning Rewrite Committee, and no one found any necessary changes needed other than the typo corrections. She would like to be added to Old Business so the Comprehensive Plan can start to be reviewed, Mayor Abersold will get together with her and report back at the next meeting

Cindy Flaherty - asked the board if they had given any consideration to her request to be appointed Event Coordinator for the village, Mayor Abersold stated they have but it has been tabled until Trustee Cruver is at the next meeting, she is appointed Parks & Recreation Chairperson and has been working on this. She also submitted an application for use of the floating stage and beach for summer concert series. She will need a check for the band for the Winter Festival for \$300.00, this was approved under the prior board, the portable restroom for the beach will be billed to the village as has been done in the past as well. She thanked Greg Bacon for the successful Winter Festival, he chaired it this year. The Citizens for a Better Cassadaga will be meeting on 2/12 @ 7PM at the Cassadaga Library, all are welcome to attend. The Winter Festival is this weekend, the Frozen 50K will be on 2/7, and the Cassadaga Legion will have line dancing on 2/5 - 6:30-7:30pm

Cassadaga Winter Festival

Jan. 30, 31 and Feb. 1, 2026

FRIDAY

6:30-9:30PM The UNTOUCHABLES

Dance the night away at the American Legion Post 1280!
There will be drinks and delicious food available for purchase.
Sponsored by the American Legion Post 1280, 228 Maple Ave.

SATURDAY

10AM – 3 PM Vendor Show at American Legion Post 1280

Light lunch available.

12 NOON – 2 PM Fun on the Beach

Fire pits, S’mores, Tether Ball and prizes!
Chili, hot chocolate provided by Park Church. *And an ICE SCULPTURE!!!!*
Come see a pro make an ice sculpture! *Sponsored by the CBC*

1 PM Ice SCREAM Polar Dip

Be brave and go for a dip! At the beach. \$20 entry fee. T-shirts for dippers!
Proceeds go toward the reconstruction of the Gazebo. Register day of the event.
Sponsored by the RED HOUSE for Youth.

2-4 PM Tonya and her chickens at Cassadaga Library

Real live chickens, story and craft! Fun and informative for kids and adults.
Sponsored by Cassadaga Library, 18 Maple Ave.

5 PM Soup-er Bowl at Park Church

It’s a soup cook-off contest at Park Church! Salad and bread provided. No charge. Door Prize!
Call 716-962-2265 if you’d like to enter your soup in the contest.
Sponsored by Park Church, 25 Maple Ave., Cassadaga.

SUNDAY

1:30 PM Corn Hole Tournament at American Legion Post 1280

Registration 12:45-1:15 PM.

\$15 per player, round robin style, guaranteed 3 games
Chili and soup dinner \$15

Benefiting American Music Abroad Kids of CVCS.

1 – 3 PM Sledding at Cassadaga Country Club

Hot chocolate and cookies.

Sponsored by Cassadaga Country Club, 55 Frisbee Road & Cassadaga Library

5:30 PM Snow Moon ski/snowshoe hike

Meet at Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park, 8131 Rt. 60 at 5:20 for a guided tour.
Bring your own equipment. Car pool if you can. Parking is limited.

Sponsored by Cassadaga Lakes Association and Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.

Note: Frozen 50K this year will take place on Feb. 7. For information visit www.coachmarkwilson.com



Susan Sipos – she has lived here all her life and has been very impressed with all of the work Cindy has done for the village. She feels she needs the title of Events Coordinator so she has the power to continue to plan and organize and deal with anything that comes up, she is willing and very capable and Susan implores the board to give her the title she deserves

Nate Pownall – he and his wife recently moved to 37 Lakeview, and they are looking forward to getting involved in the community, he grew up in a town smaller than Cassadaga, and they have had such a wonderful welcome

