

VILLAGE OF WILSON

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Gregory Martin, Mayor
Carey L. O'Connor, Clerk-Treasurer
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Village of Wilson Board of Trustees Minutes – August 21, 2025

Village Representatives	Present	Absent	Village Representatives	Present	Absent
Mayor Greg Martin	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			

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Greg Martin called the Village Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Martin explained that we have two absent board members. One is out of town and the other has a death in the family. With that, we do not meet quorum and will not be able to vote on anything this evening. We will continue to hold the public hearing as posted, however, we will meet again on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 7:00pm, here at the Town Hall to vote on said water increase and all other items that need a vote. All are welcome to come back to this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing on water rents increase of \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water bringing it up to \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons of water with a minimum of 4,000 gallons. This will go into effect with the September 2025 bill. Mayor Martin presented his report on why our Village board has decided to increase our water rates. Report notes attached.

Mayor Martin opened the floor.

Wade Wagner asked where the short fall is coming from. Mayor Martin stated the lack of users. We haven't had a new home built in the last five years. We have 544 homes, we lack growth.

Kurt Tuttle asked about the EV Chargers and if there will be a charge to the Village. Mayor Martin stated that it is 100% funded and there will be a charge to the users who use it.

Ed Bell stated that the timing of the increase is not a good look. People did not have time to plan. Mayor Martin agreed however we had a meeting with our accountants and this is a need that cannot wait.

Diane Bull thanked the Board for explaining why it's needed as she's hearing of electric and everything else that is going up but it's nice to know the explanation is said.

Mayor Martin will keep the public hearing open until they meet again on Monday. He tabled the public hearing until Monday, August 25, 2025 where we will open the floor again to more questions about the increase.

MINUTES

Mayor Greg Martin has tabled this acceptance until the August 25, 2025 meeting.

MONTHLY BILLS

Mayor Greg Martin stated in order to get the bills paid, an email went to all Board members with the abstracts showing the bills to be paid. Board members that emailed to approve payment of bills were, Mayor Greg Martin, Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, and Trustee Doug Kepner.

BUSINESS

Sunset Island rate increase discussion: Mayor Martin explained that the contract with the Town of Wilson and Sunset Island resident's have not seen an increase to their sewer rents since 2003. The village resident's have had increases but the Town still pays \$13,000 a year for sewer affluent. The Village Board has set forth a new agreement with the Town Board and hopefully within the next three years, they will be paying the same rate. It's need to be gradual to bring them to the same cost and this will also help the sewer fund.

Superintendent/Chief Operator discussion: For our sewer plant, we need a Grade 2 sewer license. We have found a gentleman out of St. Catherine's and has worked 19 years in Hamilton and village's in Canada at their sewer plants. He has applied for his Visa and applied for our position. He used his vacation to take classes at Buffalo State to receive his sewer license and has also gotten his water license and drove to Alexandria Bay to ask for his work Visa. He will be starting on Monday and we are excited to have him.

Road paving discussion: We reached out to Midland, however they are busy this year and cannot do it. We looked at the stone/seal on Park Ave. and we've spoke to a couple Superintendents and they stated that milling Pettit will not work as it won't get down to the issue. Stone/seal will work on our streets and we have the CHIPS monies that will cover it. It's about a weeks worth of hating the road but then they will be in to sweep and seal.

Grant updates: The LWRP has started and will be completed in approximately 5 years. This is a big planning grant and money we can get after this is completed can come from the State and Federal levels. The EPG planning grant for the I&I, Mike just sent the draft, we are close to finishing. NYMS (NY Main Street) we had a meeting this past Wednesday. We will bring it to our businesses soon. This will be well thought out before finalizing. Water Asset Management Study should be completed this January. Should have a good idea of what needs fixed first in the water system. The EV Station is 100% funded, no match. We applied for a Smart Growth plan. We need to get with the times that may come, solar, cannabis, etc. We were awarded an engineering planning grant for the WWTP for upgrades. We will begin discussing cost savings for the plant.

Water billing software discussion: Mayor Martin stated we signed up with gWorks to provide us with water/sewer billing, accounting, Citizen 311. It has been a year and a half with nothing completed. We have requested to pull out and with that, we need a new water/sewer billing software. We have looked at Current, Muni-Billing and Muni-Link. Current is the best option for what we need and they are the cheapest plan. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Greg Martin opened public participation.

