

Village of Schoharie – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2026

Presiding: Deputy Mayor Peter Johnson

Present: Medak, DeGross and Palmer, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Debby Byrne, Peter Lindemann from the Times Journal, Josh Walther from the Mountain Eagle, Jim Presley, Bob Tines, Liz Vedder, Diana Bell, David Ornoski, Darlene Patterson, Terry Wilbur and Tom Hitter.

Excused: Mayor Colleen M Henry

Board Meeting

Meeting brought to order by Deputy Mayor Johnson at 6:29 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Minutes

- a. February 18th, 2026, Village Board Meeting Minutes were previously distributed to the Board for their review. Motion needed to approve the Minutes.

Motion made by Trustee Medak, seconded by Trustee Palmer unanimously carried to approve the February 18th, 2026, Village Board Meeting Minutes as written.

2. Bills and Bank Statements review and sign.

3. Abstracts and Bank Statements:

- a. General \$ 10,371.46 (February 19th, 2026- March 10th, 2026)
- b. Water \$ 24,815.93 (February 19th, 2026- March 10th, 2026)
- c. Sewer \$ 3,658.92 (February 19th, 2026- March 10th, 2026)
- d. Pool \$ 8.72 (February 19th, 2026- March 10th, 2026)
- e.

Motion made by Trustee Palmer, seconded by Trustee DeGross, unanimously carried to approve payment of the invoices presented and the submitted Abstract amounts.

4. POF:

5. Incoming Correspondence:

- a. N/A

6. Outgoing Correspondence:

- a. N/A

7. New Business:

- a. The Board discussed postponing the purchase of a new DPW truck. After reviewing the condition of the 2013 truck with DPW, it was determined that the truck was in fairly good shape and just needs some repairs. The Board would like DPW to make these repairs and continue using the 2013 truck. Trustee Medak would like to make a Motion to table the purchase of a new truck right now.

Motion made by Trustee Medak, seconded by Trustee DeGroff, unanimously carried to approve to table the purchase of a new DPW truck at this time.

8. Old Business:

- a. The New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) has approved the Schoharie County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. A Motion needs to be made to approve Resolution 4-2026 (attached).

Motion made by Trustee Medak, seconded by Trustee DeGroff, unanimously carried to approve Resolution 4-2026 with the following vote: 4 in favor; 0 against, 1 sustaining (absent).

- b. The new sewer rates will be in effect with the March Water/Sewer billing. The office has entered the new rates into the billing program. Trustee Johnson opened the floor to the public as there were some residents who had questions. Diana Bell and David Ornoski both questioned when the Public Hearing was held and questioned notification. They both suggested using TextMyGov for announcement of ALL meetings, whether public or not. Tom Hitter showed them where to find the new rates on the Village website and the Village Clerk gave Diana a copy of Resolution 3-2026 with the new rates. David Ornoski also had some questions as to the water meters themselves, he takes pictures of his water meter every Friday and on August 29, 2025, the meter read "updating". Mr. Ornoski asked who was doing the updating and what updating was being done. Mrs. Byrne answered that the Village of Schoharie was not doing the updates, the company Master Meters was updating. Trustee Medak suggested that we have a meeting with DPW and a representative from Master Meter to get these answers. Discussion will be continued at the Employee Meeting in March. Trustee Johnson explained that the infrastructure of the water and sewer systems is very old and in need of updating. He mentioned that we have 7 miles of sewer lines in the Village and some are over 100 years old. Trustee Johnson also mentioned that Mayor Henry has applied for Grants to obtain money for these projects.
- c. The public forum on the CSD Housing project was held on March 5th, 2026, with a good attendance of about 35 people. After the meeting, Mayor Henry spoke with the Planning Board Chair, Tom Hitter, to determine if an "Impact Assessment" as part of the SEQR process is necessary. Trustee Johnson again opened the floor to public comment as many had questions and comments on this topic. Planning Board Chairman Tom Hitter gave a brief summary of what has happened so far. Mayor Henry asked if the Planning Board could authorize an "Impact Study" on the CSD proposal through the SEQR process and if CSD could pay for it rather than using village funds. Chairman Hitter replied that they could and would require a full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) under SEQR for the site plan review and special use permit applications if the Planning Board is the lead agency. Mr. Hitter explained to the Board that completing an EAF is essentially what SEQR is and that CSD has already submitted Part 1 to the Planning Board. The Planning Board will now need to complete the lengthy 18 Part 2 of that SEQR EAF screening which will include

