Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2026
Regular meeting
Village of Mohawk Board of Trustees

Meeting called to order by Trustee Cryer at 6pm, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attending on roll call: Trustees: Cryer, Eisenhut, Tubia, & Watkins, MPD Chief Morse, MFD Chief Crisino, Superintendent of Public Works Ken Mead, and Clerk-Treasurer Joni LaBarge. Public in attendance: Kevin Miller of 14 Walnut Street

Mayor Baron excused

Kevin Miller:
Mr. Miller addressed the Board, noting that he moved to the village in August. He expressed concern regarding the volume of the emergency fire horn, explaining that as a veteran with PTSD and a heart condition, the sound causes him significant stress—particularly when it goes off in the middle of the night. He stated that he has lived in various locations without experiencing a similar issue and considers the horn a public disturbance. He suggested the village transition to cell phone alerts for emergencies rather than relying on the horn. Previously, Mr. Miller had left a message regarding this issue; a formal complaint form was filed on his behalf, and Fire Chief Crisino subsequently contacted him. In response to his comments, Trustee Cryer advised Mr. Miller that there had not been a single complaint regarding the fire whistle in 30 years. Chief Crisino explained that the horn is required for emergencies and the 911 system, and cannot simply be deactivated. He further noted that similar fire horns are utilized by villages across the state and country. Trustee Cryer concluded the discussion by thanking Mr. Miller for his attendance and input.

Attorney Manne:
Nothing to report.

Chief Crisino:
Provided training reports to the Board: 114 repaired exhaust, all fixed and running good. Everything else is going well.

Ken Mead:
Provided monthly report to the Board: Trees from the tree program will be delivered tomorrow. They plan on replacing all of the dead ash trees they have had to take down. If there are any leftover they will allow village residents to have on a first come first serve basis. The Street Dept. is having issues with the 2005 dump truck. They just had it in for repairs on the starter, now the box is now broken. He has an estimate of $6671.48 to fix and switch over to an electrical system. This is costly. This truck is mainly used for leaf pickup and snow removal, they like having this truck available – will need to make a decision on whether we want to repair and keep or do without. Found out he is able to buy a salt shed and have CHIPS reimburse us. He will be meeting with the company that builds them soon. Need to get the salt out of the barn as it is ruining everything it touches.

Jim Stokes of MEUA & NYMPA is planning a visit here during a commission meeting, he would like the Board to attend to hear what he has to say regarding electric rates etc. He will let them know when he is coming so they can attend.
NYSDOT has an agreement for shared services – we are only one of a couple Villages that has not signed this agreement. This would allow the state to assist with certain things without having to reach out to Albany for permission; snow removal, plowing, etc. Ken would like to see if they could help us with painting the lines on E Main Street. Motion to allow Ken to sign the agreement Trustee Watkins, Second Trustee Tubia. All in favor, none opposed.
Discussion on the phone system, it was noted that the main village phone # is not working at this time, the other lines are working. Northland came in and our system is very old and needs a complete upgrade. Proposal was received for 10 new phones and the new system that is top of the line right now, it would be a $600 fee and only $176.12 added onto what we already pay per month. This is a 3-year contract with them. Noted that we recently switched our phones over to Northland to save money, as they are cheaper than Verizon. Motion to approve upgrade Trustee Tubia, Second Trustee Cryer, all in favor, none opposed.

Chief Morse:
Provided monthly report to the Board: New Officer Tiffany Hill has started and seems to be very well received by the department and community. No word on the LETECH Grant yet. The Ballistic Vest grant is open and he will be applying to get reimbursed for the vest that were just recently purchased as well as securing funding for future orders. Noted to the board that The Homestead is up for county tax auction. Would like to know what the status is of the pawn shop local law that he brought up to the board this past spring. Attorney Manne stated that he would look up the emails and correspondence from that time. Will put on the agenda for the next meeting that Chief Morse attends. He would also like to discuss a possible nuisance landlord local law, as we have a few landlords that do not live in the area and are not maintaining their properties, their tenants are not paying their municipal bills. Ken Mead noted that he has one address that has multiple units and the tenants do not pay their electric bills. Combined they currently owe over $10k. A local law would hold the landlords accountable. Board agreed to look into this further and pursue, Chief Morse to discuss further with Attorney Manne.
Noted that next week the NYS DOT will be doing work on 5S and will be re-routing traffic on E Main Street, he plans on putting an extra officer on during that time to monitor traffic and write tickets as needed through that area. Chief Morse asked permission to attend a free training in Johnstown, Motion to approve Trustee Watkins, Second Trustee Eisenhut.

Other business discussed by Board:
Minutes from September 28nd meeting reviewed and approved; motion: Trustee Tubia, second: Trustee Eisenhut.
Garbage bids were opened on October 8th with Josh Olbrys of OHSWA. He provided a breakdown for the Board to review. Only 2 bidders for a 3-year contract with options for 4th & 5th year extensions. Bidders were; Spohn (5yrs) $1,151,172.00 and Wheelock (5yrs) $1,062,072.00. Board had some questions they wanted answers before making a decision; cost of bags? Is contract the same as what we currently have now? Is green waste included and will it be the same? Clerk will email Josh and find out the answers and board will need to make decision. Will include on agenda for next meeting.
Notice of Claim from Sept. 14 that happened in the Town of Stark, not village has been withdrawn and the Village removed from being named in the claim.

Financials:
P&L reviewed and signed
Approval & signed of all Abstracts (General Fund, & Cemetery) dated October 13, 2026
Motion: Trustee Watkins, Second: Trustee Tubia

Meeting was adjourned at 6:53, Motion: Trustee Watkins; Second: Trustee Tubia

JML