Village of Constableville

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 9, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Constableville, a Municipality, was held on February 9, 2026, at 6:00 pm, at the Village Library on Main St., Constableville, NY.

Trustees Present: Stephen Ward, Cody McDonald

Others present: Christine Healt, Tug Hill Counsel
Mark Sullivan, Sewer Plant Operator
Mary Wilton, Water Plant Operator
Brittany Salmon, Village Resident
Samantha Brown, Village Resident

Appointment of Mayor: Trustee Cody McDonald made a motion to appoint Interim Mayor, Sonia Wendt as Mayor effective January 1, 2026, until the next general election, the motion was seconded by Trustee Stephen Ward, motion carried.

Call to Order: Mayor Sonia Wendt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum of trustees was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Mayor Sonia Wendt appointed Village Clerk/CFO Mary Failing, for another 2 year term as Village Clerk and Chief Financial Officer. Clerk Failing signed the Oath of Office.

Approval of Minutes: Trustee McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2026 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ward, motion carried.

Financial Review: The Board reviewed the Financial Reports for January 2026. Trustee Ward made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Trustee McDonald, motion carried.

Water Plant Operator's Report:

Water Plant Operator Mary Wilton reported on the following:

- Everything is fine at the water plant. The average usage for the month of January was 82,000 gal/day. She is going through more chlorine with the usage being higher. She has to fill the chlorine every other day, it used to be every third day.
    - Mark Sullivan reported that he is watching a spot below Sam Browns, near Valerie Morczek's house, there is no chlorine present at this point. Another spot he is watching is by Dave Ward's.
    - Trustee McDonald asked if Constable Hall is shut off for the winter. He also reported that his water filter is brown every month when he changes it.
    - Harry Spoor called Clerk Failing when she was on vacation for Chris' number because he had a leak inside and needed the water shut off outside. Mayor Wendt stopped to see Harry the next day to see if it had been fixed, it had not been at that point. He has Chris' wrench.
    - Clerk Failing will call Steve Freeman to see if he can check for leaks in the winter.

- She would like to take online training classes through Rural Water. The classes she is interested in are Chlorination System Maintenance and Pump & Motor Maintenance. The cost is $225.00 per class. She will

pay for it, and the Village will reimburse her. It was discussed that she should use the Water Laptop so that any information can be saved on it.

- She will be calling Steve Freeman on Monday, February 16th to set up a time to work on the Annual Quality Water Report.
- Mark Sulllivan will be covering for her the 2nd week of April.

Sewer Plant Operator's Report:

Sewer Plant Operator Mark Sullivan reported on the following:

- There has been no construction on the Disinfection Project due to the weather. Parts have been coming in for the project.
- Flows are up; he believes its due to people running their water with the cold temperatures.

The Sewer Plant Operator position was discussed. Mark said that Derek Stewart is interested, he just needs to find time to get him over there and show him what it involves. Mark said DEC Says we should have two (2) people trained for the position; he doesn't know how that would work budget wise. Mary Wilton is still interested and was looking online for certification-training. Mark said to hold off on that because no certification is needed at this point. She would like to learn more about the position, to be the backup SPO if Derek takes it. Clerk Failing commented that it really needs to happen soon or we will have to fill the vacant Trustee seat with someone else.

Other Business:

Clerk Failing reported that she contacted American Power & Gas (Electric Supplier) regarding our rate, it is up from .0889 to .02591. They said the .0889 was only guaranteed for one billing cycle (not for one year like they said initially) She was offered a fixed rate of .013 for one year, and a good will refund in the amount of $390.60.

Clerk Failing reported that Keely Darling contacted her regarding a Special Use Permit; she would like to open a Thrift Store in the garage they own on Church St. She spoke to David Brown; Lewis County Codes Dept. and he told her to contact the Village. Mr. Brown told Clerk Failing that it will need to go in front of the Zoning Board. He also said he feels it is too close to the neighbors. He sent a Special Use Permit template which she edited for the Village. The board approved the application; Clerk Failing will send it to Ms. Darling.

Clerk Failing reported that Mayor Wendt, Mark Sullivan and herself will be meeting with BCA on Wednesday to go over the Water Project list of priorities. Mark said that the Water Transmission lines (from Spring Boxes to the Reservoir) are a priority for BCA, he doesn't really agree with that, as we haven't had many problems with that line. There is $100,000 designated for Improvements at the Water Plant, he said the catwalk and stairs should be a priority for that.

Former Mayor Samantha Brown applied under "Constableville Strong" for a grant the County was offering for funds received through an Opioid Settlement. The money is to be used for events such as awareness & prevention programs, family events meant to encourage keeping kids off the streets. The library held an ornament making event in December using a portion of the funds. Some other ideas that Sam Brown suggested included purchasing awareness response kits, CPR & First Aid Course, Nutrition program with Megan Dolhof, Narcan training, plus some fun ideas. Mayor Wendt said she would like to have a Village Block Party/Summer BBQ offering face painting, crafts, maybe invite vendors to set up. One stipulation of the Grant is that refreshments for events cannot be purchased with the funds. Sam also suggested a community day and maybe we could paint the board at the playground.

Mayor Wendt reported that she and Clerk Failing will attend the Tug Hill Conference at the Turning Stone Event Center in April. She also contacted Joe Genter to see if he would like to attend the Zoning portion of the workshops. He will let her know by the March meeting.

Mayor Wendt reported that she received an email from the Planning Dept. regarding the Community Free Internet at the Belltower. The County funded program will end soon, but the village could continue it on our own. It would cost the village $95.79/ month. They also said that the equipment is at or near its lifespan, so we would most likely have to pay to replace it. There is also free Wi-Fi at the library, therefore the board decided to discontinue it at the belltower.

Trustee McDonald wondered if there was a way to check the flow rate at our shut off for Bob Bauers water issue. Clerk Failing will ask Steve Freeman when she talks to him. NOTE: He said he does not have the equipment to do this. BCA suggested possibly installing a "pit meter".

Christine reviewed the Cooperative Tug Hill announcements.

Vouchers were audited by the board and signed by Mayor Wendt and Trustees Ward & McDonald.

Trustee McDonald made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:15 pm to discuss the vacant trustee seats. Trustee Ward made a motion to return to the regular session at 7:30pm.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm, on motion by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee McDonald and carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Failing

Mary Failing, Village Clerk