

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY, held April 14, 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) Public Hearings**

**a) Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2025 pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law Section 3-c to permit the Village of Ballston Spa to exceed the property tax cap for the Fiscal Year 2026 beginning on June 1, 2025**

**Mayor Rossi opened the Public Hearing at 7:11pm.**

**There was no public comment.**

**Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush to close the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #3 of 2025 be closed at 7:12pm.**

**Ayes All**

**b) Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (beginning on June 1, 2025) pursuant to New York State Village Law Section 5-508(1)**

**Mayor Rossi opened the Public Hearing at 7:13pm.**

**Liz Kormos of 89 Hyde Blvd. explained an excel sheet she did on the budget.**

**Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush to close the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget be closed at 7:19pm.**

**4) Minutes**

**a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush that the minutes of the 3/24/25 meeting be approved.**

**Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that minutes be amended as follows: Trustee Baskin interrupted the roll call vote to remind the mayor that members of the public each get 90 seconds to express their opinions prior to the vote.**

**Ayes All**

**5) Presentations (None)**

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

**Referring to item iii, Mayor Rossi said that option 1 (closing Front Street) was not going to be considered due to EMS concerns for safety.**

**The Mayor noted that there will be an additional motion added tonight regarding a new vehicle for the Police Chief.**

**Natalia Martinez, owner of Play Hollow, explained that they want Front Street closed for pedestrian safety.**

**Mayor Rossi suggested approving the motion with the removal of option 1 and then having a later discussion.**

**Liz Biddle, 132 Fairground Avenue announced the summer movies shown will be as follows: June- Toy Story July-Elf and August-Wicked.**

Ms. Kormos said she thinks the Wiswall Park bids should have been combined and not piecemealed and also feels that bidders should be identified.

Marilyn Stephenson of 45 West High Street noted the Zoning workshop was well attended and wants the deadline for public comment to be extended.

Ms. Stephenson accused the Chair of the ZAC of being told to lie and stated she feels there has been a lack of transparency.

Gary Stephenson, 45 West High Street feels the Village is in violation of the Open Meetings Laws, stating that various Boards do not post draft minutes.

Ray Otten of 16 Middlebrook Avenue suggested that the dog park in Kelley Park be moved to make it more accessible.

#### **7) Consent Agenda Items for Consideration**

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez to approve the items on the following Consent Agenda:

i) Motion that the Park and Tree Board be permitted to plant two trees in celebration of Arbor Day. The trees, a donation from the Cornell Master Forest Owner Program to support Community Forests, will be planted on 4/26 at 10:00am in front of the Methodist Church at 101 Milton Avenue.

ii) Motion to approve the BSBPA to conduct "Movies in the Park" in Wiswall Park (alternative, Iron Spring Park) on 6/7 (rain date 6/8), 7/11 (rain date 7/12), and 8/1 (rain date 8/2) from 6:30pm to 10:00pm. A permit will be issued upon proof of liability insurance.

iii) Motion that Play Hollow be authorized to conduct their annual "Summer Kickoff" in Wiswall Park on 6/22 (rain date 6/29) from 10:00am to 2:00pm (setup beginning at 8am). Proof of liability insurance has been provided.

#### **8) Motions/Resolutions for Consideration/Vote**

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that the following Fire Dept. appointments be made:

Fire Chief – Kevin Krogh	1st Assistant Chief – Wilfred (Bill) Kenny
2nd Assistant Chief – Stephen Morrissey	3rd Assistant Chief – Kevin Dubois
Department Secretary/Treasurer – Stanley DeLong	
Ayes All	

Mayor Rossi officially swore the officers in.

b) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, to accept the attached proposal from Studio A to perform work related to potential renovations at Iron Spring Park (\$3,000.00) and Kelley Park (\$5,000.00) for a total of \$8,000.00, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement.

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee Price-Bush, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, that the attached list be declared excess equipment for the Library.

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush that the Library be authorized to accept Change Order #1-004 (Bunkoff General Contractors Inc.) in the amount of \$849.00 for a gutter and downspout for the elevator mechanical room.

**Ayes All**

**e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that the Library be authorized to accept Change Order #3-003 (Allegiant Heating) in the amount of \$3,936.53 for additional fire alarm devices.**

**Ayes All**

**f) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that the attached list of Standard Workday Report be adopted with the change of Mayor Rossi being listed as elected, not appointed.**

**Ayes All**

**g) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush approving the attached lubricant agreement for DPW between Xylem and the Village of Ballston Spa, and authorizing the Mayor to execute said agreement.**

**Ayes All**

**h) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, approving the attached grant agreement between Saratoga Arts and the Village of Ballston Spa, and authorizing the Mayor to execute said agreement.**

**Ayes All**

**i) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, approving the attached agreement related to sod and topsoil installation for Wiswall Park between Drumms Turf & Sawmill LLC and the Village of Ballston Spa totaling \$18,705.50, and authorizing the Mayor to execute said agreement.**