Deborah Metzger – she has been very impressed with the new installees, the roads and sidewalks have been being taken care of efficiently with the new board hitting the ground running. She can attest to feeling like her voice not being heard by the prior board and she is looking forward to that changing. She has been asking for speed signage etc for Maple, Frisbee and Dale, Mayor Abersold has an event he will be attending in an area with solar speed signs and he will be gathering information on those while he is there to report back, . She also inquired on the crosswalks that were supposed to be installed in the village, both Mayor Abersold and Trustee Frick have been in contact with Drew Rodgers with NYSDOT and are working on this as well

Teri Seibert- she and Sean rehabbed the snowman last year and they would like to take care of getting the reindeer and the sleigh rehabbed as well that go in Ames Common. She reached out to Job Corp and the students are willing to donate the labor if the village or another committee will pay for the supplies. Cindy Flaherty stated that the sleigh and reindeers were already at Job Corp. Mayor Abersold asked Teri and Cindy to work together on getting a quote for materials needed and get back to the board

Mayor's Board Meeting Report Village of Cassadaga – January 28, 2026

Winterfest Celebration

This weekend, the Village of Cassadaga will come together for the annual Winterfest celebration. The festivities, hosted by the Citizens for a Better Cassadaga, will span three days and feature a variety of activities designed for all members of the community. Residents are encouraged to participate in as many events as possible, to enjoy the camaraderie and celebrate the unique charm of our winter season. As always, safety and warmth are paramount, let us embrace and enjoy our winter wonderland.

Grant Opportunity: Local Government Efficiency

The Chautauqua County Planning Department has announced a grant opportunity aimed at supporting local government efficiency. The application deadline for this grant is February 4. I have asked Cathy to investigate the grant as a potential resource for immediate needs to the village. Appreciation was expressed for Chautauqua Planning's timely communication about the grant, and Cathy has confirmed she is actively exploring this opportunity.

Accounting Services Proposal

Following the January 14th Village Board of Trustees meeting, a consultation took place with Laura Napoli of Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat regarding the possibility of expanding accounting services for the village. Ms. Napoli brings significant experience with village finances and collaborates closely with Municipal Solutions, our fiscal advisors for the capital water project. Her firm also provides services to many neighboring municipalities. She has expressed her wish to offer any necessary assistance moving forward. The proposal is currently under review by Danna and Cathy.

Clerk Transition Support

To ensure a smooth transition as the village prepares to appoint a new clerk, contact was made with Sue Peacock, President of the Chautauqua County Municipal Clerks Association. Ms. Peacock has generously offered her support during this period.

Software and Payroll Assistance

Mary Kwandrans, advisor for KVS/Springbrook Software, has provided dedicated support to the village for more than twenty years. She will continue to assist with

payroll and accounts payable and has committed to providing necessary training for the incoming clerk.

Village Office Transition

After consulting with several advisors, confidence remains high that the village office will manage the transition effectively as Annette steps down as village clerk. The office is dedicated to maintaining stability and effectiveness during this period of change.

Department Consolidation Discussion

A meeting was recently held with John Penhallow, County Legislator, and Dave Wilson, Town Supervisor, to discuss the potential consolidation of the Department of Public Works (DPW) with the Town's Highway Department. A follow-up meeting will include Dave Wilson, Aaron Barnett, Jeff Frick, and the myself to further explore the consolidation. Applications for the position of DPW Superintendent are being accepted. 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.

Legal Counsel Recommendation

After multiple discussions and correspondence with Attorney Joe Calimeri, the recommendation is to continue the partnership with Mr. Calimeri as village attorney. The retainer for 2026 is set at \$13,000, which falls within the budgeted amount of \$15,000 and the current balance of \$9,502.61. The next quarterly payment of \$3,250 will be billed soon. It is requested that the board pass a resolution officially naming Joe Calimeri as counsel and legal advisor for the village.

RESOLUTION # 17

APPOINT LEGAL ADVISOR

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to appoint Joe Calimeri as counsel and legal advisor, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.

