

VILLAGE OF WILSON
 375 Lake Street
 P.O. Box 596
 Wilson, NY 14172-0596



Gregory Martin, Mayor
 Carey L. O'Connor, Clerk-Treasurer
 (716)751-6764
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Village of Wilson Board of Trustees
 Minutes – December 18, 2025

Village Representatives	Present	Absent	Village Representatives	Present	Absent
Mayor Greg Martin	X		Superintendent Keith Lepine		X
Deputy Mayor Joanne Seefeldt	X		CEO Travis Evans		X
Trustee Ellen Hibbard	X		Attorney Michael J. Dowd	X	
Trustee Doug Kepner	X		Engineer Mike Marino	X	
Clerk-Treasurer Carey L. O'Connor	X		Legislator David Godfrey	X	
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Nicole Martin		X	Gary Darnell, DPW	X	

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Greg Martin called the Village Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VILLAGE OF WILSON RECOGNITION

Mayor Greg Martin would like to recognize Janet Hoffman of her dedication to the Wilson Food Pantry and enriching our community through years of community service.

Mayor Martin stated that Janet Hoffman has led the Wilson Food Pantry since its start in 2012, and in that time she has helped it grow into a steady source of care for both the village and the town. The pantry has always been powered by volunteers, but Janet has been the engine. Her leadership turned a simple idea into a lifeline. She secured grants that not only strengthened the pantry, but also helped create programs that bring our community together, like Yoga on the Pier and the Wilson Farmer's Market. She saw connections where others saw challenges, and she used every resource to lift up our residents. Anyone who has worked with Janet knows her dedication. She made countless trips to pick up supplies, checked and rechecked that every family had enough for the holidays, and showed up any time someone needed help. She never asked for attention. She simply went the extra mile because that's who she is. Janet, we thank you for all you have done for Wilson. Your passion has changed lives and strengthened this community in ways that will last. On behalf of the village, we wish you joy, rest, and all the good things that come with "retirement".

Janet acknowledged all of her helpers, the community and the churches that worked so hard to get the program going.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW 1–2026 Providing the Legal Basis for Regulating Solar Energy Systems within the Village of Wilson. Mayor Martin opened the public hearing and explained that our local law has 5 purposes – 1. Encourage the use of solar energy as a sustainable, renewable resource to reduce environmental impact. 2. Protect public health, safety, welfare, and the Village’s aesthetic character. 3. Mitigate the impacts of solar energy systems on environmental resources, including stormwater management and vegetation preservation. 4. Ensure proper decommissioning and site restoration upon abandonment or cessation of activity. 5. Ensure solar energy systems comply with local regulations, including the Town and Village of Wilson Comprehensive plan, Village of Wilson zoning Ordinance (Chapter 170). This Solar law is broken down into three tiers. Tier 1 is for rooftop, building–mounted, or building –integrated; accessory use; limited to 110% off on–site electricity needs per NYSERDA rules; Tier 2 is for ground–mounted or freestanding; accessory use; limited to 110% of on–site electricity needs per NYSERDA rules; and Tier 3 is for large–scale ground–mounted; principal use; up to 10 acres fenced area; for utility grid supply. All systems have specific rules and regulations and can be reviewed with the Code Enforcement officer. This law welcomes Solar energy to this Village but places reasonable safe guards on scale location and appearance on environmental impact. We are looking to preserve character and quality of life that make Wilson a special place. Mayor Martin asked to audience if they have any questions or comments. No comments or questions from the public. Mayor Martin closed the public hearing and asked the Trustees if anyone had any questions or concerns. None of the Trustees did. Mayor Martin asked for a motion to accept new local law 1–2026, Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to pass local law 1–2026, seconded by Trustee Douglas Kepner. Clerk O’Connor took roll call, Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Douglas Kepner, yes; Mayor Gregory Martin, yes. All in favor, Local Law 1–2026 Solar Energy has passed.

PUBLIC HEARING 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – Mayor Martin explained that this public hearing is being held to discuss community development needs and priorities, and to provide residents with information about the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and other funding opportunities available through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) programs. The CDBG program is administered by the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR) and will make available to eligible local governments approximately \$47 million for the 2025 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefiting low/moderate income persons. The Village of Wilson is proposing to apply for \$50,000 in CDBG planning funding to prepare a citywide Preliminary Engineering Report. This planning grant is to provide the residents with a preliminary engineering report on the water system within the Village of Wilson. Mayor Martin asked if the public had any questions or concerns. Village resident Karen Keil asked what CFA stood for again. Mayor Martin stated it's for Consolidated Funding Application. No other questions or comments. Mayor Martin asked the Trustees if any of them had any questions. No one had questions. Mayor Martin closed the public hearing.

