

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MEDINA HELD ON APRIL 28, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER.

Present: Mayor Marguerite Sherman

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

Code Enforcement Gardner, Police Chief Draper, Fire Chief Matt Jackson and Superintendent of Public Works Jason Watts

Attorney Matthew Brooks

Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Sherman said the public hearing on 3 Brown Avenue would remain open. Mayor Sherman said the Planning Board reviewed the SEQRA, declared it a negative declaration with no negative impact to the environment and voted unanimously in favor to recommend re-zoning the three lots on Brown Avenue from Light Industrial to Residential, R3.

Ms. Audrey Schalck from 349 E. Oak Orchard Street asked the purpose of the re-zoning. Code Enforcement Officer Gardner said years ago the parcels were zoned as light industrial because of the business park. He said one parcel can't be re-zoned. He said if one of the structures on the parcels zoned light industrial burned down, they would not be able to re-build since it is zoned Light Industrial and not residential.

Mayor Sherman asked Attorney Brooks what the next steps would be. Attorney Brooks said a public hearing would need to be scheduled to pass a local law, to re-zone the zoning map.

Mr. and Mrs. Quintern addressed the board stating they would like their parcel re-zoned from light industrial to residential.

Mayor Sherman closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. stating the next step is to propose a local law and hold another public hearing.

A motion was made by Trustee Prawel and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. A public hearing is scheduled for May 19, 2025, for a proposed local law to re-zone three parcels on Brown Avenue.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman opened the first public comment period. Mr. Steve Miller addressed the board stating he works at 600 Main Street. He said he works here, has family here. He said he would like to comment on the cutting of services. He said he is a Village of Albion taxpayer, and he should not be compared to not having skin the game. Cutting services would be detrimental to the Village and surrounding areas. What has been tossed around is that the ambulance service only brings in 1.2 million dollars, however the amount billed is over four million. He said Medina is a Medicaid area. He suggested the board talk to the State and obtain more funding. He said dropping from twenty

employees to sixteen, there will not be the service answering calls. He said this goes for the police department as well. They are here to protect, because they want to, not because they have to. There isn't a comparable service. He added that lately they are not being valued. When they are needed, they are there. Cutting is not the answer.

Mrs. Debbie Tompkins addressed the board, stating she has lived in Medina for seventeen years. She said she has discussed the school resource officer with the school and had served on the school board. It is a valuable service that they would not get from the Orleans County Sheriff's Office or the private sector. She said she realizes the board is eliminating their participation but not the program.

Mr. Tim Zeiner said he loves the school resource officers, but it is a zip code thing. He said everyone in the zip code needs to pay for the service. He said the Village has sewer issues, sidewalks and water lines that need to be replaced. He said as a resident he can't keep having his taxes increase and asked when it would end.

Mrs. Tompkins said she doesn't want her taxes to go up either but if you look at the school budget, they are paying \$165,000.00 a year to the Village. To say everyone is not paying for it, they are. Everyone in the 14103 zip code is paying.

Trustee Bieliski said the board did a lot of research. The approximate cost per officer is \$125,000.00 to \$130,000.00. He said the Village has a premium service. It's a hard decision. There is a lot of information coming out that is not correct. There is more involved than just one number.

Mayor Sherman said the Village board spend more than forty-five hours together reviewing the 2025-26 budget. She asked Clerk-Treasurer Burgess to present the 2025-26 General Fund budget.

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess read the following:

Salaries	\$3,210,661.00
Equipment	\$ 103,857.00
Reserve for Equipment	\$ 50,000.00
Contractual	\$2,328,769.00
Capital Projects	\$ 71,050.00
Employee Benefits	\$1,756,548.00
Debt Service	\$ 194,411.00

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess said the total appropriations was \$7,715,296.00 with revenues projected at \$3,404,952.00. She said there was \$400,000.00 added to the budget as cash surplus bringing the estimated tax rate to \$13.9952 per thousand.