a public hearing. The Planning Board can ask the applicant to fund an escrow account to pay any expenses we incur for consultants, etc. during that process. After completing that form, the Planning Board would arrive at and compose either a negative declaration favoring the proposal or a positive declaration which would mean that there are major adverse impacts that would have to be mitigated before the proposal could be approved. If the applicant wants to continue pursuing approval, they can respond to a positive declaration by submitting something called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which would present in great detail their plan for mitigating those adverse effects. This can be an expensive thing to prepare but it is always at the applicant's expense. It is not done by or paid for by the village though again, we may require experts to evaluate that and even those would be paid out of the applicant's escrow account. Liz Veddar asked what the general outcome was at the meeting and both Trustee Johnson and Chairman Tom Hitter said most were opposed to this project.

9. Other:

- a. The Zoning Board of Appeals has nominated Samantha Jo Ballard as a member for a five-year term. Motion is needed to approve this nomination.

Motion made by Trustee Medak, seconded by Trustee Palmer, unanimously carried to approve the nomination of Samantha Jo Ballard to the Village of Schoharie Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of five years.

- b. Darlene Patterson, representing Schoharie Promotional, asked the Board to explain why they did not approve putting electrical outlets in the poles on Main Street from Spring Street to Bridge Street. SPA would like to decorate the entire Main Street with snowflakes for the 2026 Holiday season. SPA has offered to pay National Grid for this work. The Board said they would look at this request again and discuss it with the Mayor. They will have an answer soon and contact Darlene.

10. Adjourn

Motion made by Trustee Palmer seconded by Trustee DeGroff unanimously carried to approve adjourning the Board Meeting at 7:31 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Byrne
Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer

JEFFERY PALMER, TRUSTEE
PETER JOHNSON, TRUSTEE
SAL MEDAK, TRUSTEE
BECKY DEGROFF, TRUSTEE

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COLLEEN M. HENRY, MAYOR

DEBRA BYRNE, DEPUTY
CLERK/TREASURER

518-295-8500
(FAX) 518-295-8501
TDD NUMBER 1-800-662-1220

RESOLUTION 4-2026

The Village of Schoharie, New York
RESOLUTION NO. 4-2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF SCHOHARIE ADOPTING THE SCHOHARIE COUNTY 2024 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UNPDATE.

WHEREAS, The Village of Schoharie recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the Village of Schoharie; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Schoharie has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as The Schoharie County 2024 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the Village of Schoharie from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Village of Schoharie demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlines in The Schoharie County 2024 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE OF SCHOHARIE, NEW YORK THAT:

Section 1, the Village of Schoharie adopts the Schoharie County 2024 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. This Plan, approved by the community, may be edited or amended after submission for review, but will not require the community to re-adopt any further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the community from updating the plan in five (5) years,

JEFFERY PALMER, TRUSTEE
PETER JOHNSON, TRUSTEE
SAL MEDAK, TRUSTEE
BECKY DEGROFF, TRUSTEE

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COLLEEN M. HENRY, MAYOR

DEBRA BYRNE, DEPUTY
CLERK/TREASURER

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ADOPTED by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against, and 1 sustaining, this 10th day of March 2026.

By *Peter Johnson*
Deputy Mayor Peter Johnson

ATTEST BY *Debra J. Byrne*
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Debra Byrne

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY *Colleen M. Henry*
Mayor Colleen M. Henry