

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF MEDINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON
MONDAY APRIL 7, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Present: Mayor Marguerite Sherman

Trustees Deborah Padoleski, Mark Prawel, Jess Marciano and Scott Bieliski

Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mayor Sherman administered the oaths of office to elected Board Members Scott Bieliski and Jess Marciano.

Mayor Sherman opened the Public Comment Period at 5:35 p.m. on Local Law 3-2025, entitled, "Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess stated the following:

Legislated in New York State in 2011 to put restraints on local government officials when developing their budgets. NYCOM, a team of attorneys and an advocate for local governments, recognized that the proposed 2% tax cap could be unreasonable when trying to budget for unavoidable increasing annual costs to provide essential services, such as union contracts, retirement and insurance, often with increases higher than 2%. New York State now allows local officials to enact a local law overriding this tax cap, which is not necessarily 2%. This cap is not a rate, but rather the levy. The state provides a form that must be completed annually and the calculations used involve some exclusions, a tax base growth factor, and an allowable levy growth factor. The New York Conference of Mayors, who we rely on for advice in many areas, particularly when interpreting state laws that apply to our Village, has long recommended that local leaders pass this resolution to override the tax cap.

Mr. Tim Zeiner, from 416 Park Avenue said the average income in the Village is \$65,000.00. He said if the Village continues to raise taxes it will be unaffordable to live here.

Ms. Karen Bielak of 117 Eastview Drive said taxes have gone up enormously and it is unsustainable. She said the taxpayers are ready for services to be cut and asked the board what kind of cuts the board is willing to make.

Ms. Ellie Kage of 207 North Gravel Road said several residents in Medina are on social security. She said you are forcing the elderly to sell their homes and move out of the Village.

Mrs. Debbie Berry of 510 Florence Avenue said you are purchasing a ladder truck and putting up a building and we can't even hook up to it. She said it would be an injustice to raise taxes when people can't afford it.

Mr. John Kage of 207 North Gravel Road said in 2023-2024 he saw a \$141.00 increase and in 2024-2025 it was a \$359.00 increase. He asked how much surplus the Village has and how many houses pay taxes in the Village.

Mrs. Ellie Kage asked how many people can be in the Village Clerk's Office at one time. She said the Code Enforcement Officer should know the occupancy of each building owned in the Village.

Mr. Ethan Weeks of 511 West Avenue said he did a quick breakdown of the budget. He said the salaries are 3.6 million dollars and asked what that encompasses. He said there is \$102,000.00 in equipment and asked what that was. He said sixty percent is salary and benefits. He said that seems to be where we need to go. He said the County is there to back up the Village. He said the Village needs a succession plan and the Village needs to do what the Village needs to do to move forward. He said the salaries in the Village are not sustainable and those resources are overloaded, and we are heading in the wrong direction.

Ms. Robin Wehling of 325 Bates Road said she has lived here forty-five years. She said the services are very important to her. She asked why Village residents have to pay Town taxes and why aren't we looking at shared services.

Mayor Sherman closed the public hearing at 5:51 p.m. as no other interested persons wished to speak.

Mayor Sherman made the following appointment:

Jess Marciano is appointed Deputy Mayor for a term of one year;

Jess Marciano is appointed Fair Housing Officer for a term of one year;

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano seconded by Trustee Prawel.

John Dieter and Kathy Blackburn are appointed to the Planning Board for five-year terms;

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski seconded by Trustee Bieliski.

David Berry and Reinhard Rogowski are appointed to the Zoning Board of appeals for five-year terms;

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski seconded by Trustee Marciano.

Jacob Hebdon and Mary Lewis are appointed to the Tree Board for three-year terms;

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Bieliski seconded by Trustee Prawel.

Gloria Brent is appointed to the Boxwood Cemetery Commission for three-year term;

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano seconded by Trustee Padoleski.

Joanna Rich and Timothy Zeiner are appointed to the Parks Committee for two-year terms;

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Prawel and seconded by Trustee Padoleski.

Matthew Brooks is appointed Village Attorney for a term of one year.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel.

