

Village of Valatie  
Board of Trustee Meeting

March 10, 2026

6:30 PM

**Board of Trustees**

Mayor Bevens

Trustee Larry Eleby

Trustee Patrick Rodgers

Trustee Matthew Carter

Trustee Amy Freinberg-Trufas

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Rebecca Daley-Village Clerk

Mayor Bevens opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Resolution #81-** was made by Trustee Carter to approve the minutes of February 10, 2026, meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Resolution #82-** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve the abstract bills-**2025-2026 – 443-486**, For a total of \$47,346.72. Off abstract bills total \$20,658.70. Total bills are \$68,005.42. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Public Comment-** Resident Yonatan Cohen expressed his concerns to the board regarding the decision to allow Verizon to install a cell tower behind the Municipal Building located in the Village. Mr. Cohen read aloud his "Updated 2 Minute Statement" to the Board of Trustees and to the public. Resident Luke Towslee also spoke to the Board of Trustees regarding his concerns about the tower being installed. Some of the concerns were location, safety and the wildlife habitat.

The Board of Trustees and Attorney Fitzsimmons responded to all questions regarding the cell tower.

**Parks-** Volunteers will be needed soon to help cleanup River Street to Pachaquack Park. The flyer will be out soon.

A Resolution is needed to make all parks tobacco-free in the Village.

**Resolution #83-** was made by Trustee Freinberg-Trufas to approve that all parks in the Village of Valatie are tobacco-free. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Climate Smart-** Donna Welton stated that the Climate Smart committee toured the Hydro Facility on February 25, 2026. She also reminded the board that they will be planting a tree in Pachaquack Park on April 25th.

**Fire Department-** Mayor Bevens read the Fire Chief's Monthly Report. The report will be on file in the clerk's office.

Aiden Meenagh was accepted as an active firefighter at the March 3, 2026, fire meeting.

**Resolution #84-** was made by Trustee Eleby to approve Aiden Meenagh acceptance into the Valatie Fire Department. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Congratulations Aiden!!

**Theater-** Jen Clark stated that the Theater put on the production of Snow White over Spring Break. The production was a success. They are still on track for the Galla on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Theater is still waiting for a date to start work on the new roof.

**Highway-** Spring Clean-Up will begin on April 13<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays only. Leaves and lawn clippings must be in 2-ply biodegradable bags. Branches must be cut to: Maximum 10 feet in length and Maximum 6 inches in diameter. Place bags and branches at the edge of your property diagonally to the road.

**WWTP Report-** Report on file in the clerk's office.

**Building Department-** Our building inspector is still on medical leave. Vince Condra is helping the village part time.

**Clerk Report-** Starting to get ready for the next water and sewer billing (April).

Columbia County Land Bank Corporation would like to purchase Tax Map ID No. 44.6-1-29, 1306 River Street, known as the former 'Energy Onix' or 'Old Mill' building and parcel together with part or portion of Tax map ID 44.6-1-25.110 contiguous to 1306 River Street as vacant land.

**Resolution #85-** was made by Trustee Eleby to approve the sale of 1306 River Street. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

#### **MHG Applications & Callan Park:**

Northern Columbia Little League has requested the use of Callan Park for their upcoming little league season.

Dave Ames has requested the use of Callan Park baseball and softball fields. 7/13-7/17/26 Youth Baseball Camp and 7/27-7/31/26 Youth Softball Camp.

Northern Columbia Lions Club requested the use of Callan Park for their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 11am.

**Resolution #86-** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve all the requests for use of Callan Park. Trustee Freinberg-Trufas seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Other Business-** Playground equipment at Callan Park needs to be repainted. Mayor Bevens suggested we paint the playground blue and white, the board agreed.

**Resolution #87-** was made by Trustee Freinberg-Trufas to approve painting the playground equipment. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Resident Brigitte Rens Kaufman, M.D., presented a letter to the clerk's office regarding her concerns about the Verizon tower. She requested the letter be read to all attendees. Trustee Freinberg-Trufas read the letter outloud.

**Resolution #88-** was made by Trustee Freinberg-Trufas to respond to the letter. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Trustee Freinberg-Trufas stated that Berkshire has extended the grant money date for Senior Center improvements.

Trustee Rodgers stated the Village is close to having all necessary documents submitted to EFC for the new Water Filtration System.

**Resolution #89-**was made by Trustee Eleby to enter an executive session to discuss matters before the board at 7:56pm. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

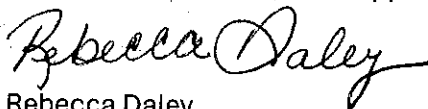
**Resolution #90-** was made by Trustee Eleby to exit executive session at 8:29pm. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Clerk Daley provided the board with a draft copy of the 2026-2027 Budget to be reviewed.

All are invited to attend the annual organizational meeting, tentative budget and monthly board meeting that will immediately follow on April 14, 2026.

With no further business to discuss.

**Resolution #91-** was made by Trustee Eleby to adjourn the meeting at 8:34. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.



Rebecca Daley

Village Clerk