CLERK MCCHESENEY'S REPORT

- She reported she forwarded an email to the board requesting they attend the Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for The Heart of the Valley on February 12, 1:00pm 8038 Rt 60
- She received the W-2s and just has to complete final steps in the payroll system to get them printed
- She is working on getting month end completed, still has to do payroll taxes, financial statement etc, but is excited to get things wrapped up on her end as Mayor Abersold seems to have things under control and plans taking shape with how to proceed. She again thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and has offered to assist with making the transition as smooth as possible

OLD BUSINESS

1. BATHHOUSE AT BEACH

- Mayor Abersold would like to see this item removed from the agenda, the remaining work will not be forgotten, the board concurred

2. WATER PROJECT

- Per Mayor Abersold Square Engineering will work with the board during this transition time, and the board will also need to decide if they want to pursue the Todd property as a potential new well site going forward
- Clerk McChesney has the checks printed to be signed for the last draw request totalling \$111,372.22. These were approved under the prior administration it just takes time to have them processed, the deposit received from EFC, the vendor's invoices entered and then the checks done

3. 72 Lakeview Avenue

- Mayor Abersold has spoken with the Attorney and there was lengthy discussion on what actions have or have not been taken and what can be used in the old vs. new zoning to get this property in compliance. There may be avenues to pursue with the lakes association etc

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE CONCERT SERIES AT THE BEACH

RESOLUTION # 18

APPROVE CONCERT SERIES AT THE BEACH

A motion was made by Trustee Rowley to approve concert series at the beach as listed below, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.

Tentative Summer Concert Schedule 2026

June 17 – Strawberry Social with Cassadaga Community Concert Band 6:30 – 8:30PM

June 28 – Rustic Ramblers

July 12 – Midnight Recovery

July 26 – Osborn Nash

Aug. 9 – Hooman

Aug. 23 – 10 Cent Howl

Sept. 6 – Aces & Eights

All headliners play from 5 to 7PM. Opening bands (TBD) play 4 – 5.

PUBLIC WORKS BIANCCA RIGGLE'S REPORT

Biancca Riggle

DPW utility worker report

Last two weeks:

Got official quote from SI overhead door

-asked about needing electrician, only need if installing outlet prior

-they will start with ordering parts and letting me know when it is in to schedule install. Approx 3 weeks

Have continued plowing streets and parking lots with the help of stockton plowing frisbee, parking lots when needed and charlotte plowing high st

Worked on getting sidewalks fully cleared, but running into difficulties with borrowed tractor having error codes leading to needing frequent stops to cool down and dry off. Mostly just poor design from manufacturer. Gerry is aware of issues(same as they had before getting new equipment) and has said to just keep doing what im doing. There are areas that likely cannot be cleared due to excess snow from driveways

Snow removal from lots and corners/turnaround areas is also a priority

Chris picked up Office computer and was unable to get into it, but did get info from hardware. Recommends updating office equipment.

-have not made much else progress with office organization due to weather

Next two weeks:

Plowing streets and parking lots is priority

Clearing sidewalks

Removing snow piles where/when possible

Starting water withdrawal report

cleaning/organizing shop

ATTORNEY' REPORT

- **Mayor Abersold stated Joe is looking forward to working with the new board**

TRUSTEE FRICK'S REPORT

- **He has been working on getting a list of locks in the village to get a quote to have them rekeyed. He has spoken with Jackson's Locksmithing so far. Tim Cobb who has worked for the village prior has offered to drive around with him to assist**
- **He has spoken with Bianca on getting the fire hydrants cleared, the Mayor has also posted a request for residents to help if they can, Turstee DuBois also stated the fire deparment members have done this in the past so hopefully the weather will warm up a little and all the volunteers can get this done**
- **He reported that as far as the DPW consolidation goes, the village has basically been doing this through shared services at this time. Looking at the list that Bianca put together of the age and replacement costs for village equipment it makes sense to pursue this avenue, it's been a good practice run. He again thanked the Towns of Stockton, Charlotte and Gerry**
- **He has also been working on a list of signs that need replaced around the village, he's confident that he can get them replaced before the end of winter**

TRUSTEE CRUVER'S REPORT - Absent

TRUSTEE ROWLEY'S REPORT

Acceptance and Gratitude Statement

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I want to especially thank my wife for her unwavering and loving support throughout this process. At the age of 64, this was not something I had anticipated or planned for. My career as a long-time broadcaster typically meant steering clear of political involvement.