Mayor Sherman said they are trying to reduce personnel through attrition while maintaining the level of services that the Village currently has.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Bieliski. That the 2025-2026 Budget is approved as presented.

Trustee Marciano said the budget was very challenging. She said they don't want to cut anything and some of the cuts are to the bone. She said this is a pruning budget to figure out how we can grow back.

Mayor Sherman said the board values the employees and everything they do. She said they are trying to whittle things down. She said they needed to come together and did not want to lay anyone off.

Trustee Padoleski said this budget is not a solution but rather a temporary fix to the issues this Village still faces. She said in talking with several people about a fire district, she learned our fire and ambulance service is admired and respected across the county and a possible county wide fire service is looking to use Medina's model. She said this model may work spread out across the county but is not sustainable by our 2,000 taxpayers. She said the Village of Medina services are spread across too many that don't contribute to the cost. She said the removal of the School Resource Officers from the school is in an effort to not have to hire another person and an attempt to lower overtime costs. While the school does contribute a significant portion, it became apparent that the Village is still subsidizing a school service. She said she hears the taxpayers and agrees that the tax rate needs to come down. She said they managed to hold the rate this year by reducing staffing and appropriated a significant amount of the 2024-25 fund balance to balance some of this reduction by attrition. She said expenses still need to be monitored on a monthly basis, making adjustments as necessary. Mandatory costs will continue to increase. The board needs to begin investigating immediately alternate ways to provide services at a lower cost.

A vote was taken.

All ayes

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. The engineering agreement submitted by Wendel Engineers to assist with the water and sewer operations in the Village is accepted.

Trustee Marciano said she would like to have this go out to bid but recognized the board's relationship with Wendel.

A vote was taken.

Trustee Padoleski
Trustee Bieliski

Aye
Aye

Trustee Prawel
Trustee Marciano

Aye
Opposed

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Bieliski. Mayor Sherman is authorized to sign the special event permit for Blues Thursdays submitted by Schulz Winery.

All ayes

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. Mayor Sherman is authorized to sign the special event permit for Blues Thursdays submitted by Northridge Distillery.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said Clerk-Treasurer Burgess obtained a quote from Integrated Systems for a new phone system that would improve communication as well as save the Village money.

A motion was made by Trustee Prawel and seconded by Trustee Bieliski. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess is authorized to sign the quote from Integrated Systems to install a new phone system.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said the total amount received from Auctions International for surplus equipment sold totaled \$30,360.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Bieliski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. The Auctions International amount of \$30,360.00 is accepted for surplus equipment sold.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said an email from U-Audit was distributed to the board. She said the company would review the utility gross receipts that is reimbursed to the Village. The goal is to find overcharges for utilities paid by a municipality and additional revenue in the case of utility gross receipts and franchise fees. Mayor Sherman said this type of review has been done in the past.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Marciano. Mayor Sherman is authorized to sign the agreement with U-Audit.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess is authorized to make the following budget transfers to the following accounts from contingency:

A3310.4	\$450.00
A1620.411	\$113.33
A1620.41	\$1,875.11
A7140.4	\$88.42
A1420.4	\$5,000.00

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said Re-Leaf Medina had submitted \$2,461.00 in donations to the Village to cover the additional costs above what was budgeted for trees in A8560.41. She said an additional tree was sent costing an additional \$135.00. Mayor Sherman said Shade Trees, account A8560.4 had approximately \$4,180.00 remaining in the 2024-25 budget.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Bieliski. The donations in the amount of \$2,461.00 are accepted by Re-Leaf Medina and the additional amount of \$135.00 will be paid for out of remaining funds in the Shade Trees budget, A8560.4.

A vote was taken.

Trustee Padoleski	Aye	Trustee Prawel	Aye
Trustee Bieliski	Aye	Trustee Marciano	Opposed

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. The bills as submitted are authorized for payment.