Mayor Greg Martin announced that a second public hearing for the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Water Asset Management Study will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 7:00 pm, here at the Wilson Town Hall, 375 Lake Street, Wilson NY. Engineer Mike Marino has been finishing up this project that has been a year in the making, we are pretty excited.

MINUTES

Mayor Greg Martin asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for the November 20, 2025 board meeting. Trustee Doug Kepner made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, motion passed.

MONTHLY BILLS

Mayor Greg Martin asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers. The vouchers are located at the back of the room. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to approve all payments, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, motion passed.

BUSINESS

Resolution 29–2025 – Wilson Municipal Preliminary Engineering Report Grant Support the Submission of a Community Development Block Grant Community Planning Consolidated Funding Application. Mayor Martin read the resolution. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt made a motion to pass the resolution as read, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Clerk O’Connor took roll call, Mayor Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Trustee Doug Kepner, yes. All in favor, resolution passed.

Resolution 30–2025 – Solar Law Application and fee review and approval. Mayor Martin read through the application and fee schedule for the solar energy law. Mayor Martin asked if there are any questions. No questions. Mayor Martin then asked for a motion to approve the application and fee schedule. Trustee Douglas Kepner made the motion to pass the application and fee schedule, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, motion to approve the application and fee schedule for the new solar law has passed.

Resolution 31–2025 – Implementation of Weekly Curbside Compost Pickup Program by the Department of Public Works. Mayor Greg Martin read resolution and asked is anyone had any questions. Discussion ensued on collection times and what to place the compost in. Mayor Martin asked for a motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, resolution passed.

Mayor Greg Martin closed the business portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Greg Martin opened public participation.

Discussion on composting amongst everyone.

Mayor Greg Martin closed public participation.

REPORTS

Mayor Greg Martin opened reports.

Gary Darnell is sitting in for Keith Lepine. For the past month they have been doing jetting of the storm sewers and cleaning DI’s. In the process they found an area on Chestnut street that had an old steel pipe that corroded. They replaced that. Streets Maintenance – we are on snow plow duty and he touches base with the guys if they need to head into the Village. WWTP is operating very well. We have reduced flows in the winter and are saving some energy costs. Ongoing maintenance and upkeep. Couple of issues with the heating systems but they’re now fixed. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!

David Godfrey can say that the County has passed their budget. There are so many mandates from the State, unfunded mandates that they have to do or they will not get paid for them. Biggest one is Medicaid. This year is 9 for 96. With the 9 mandates, our budget is 96% of what they tell us to cover. At the end of the day, the tax levy is down 4.62% for those communities at 100% equalization. Wilson however, is up 6% – the Town has decided not to do a 100% re-assessment. Sales tax is effected by this equalization rate. We are not getting the full amount we should be getting due to this rate. Wilson should be looking into re-assessments. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and he wants everyone

to be healthy and safe and would like to God Bless the entire Board and all that they do as they do an outstanding job and he is happy to be here to help us. The Board thanked him.

Engineer Mike Marino reported that he is continuing to work on the water system plan and will continue to search for additional grants. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Trustee Joanne Seefeldt has nothing at this time.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard has nothing at this time but wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Attorney Mike Dowd has nothing at this time but wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Trustee Douglas Kepner has nothing at this time but wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor reported that the new water/sewer billing customer portal is live. We've had positive feedback and already have many resident's who have signed up. She thanked the board and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Gregory Martin reported that our Village streets are looking good with the early plowing. As far as the assessment, we severely need one but that has to be triggered by the Town of Wilson. He does not think they have any plans in the near future to do so but the Village could definitely benefit from a reassessment so we can regulate our taxes to make it fair. He'd like to speak with some phone calls that have been coming into the Village office. They're borderline aggravated harassment and if we are to find out who it is, we will do what we can to make it stop. People need to understand this is the Village of Wilson, not the other municipality. We control approximately 600 homes, 1200 people on one acre, that is all we control. Everything outside of that, we do not control. He has been working on grants. The preliminary engineering report will be going out by the end of the month. Hopefully we will hear back by February that could fund water meters to capture lost revenue. Hoping to here about the Comprehensive Smart Growth grant by the end of the month. The Homes and Community Renewal Technical Assistance grant for Pro-housing, we should hear something soon. He worked at the WWTP over the weekend and everything is running well down there. We had the WAC (Waterfront Action Committee) meeting with Wendel and we've submitted a boundary to the Secretary of State for review. This grant is a long process but hopefully once done, we will have a master plan for the Waterfront. He would like to thank everyone from coming and he wished them a Merry Christmas!

Mayor Greg Martin closed reports.

CLOSING

Mayor Greg Martin stated that our next Employee and Board meeting will be on Thursday, January 15, 2025 at 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm here at the Town Hall. Mayor Martin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm. Motion made by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, seconded by Trustee Douglas Kepner. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey L. O'Connor

Carey L. O'Connor
Village Clerk-Treasurer