

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 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, & Watkins, MPD Chief Morse, MFD Chief Crisino, Superintendent of Public Works Ken Mead, & Clerk-Treasurer Joni LaBarge.

Guests & Public in attendance who signed in: Christine Lawrence of Loaves and Fishes Warming Center Inc, Melissa Reed, Mary Mead, Sandy LeClair, Crystal Hilts, Mike Wainwright, Gerry Manning, Jade Hassett, Beth Kalkowsky, Walter Klayer, Sandy Shepardson, Phoebe Orillio, & Zachary Hurteau all of Mohawk, Pastor Joelle Faulks of Utica, Nicole Myers of Frankfort, Paul Betzenhauser & Daniel Annutto of Ilion, George Irizarry & Rev. Marie Duquette of Herkimer, Deborah Bohn of New Hartford, and late arrival Rob Drumm from Mohawk.

Trustee Eisenhut and Attorney Manne excused.

Loaves and Fishes Warming Center Inc

Christine Lawrence:

Came to speak to the Village Board about setting up a homeless warming center at the Word Christian Center Church at 27 E. Main Street in the Village who they have partnered with. They are a nonprofit who have been in business in this area for three years. The warming center would be open from October 1st through April 30th from 8PM to 8AM daily. The average number of patrons is around 15 a night, but they have had as many as 17. She stated that the warming center will be fully staffed and there will be rules that need to be obeyed by all patrons of the warming center as safety is a priority. All patrons will be checked with a metal detector wand and be required to lock up all of their possessions. They wish to provide a safe and secure space for individuals experiencing homelessness to sleep, shower, and eat. A detailed proposal was provided to the Board along with a letter of support from former Herkimer Police Chief Jory. She informed the Board that they work with all services in Herkimer County, they have advocates, and trained staff and volunteers. They want to help meet the needs of the homeless and help them with assistance. She has come to the Board to ask for their support in moving this into the Village of Mohawk. It was noted that the homeless population in Herkimer County has increased. Mayor Baron asked where they were located prior? She stated they were in the Salvation Army building in Herkimer, however they have changed their rules and will no longer allow sex offenders. She stated that Loaves and Fishes does not discriminate against anyone and will allow all individuals, regardless of their background/record. It was asked where the patrons will go during the day when the warming center is closed? She stated they will walk to Herkimer and most likely go to the Herkimer library. There was much discussion among the public present and many questions being asked. Many of the public in attendance were present in opposition of the warming center and many were from the Word Christian Church and Loaves & Fishes in support of the center. Mayor Baron thanked Christine and everyone for attending and seeking information on this. He stated that he will put together a list of questions for Loaves & Fishes and contact Christine this week. This was not approved as there are many things to be discussed further. Mayor Baron advised that the public will be informed if and when we meet again regarding this matter. All board meetings are open to the public, dates are posted on the website and in the hallway of the municipal building.

MFD

Chief Crisino reported: Training report given to the Mayor and Board.

114 has been going in for exhaust repairs and annual inspection is due next month.

Interviews to be held next month for new members. They will also be meeting regarding a few members who have not been showing up for training or calls.

MPD

Chief Morse reported:

Provided monthly reports to the Mayor and Board. He received a resignation letter from Officer Katarenna Pate, she resigned effective August 23, 2026. Motion to accept her resignation Trustee Tubia, Second Trustee Watkins. Requesting approval to hire Police Officer Tiffany Hill to fill Officer Pate's full time position, this is a lateral change as Officer Hill is currently a full time officer in Herkimer. Motion to approve hire, Trustee Tubia, Second Trustee Cryer. Also, requesting permission to hire part time Officer Cosmo Pellegrino, he currently is a NYS Senior Parole Officer and part time Police Officer in Yorkville. He will be a great asset for the Mohawk Police department as he is an instructor and will be able to do in house training. Motion to approve hire Trustee Watkins, Second Cryer. Part time officers are down to 7 from 18 at this time, also pending one resignation that will be coming.

Three new ballistic vest have been purchased. We will be getting 100% refunded for Officer Martinez's vest from the Federal Government and half reimbursed from the state for the two other vests for Officer Kane and himself. He will apply for reimbursement as soon as the grant is open. He has submitted for the LE Tech Grant – unknown at this time if we will get this or not. Mayor Baron noted Halloween trick or treating and requested extra officers be put on for that event – agreed.

Stated that he will be getting more information and looking further into nuisance laws regarding tenants. Also asked about the status of the pawn shop local law he brought to the board in March, will need to check with Attorney Manne. Will put on agenda for next meeting.

Superintendent of Public Works

Ken Mead reported:

Provided monthly report to the Mayor and Board. MMC: NYPA trees will be delivered in October. They will be getting 30 smaller sized trees; they will not be giving them out this year due to the fact they have been taking down dying/dead ash trees all over the village due to the ash borer. Will be using the trees to replace many of the trees that have been taken down.

Hydrant flushing has begun. They continue to work on cleaning up and organizing the garage and substation. BST electric rate increase should be completed by late spring.

Noted that he will be attending the MEUA meeting on September 28-30.

Street Dept:

They have been working with the Town of German Flatts on the John Street Bridge/Culvert.

Phase 3 of the playground installation will start next week as the new equipment has been delivered. All catch basins on both sides of Main Street have been cleaned.

He and Joni met with Haylor Freyer Coon in August, they did provide an internal risk advisor at no cost to come out and meet with him to discuss property values.

Noted that all the new hires this year have been doing great.

Other business discussed by Mayor and Board:

- Village Halloween Trick or Treating will be on Saturday, October 31st from 5-7 motion Trustee Tubia, Second Trustee Cryer.
- Minutes from August 10th 2026 meeting reviewed and approved; motion: Trustee Tubia, second: Trustee Watkins

- BST has been in working on year end filings for both the Village and the Municipal. They will be performing a program audit and rate filing for the MMC in November or December.
- Unauthorized chickens at the trailer park on East Main Street. Codes Officer Rob Phillips is looking into this and working with the Town of German Flatts Codes as part of the property where chickens are located is the Town of German Flatts.
- Letter received from Attorney Keith Roland in regards to a company called SLIC Network Solutions who want to use our poles to bring in a broadband & internet provider. Ken has a meeting with SLIC next week and will get all the information regarding this.
- Rob Drumm of the Village Planning Board came in to inquire about codes as he has been trying to contact Codes Officer Rob Phillips, it was determined that he had the incorrect phone number for him. Codes was briefly discussed and due to personal issues going on a motion was made to hire a part time codes officer to assist him. Motion to allow clerk to post job for part time codes officer Trustee Watkins, Second Trustee Tubia.

Financials:

P&L reviewed and signed

Approval & signed of all Abstracts (General Fund, & Cemetery) dated September 15, 2026

Motion: Trustee Tubia, Second: Trustee Cryer

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm, Motion: Trustee Watkins; Second: Trustee Tubia

JML