Bob Morgan asked about the bottom line dollar number after the sunset island rate increase. Mayor Martin stated that they will be charged based on usage. Attorney Dowd stated that their bill will probably double.

Mayor Greg Martin closed public participation.

REPORTS

Mayor Greg Martin opened reports.

Engineer Mike Marino – Still working on the EPG planning grant for the collection system to get it into the state to get paid. This grant will set us up for the WQIP grants. They want us to go after the other grants to replace/line infrastructure. WWTP needs energy efficiency improvements. Contracts came in to day for the ZEV grant. and the RFP is out for the LWRP.

Legislator Dave Godfrey wanted to comment on the water rates. There's a bigger picture than we know. Our water comes from the other side of Grand Island, it comes from our Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Water Commission for the IJC and the whole conversation about how much water is taken from the lakes to service our communities. Dredging initiative with keeping our harbors open for business. Started in 2018 and each county will pay their share. We love fishing and sport fishing. 60 million dollars in sales tax revenue from the Wilson &

Olcott harbor. By keeping the harbors open, more revenue flows into our municipalities. We are working on getting our dredging companies to come in. It's a small amount of money to keep the revenue coming in. Restoring the habitats along our lakes via the State and Federal levels. Solar– the county received another request from the vendor to cross roads to get more land. The county has denied it and they're doing their best to suppress it. USDA which funds green energy has stopped and they're no longer funding federally for these programs. This is good if it means it protects our farm lands. National Grid – north east grid is one of the oldest and it cannot take the load, they need to fix it. We will soon see rolling brown outs if they don't fix it, like they do in California. The President is cutting federal funding to the Iroquois Job Corp where troubled people get training and they come out and help in the community. He feels this is important and he's going to try to save it. .IJC lake levels – have been status quo and some areas are low and coming next spring we should stay level and in the norm. Spectrum – we had an initiative to have 100% coverage. They completed that and Niagara County has 100% high speed broadband and it's available to all. Please note that they have found Rabies in the Town and the State will be dropping bate to help. Make sure your pets are vaccinated. It's rampant and be careful.

Attorney Michael Dowd has nothing at this time.

Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor reported that the Clerk's office has continued collecting late water bills and Village tax bills. We have upgraded our accounting software to a cloud based version of Quickbooks to work closely with our accountants.

Trustee Doug Kepner has nothing at this time.

Mayor Greg Martin wanted to report that he has been more of a DPW worker than a Mayor with someone on vacation and then receiving a resignation from Robert Siegmann. He'd like to thank him for his years with the Village. We had our NY Main Street kickoff meeting and our committee along with our consultants will be highly successful. Working a lot at the WWTP, we've brought in the Camden group, Lou is a Class 3 operator. At first it was an hourly, now we have contracted them into a weekly role in the short term and hoping to have him assist with Keith Lepine, our new operator. The NYS Beaches act was signed and they're now concerned with the growth at the beaches. We now have to test weekly for ecoli and fecal. We used to test monthly and have never had any problems. With this act, they want it tested weekly. The tests cost \$300 a test and that is an increase from the DEC and we have to abide by it. We have been listed to keep our monitoring at the local level. We are having a water pressure issue in the Village and the guys have been working on it. He'd like to thank the Town of Wilson, Town of Porter, the County, Joe Zastrow, Stephen McCarthy for working on this. We have a meeting on Tuesday with the County to look into it to get it fixed. We are working on a solar law. Wendel engineering went through it. We will have public hearings when it's time.

Mayor Martin would like to let everyone in attendance know that he appreciates them coming out to the meeting and listening and asking questions. At a time when you can jump online and spread misinformation, it's nice to see you here asking questions and getting the correct information.

Mayor Greg Martin closed reports.

CLOSING

Mayor Greg Martin stated that our next meeting will be on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 7:00pm here at the Town Hall to continue the open public hearing on the water increase. Our next Employee Meeting will be on Thursday, September 18th here at the Town Hall at 2:30pm, and our Board meeting will be that evening at 7:00pm. Mayor Greg Martin stated that the meeting will remain open until we meet on Monday. All left the meeting at 7:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey L. O'Connor

Carey L. O'Connor
Village Clerk–Treasurer