Trustee Marciano said she would be abstaining from the bill in the amount of \$624.00 which was made payable to her.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The Minutes of March 24, 2025, April 3, 2025, April 7, 2025, and April 14, 2025, are accepted as submitted.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Gardner said the library addition was moving forward and would be going in front of the Planning and Zoning Boards. He said he had issued five building permits, two right-of-way permits and one certificate of occupancy. He said violations were sent and had made site visits for construction, progress inspections, code violations and response to complaints.

Fire Chief Jackson said over the weekend, his department had responded to twenty-nine calls. He said a girl scout troop and a cub scout troop had taken a tour of the firehouse. He said Only the Ox also visited the firehouse. He said the new safety manager at Baxter contacted his department and they would be setting up an emergency preparedness walk through the facility. Crews were beginning to do annual ground ladder cleaning and maintenance.

Superintendent Watts said crews attended yearly training put on by the Highway Superintendents Association. Arbor Day was held at State Street Park. Water leaks were fixed on Starr Street and Park Avenue. The leak on Park Avenue caused two more leaks and a broken valve. A

water service was replaced from the main on South Academy. The bathroom at City Hall was finished. He said he was still waiting on a permit from the Canal Corporation to fix the sink hole by the lift bridge. Benches and interpretive signs were put out on Main Street. He said summer hours would begin on May 5th as well as brush pick up.

Police Chief Draper said his department responded to 668 calls in March. He said he went to Niagara County Academy and checked on the new recruit and that he was doing well. He said he sent an officer to arms training and sent three officers to spike strip training.

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess said to date, the General Fund has earned \$69,622.20 in interest, the water fund has earned \$42,754.24 in interest and the sewer fund has earned \$14,065.24 in interest.

Trustee Marciano said this was a disappointing budget, knowing cuts had to be made to keep taxes low.

Trustee Bieliski said the employees are appreciated. He said the Village provides a premium service and the board wants to keep everyone they have. He said he appreciates the input.

Mayor Sherman said the board has been going to the departments to go over cuts in the budget. She said each department said they will work with the board and do the best they can.

Mayor Sherman opened the second public comment period.

Mr. Dave Berry thanked the board for the countless hours they put in on the budget. He said he attended most of the meetings and knew they lasted until 10:00 p.m. at night. He said the board deserved a round of applause for keeping the tax rate down.

Mr. Tim Zeiner said he wished more people would attend the meetings and not just at budget time. He asked the status of the ladder truck.

Attorney Brooks said it is an open contract and that he couldn't say more than that until he advised the board.

Mr. Steve Miller said he recognized the board put a lot of time in on the budget. He said he would encourage the board to go to the County and the State for more funding.

Mr. John Parada said half the Village is in Shelby and half is in Ridgeway. He encouraged everyone to come to the Republican Forum on May 22, at 6:00 p.m. He said the Republican Committee picked two people to run that haven't ever attended a meeting. Part of Medina is Shelby.

Mrs. Lorraine Limina said she hears people talking about not feeling appreciated. She said the community does not feel that way. She said things that you want are not always things that the community can afford, and we need to be realistic. Just because the board made cuts does not mean they don't appreciate you. She said she thinks the board did a good job.

Mr. Tim Elliott said he submitted a parking program to the Village Board for consideration. He said the board should be proactive and add it as a budget line. He said with the New York Forward projects, landlords would need parking for apartments in the business district. He said the board did a great job on the budget and thanked them for considering the sidewalk program.

Mr. Anthony Anelli said at previous meetings the traffic signs on Ohio Street were discussed. He said there is a small section of short-term parking. He asked if these signs were still being reviewed.

Mr. Steve Long said to come talk to the Fire Department about their wants. No one takes them up on it.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Bieliski. The meeting is adjourned into executive session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss a contractual item involving attorney client privilege.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Bieliski. The meeting is reconvened and adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jada A. Burgess
Clerk-Treasurer