However, having been a resident of this village for 33 years and being retired, I believe the time has come for me to step forward and get involved. Our village is currently facing several challenges, but I am confident that a team-oriented approach will lead to positive outcomes.

We are fortunate to have many dedicated individuals and local businesses in our community. I am eager to collaborate with the mayor and my fellow trustees as we address these challenges together. Now, it is time to get to work!

TRUSTEE DUBOIS' REPORT

- **She gave Cassadaga Volunteer Fire Departments' monthly Report for December 2025 as follows:**
 - **EMS Calls – 17**
 - **Fire Calls – 1**

- MVA Calls – 2
- Alarm Activation – 0
- Service Calls – 0
- Single Company - 1
- Mutual Aid Given - 5
- Mutual Aid Received – 0
- Total Calls - 21
- Total Man Hours 113
- She gave Cassadaga Volunteer Fire Departments' Yearly Report for 2025 as follows:
 - EMS Calls – 183
 - Fire Calls – 22
 - MVA Calls – 23
 - Alarm Activation – 32
 - Service Calls – 7
 - Single Company - 6
 - Mutual Aid Given - 112
 - Mutual Aid Received – 81
 - Total Calls – 264
 - Total Man Hours - 1179
- She reported she sent in the Letter of Intent to apply for the EFG grant on 1/20 for a \$20,000 towards a sporting complex, she received confirmation that it was received and is just waiting to hear back if the village will be invited to apply. The grant opens for applicants on 2/2 and has to be finalized by 2/27
- She has starting to look more into the plumbing repairs that have been needed in the community room for 3-4 years and is working on getting updated quotes, she would like to have 2 or 3 to compare
- She has looked over the equipment list that Bianca put together and read some of the staggering figures for what is needed to be replaced, she also feels that looking into consolidation makes sense financially for the village as well
- She thanked Mayor Abersold and Trustee Frick for hitting the ground running when the snowblower was broken and the DPW head resigned with two days notice, it was refreshing to see action taken in such a short period of time
- She echoed sentiments from the residents of their voices not being heard by the prior board, she as a member of the board also felt her voice was not heard
- She thanked Cindy Flaherty for all of the time she has spent over the years writing grants, and going out of her way to organize festivities and events
- She thanked Clerk McChesney for all of her help along the way when she first joined the board, she is sad to see her go but completely understands
- She welcomed David Rowley and Randy Carlson to their new positions and thanked them for stepping up
- Mayor Abersold did want to note that he has looked into what the County Planning board uses for minute dictation and will be following up with the best way to proceed with adding resolution numbers etc

RESOLUTION # 19

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to approve the financial report for January 28, 2026, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE: 4 YES, 0 NAYS.

| | | |
|--------------------------|----|------------|
| GENERAL FUND 01/28/2026 | \$ | 305,886.16 |
| WATER FUND 01/28/2026 | \$ | 157,323.57 |
| RESERVE CVFD EQ. | \$ | 38,760.12 |
| RESERVE DPW EQ. | \$ | 22,536.36 |
| RESERVE WATER REPAIRS | \$ | 50,445.42 |
| RESERVE FOR DEBT SERVICE | \$ | 363,110.58 |

RESOLUTION #20

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to approve bills & payroll as follows, seconded by Trustee Frick. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.

| | | | |
|--|----------------|----|-----------|
| PAYROLL General Fund, 01/27/2026 | cks: 6281-6286 | \$ | 5,369.44 |
| PAYROLL Water Fund, 01/27/2026 | cks: 6281-6286 | \$ | 2,427.54 |
| ABSTRACT Jan. 28, 2026, General Cks: 10601-10606 | | \$ | 10,905.57 |
| ABSTRACT Jan. 28, 2026, Water Cks: 10601-10606 | | \$ | 2,511.29 |

RESOLUTION # 21

Being no further business, Trustee DuBois moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Frick at 8:14 PM. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette McChesney, Clerk Treasurer