Todd Bensley is appointed as Village Historian for a term of one year.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman announced the following Trustee Liaison Committee appointments:

Town of Ridgeway: Marciano/Prawel
Orleans County: Marciano
Boxwood Cemetery: Padoleski
Tourism Committee: Padoleski
Police Advisory Committee: Marciano

Town of Shelby: Bieliski/Padoleski
Parks Committee: Prawel
Joint Recreation: Padoleski, Marciano
Waterfront Development Committee: Bieliski

Mayor Sherman said new this year, Trustees will be working on certain things that need to be updated in the Village. Mayor Sherman noted Trustees assigned to the following:

Policies: Padoleski/Prawel

Employee Handbook: Padoleski/Beiliski

Technology: Marciano/Beiliski

Assets/ Equipment/Buildings: Prawel/Bieliski

Employee Relations/ Contracts: Marciano/Bieliski

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Bieliski.

The official meeting nights are established as follows: Workshops will be held the second Monday of the month and Business meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month at the Town of Ridgeway, 410 West Avenue at 6:00 p.m.; with the exception of May, October and December, when only one meeting will be held. The workshop/business meeting will be held on the third Monday of the Month, May 20th, at 6:00 p.m., the third Monday in October on October 21st, and the third Monday in December on December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Department head reports will be given at the regular meeting held on the fourth Monday of the month. Department head attendance is expected at workshop meetings if specifically requested by the Village Board.

All ayes
Motion carried.

The resolution to establish board meeting rules and procedures was tabled until the April 14, 2025, meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel.

The Bank of Castile, J. P. Morgan Chase Bank, and NYCLASS are designated as official depositories for the Village.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Bieliski.

The Batavia Daily News is named the official newspaper.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Padoleski.

The Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to invest surplus Village funds and to renew bond anticipation notes when due according to the adopted Village investment policy.

All ayes

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Padoleski.

The Village is authorized to participate in a Joint Recreation program with the Towns of Ridgeway and Shelby with the Village as prime sponsor.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Prawel.

The Mayor, Trustees and department heads are authorized to attend Orleans County Association of Municipalities and NYCOM meetings.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Marciano.

The payment of recurring claims is authorized.

All ayes
Motion carried.

The payment of the federal mileage reimbursement rate for personal vehicles to employees who attend approved training is tabled until the April 14, 2025, meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Bieliski. The standard workday is established as 4.3 for Trustee Marciano and for Trustee Prawel the standard workday is established as 3.87.

A vote was taken.

Trustee Marciano	Abstain	Trustee Prawel	Abstain
Trustee Padoleski	Aye	Trustee Bieliski	Aye
Mayor Sherman	Aye		

Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman asked if the Board was prepared to vote on Local Law 3-2025, to Override the Tax Levy Limit.

Trustee Prawel said he would like to wait. Trustee Padoleski said the board has overridden the tax cap as a precaution for the Village. There are different factors involved in

the tax levy. She said she is not happy with the tax rate either and she is happy to see everyone here and to hear people are in favor of cutting services. She said they have a lot of work to do in the next few weeks. She said there is a new board member with new ideas and that is what is needed, a different way of doing business.

Mrs. Robin Wehling said do not be asking me for money if you haven't figured out what you are going to do.

Mayor Sherman said the board is not asking for money. She said the timing is difficult for budget time and the board may want to consider changing the election to June. She said the budget has to be adopted by April 30th. She said we also pay the Towns of Ridgeway and Shelby, and we need to pay attention to what is going on with the elected officials in the towns.

Mr. Tim Elliott said you have officers making \$100,000.00 a year and \$60,000.00 vehicles, noting we are a small community.

Ms. Carol Callina asked why we were not using the Orleans Hub to post our meetings. Mayor Sherman said the Orleans Hub is online and not a distributed newspaper.

Mr. Mike Maak said the tentative budget is available on the Village website. Mr. Maak asked if the tentative tax rate is \$17.25. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess confirmed that it is. Mr. Maak said the tax rate was \$13.96 last year. He said the Mayor mentioned changing the election to June. He suggested starting the budget process in January.

Mayor Sherman said the public hearing on the tentative budget is scheduled for April 14, 2025.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski, seconded by Trustee Bieliski. The meeting is adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jada A. Burgess
Clerk-Treasurer