**Ayes All**

**j) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez seconded by Trustee Price-Bush that the attached resolution related to the John Street Tower be approved.**

**Trustee Baskin-yes**

**Trustee Raymond-yes**

**Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes**

**Trustee Price-Bush-yes**

**Mayor Rossi-yes**

**Motion Passed**

**k) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, approving the request of the Ethics Board for use of Special Counsel services of Sarah Burger, Esq. (Burger Law Group).**

**Ayes All**

**l) Motion made by Trustee Baskin seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, approving the attached Arbor Day Proclamation.**

**Ayes All**

**m) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush approving the attached motion related to Local Law No. 3 of 2025 pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law Section 3-c to permit the Village of Ballston Spa to exceed the property tax cap for the Fiscal Year 2026 beginning on June 1, 2025.**

**The Board declared there is no negative environmental impact regarding SEQR.**

**Trustee Raymond said he feels we should increase taxes to cover our annual maintenance and operating costs and stop using fund balance.**

**Trustee Baskin read the attached statement.**

Trustee Baskin-yes	Trustee Raymond-yes	Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes
	Trustee Price-Bush-yes	Mayor Rossi-yes
Motion Passed		

n) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez seconded by Trustee Price-Bush approving reissuance of the Wiswall Park Pavillion RFP for a period of one week, ending Monday, 4/21/2025 at 4pm, with bid opening to be held at that time.

Ayes All

o) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond, approving the lowest annual Village mowing bid (TMC for \$18,710.00), and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with TMC after review by the Village Attorney.

Ayes All

p) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez seconded by Trustee Raymond approving the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe CK10706 4-wheel drive for the purpose of a Police Chief vehicle and approving the Mayor to enter into an agreement for purchase over a 4 year period.

Trustee Baskin-yes	Trustee Raymond-yes	Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes
	Trustee Price-Bush-recuse	Mayor Rossi-yes
Motion Passed		

#### 9) Mayor's Announcements

a) Mayor Rossi spoke about the new zoning code, clarifying that the Historic District will be in the code and announced that the deadline for comments has been extended to 4/25.

b) Addressing the Times Union article about the HDC, Mayor Rossi expressed his disappointment at the level of disinformation.

c) Thank you to the Events Task Force for the phenomenal Easter Egg Hunt.

d) Mayor Rossi explained The Bond Anticipation Note.

#### 10) Treasurer's Report

#### 11) Liaison Reports

Trustee Price-Bush said the Library community room construction is almost complete.

The Friends of the Ballston Spa Library have teamed with Nourish on shirts designs that can be purchased.

Trustee Price-Bush reported that the BACC is partnering with Hoffman Car Wash for a fundraiser through 5/2.

Trustee Baskin stated that the Committee on the Arts got \$2,500.00 in funding from The Saratoga Arts Foundation for Sounds of Summer and Sounds of Winter, and \$5,000.00 for Summer Sketch and Print Class.

Trustee Raymond noted that the DPW has completed stump removal and repair of sidewalks on Milton Avenue and have started working on Wiswall Park.

A water main break on Ballston Avenue and a sewer plug on Charles Street have been repaired, added Trustee Raymond.

**12) Old Business (None)**

**13) New Business (None)**

**14) Public Comment on Any Issue (3 Minutes)**

Ms. Kormos expressed concern about the ownership of the field on Hyde Blvd.

Mr. Stephenson said he is concerned about transparency in Zoning Board minutes.

Jared Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street feels we should be careful with the rezoning of the Historic District, and rezoning in general.

Ellie Dillon, 116 Malta Avenue invited the Board to the BSBPA sponsored networking breakfast on 5/6 at the Bottle Museum from 8:00am to 9:30am.

Anna Stanko of 32 Kent Street said the Saratoga County Historian has started a new program to start the 250<sup>th</sup> Revolutionary Kick Off, called One if by Land, Two if by Sea.

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

Trustee Raymond read the attached statement.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez told Trustee Raymond that his tone in emails was out of line.

Attorney Buettner corrected Trustee Raymond regarding his statement about committee selection forfeit.

Trustee Baskin feels that undermining is taking place regarding committees, and thinks the ZAC did not fulfill its duty.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated the ZAC was dysfunctional; a lot of people felt badgered.

Mayor Rossi noted he doesn't understand where the idea came from that the ZAC runs the entire show, noting this Board is ultimately responsible.

The Mayor and Trustees Baskin and Raymond disagreed about how Committees function.

**16) Executive Session (If needed)**

**17) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:**

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush, that the Vouchers be audited, and the meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

General Fund	\$ 346,109.59
Sewer Relevy	100.50
Capital Projects	156,917.14
Library Fund	3,929.62
Trust & Agency	<u>995.85</u>
Total	\$ 508,052.70

Ayes All

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Teri L. O’Connor**  
**Village Clerk**