

Meeting Minutes

February 09, 2026

Regular meeting

Village of Mohawk Board of Trustees

Meeting called to order by Mayor Baron at 6pm, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending on roll call: Mayor Baron, Trustees: Cryer, Tubia, Eisenhut, & Watkins, Attorney Manne, Superintendent of Public Works Mike Shedd, OIC Jarret Brown, Officer Brad Morse, MFD Chief Crisino & Clerk-Treasurer Joni LaBarge.

Public in attendance: Kevin Joyce and Tom Wiers

Mr. Kevin Joyce:

Would like permission to submit a proposal for a \$2000 grant through the Cornell Cooperative Extension to expand the community garden. In 2023 his son started the community garden for his Eagle Scout project, since then they have been planting and maintaining the gardens. He has reached out to the garden club and they would like to be involved however physically they are unable to assist. He will be required to set up a public meeting to be held at the library. The grant will also require them to host a "Veggie Van" visit to obtain more community involvement. His proposed plan is to add 3 more raised garden beds and add a water container to be filled from the creek. Would only need the village to fill the beds with dirt and fertilizer like they did before. The grant money would go into the garden clubs bank account and they would then work with Mr. Joyce to pay for everything to build the beds and spend the \$2000 etc. Mayor and Board agreed to this project and gave permission to proceed with the grant process.

Mr. Tom Wiers:

Provided a letter and photos to the Mayor and Board. He is a member of the American Legion and has helped renovate the Shoemaker room in the legion. They have turned this into a memorabilia room and would like to display items of local history. They would like to put on display some items that are located in the Weller Library historical room. The items would be in secured locked display cases for the public to view. Mayor and Board agreed as long as the Historian keeps an itemized list of the borrowed items. Advised him to work directly with the Historian. Motion to approve request Trustee Tubia, Second Trustee Cryer.

MFD Chief Crisino:

Not much to report. Training has begun and is going well. 114 will be going out for repair due to a faulty part that was installed, there will be no cost to us.

Herkimer County has finally ordered parts for their testing machines that have not been working for quite a while. The reporting system has changed for government reports, better accounting of calls to state and federal governments. Change is going well.

Attorney Manne:

Nothing to report.

SPW Mike Shedd:

Still has not heard back from the insurance company regarding the dump truck.

Provided letter to the Board from NYMPA regarding the current energy prices and the reason as to why they are so high. This information has been posted on Facebook for electric customers. Noted that the NYMPA payments are required to be wired now, they will no longer accept checks. Permission to allow the Clerk to wire out funds; motion Trustee Tubia, Second Trustee Cryer.

MPD Tahoe auction has closed. Permission to accept high bid of \$7500, Motion Trustee Tubia, second Trustee Eisenhut.

Advised the Board that there is a class action lawsuit in regards to forever chemicals (PFAS) in which he has joined after speaking with Attorney Manne. Any public water system that has tested and found detections of any PFAS chemical at any level is eligible to receive an award from this settlement. Another local village joined the lawsuit & was awarded \$50,000.

- Letter of retirement resignation received from Mike Shedd as Superintendent of Public works after 33 years. Effective date of retirement will be March 16, 2026. Board asked Clerk to post job opening tomorrow.

OIC Jarret Brown:

Noting significant to report other than Officer Morse has been cleared to return back to work effective February 18th 2026.

Officer Morse:

Provided the board his proposal for employment agreement and 4 year proposed contract. This contract is modeled after the current PBA agreement for him as the new Chief of Police. There are several key removals and modifications. Mayor and Board wish to review proposal and contract in detail. Clerk to email copies to everyone. Will put on next agenda to make final decision at that point.

Other business discussed by Mayor and Board:

- Public hearing opened at 6:12PM for Local Law #1-2026 Tax Cap Override. Motion Trustee Watkins, Second Trustee Tubia.
- Closed public hearing at 6:21PM, Trustee Eisenhut, Second Trustee Tubia Motion to adopt Local Law #1-2026 Trustee Watkins, Second Trustee Tubia. All in favor, none opposed.
- Received letter from Library Manager Richard Grande stating that substitute clerk Jeff Strife has turned in his key and asked that his alarm password be deactivated. He is no longer available to be a substitute for the library. Jeff retired in September of 2025. Motion to accept this change Trustee Watkins, Second Trustee Tubia.
- Email received from Rick Virkler who is a member of the Municipal Commission – he is requesting that we hire Jodi Wheet to fill Pam Jones vacant position on the Commission. We will need to have Mr. Wheet fill out an application and pass a background check and as long as his background is clear he will be approved to join.
- Basketball court noted again. Per Mayor Baron NYS is pushing to expand or build playgrounds and is offering a grant that we will look into and possibly try to include the basketball court into this as well. They do feel that the new playground on W Main Street is not a good location for a basketball court, possible better location would be at near the Wetlands Pavilion.

- Minutes from January 26, 2026 meeting approved, motion Trustee Tubia, Second Trustee Eisenhut.

Financials:

P&L reviewed and signed

Approval & signed of all Abstracts (General Fund & Cemetery) dated February 09, 2026

Motion: Trustee Eisenhut, Second: Trustee Tubia

Meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm, Motion: Trustee Watkins, Second: Trustee Tubia

JML