

VILLAGE OF WILSON

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



Arthur Lawson, Mayor
Carey L. O'Connor, Clerk-Treasurer
(716)751-6764
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Village of Wilson Board of Trustees Minutes – March 20, 2025

Village Representatives	Present	Absent	Village Representatives	Present	Absent
Mayor Arthur Lawson	X		WWTP/DPW Supt. Shawn Galyen		X
Deputy Mayor/Trustee Greg Martin	X		CEO Travis Evans	X	
Trustee Ellen Hibbard	X		Attorney Michael J. Dowd	X	
Trustee Joanne Seefeldt	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 Art Lawson called the Village Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #2-2025 - AMENDING CHAPTER 155, VEHICLES

Mayor Art Lawson stated that there is a copy of this local law at the back of the room. Mayor Lawson read the amendments. Mayor Lawson asked CEO Evans to give a brief description of the changes. CEO Travis Evans gave a brief synopsis of the changes. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone here this evening has any questions. Resident Bob Morgan asked if tractors or agricultural vehicles would be considered vehicles, Travis stated they would have to be registered and he doesn't believe agricultural would fall under that category. Carol Sattelburg asked about snow mobiles. Travis stated, if it needs registered, it's considered a vehicle under the law. Mayor Lawson asked if any of the Trustees had any comments. Trustee Martin stated that one of the big changes is the title of the chapter, and made changes for abandoned vehicles and have broken them down into different categories. Some of the fees have also been updated. Mayor Lawson closed public comment. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to take roll call. Trustee Greg Martin made them to approve roll call, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Roll call taken by Clerk O'Connor, Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Ellen Hibbard, yes; Greg Martin, yes; Arthur Lawson, yes. Unanimously approved, local law has been approved.

MINUTES

Mayor Art Lawson asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from February 20, 2025. Motion was made by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Art Lawson stated that you can find a copy of these minutes in the Clerk's office or online. All in favor, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Mayor Art Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers, on all abstracts, located with the agenda at the back of the room (attached). Motion was made by Trustee Greg Martin seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any questions or comments. All in favor, motion to pay all monthly bills has passed.

General Fund: \$31, 324.47 Water Fund: \$329.46 Sewer Fund: \$14,890.14 Key2Business: \$10,548.52

BUSINESS

Policy #1-2025 - Village of Wilson Shade Structure Municipal Policy: Mayor Art Lawson read the attached policy. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any comments. Trustee Greg Martin stated this in regards to our Climate Smart status and is one of the steps in becoming a climate smart community. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve policy #1-2025. Motion was made by Trustee Greg Martin, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. All in favor, policy has passed.

Resolution 10-2025 - Village of Wilson Complete Streets Policy/Resolution: Mayor Art Lawson read the attached resolution. Mayor Lawson asked if any trustee had any questions or comments. Trustee Greg Martin stated that this has been along time coming. Jill Rohring talked about it a long time ago. This is to make biking and walking safer in our community. It's a part of the climate smart initiative. It is to encompass everything we want to put in. Mayor Lawson asked for motion for roll call for resolution 10-2025. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked Clerk O'Connor to take roll call. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. Resolution 10-2025 has passed.

Resolution 11-2025 - Establishing a Sewer Fund Grant Reserve: Mayor Art Lawson read the attached resolution. Mayor Lawson asked if any Trustee has any comments. Trustee Greg Martin stated that we implemented a grant reserve in the general fund last year, this is the next step to keep grants separate and allocated to the right fund. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to take roll call. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked Clerk O'Connor to take roll call. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. Resolution 11-2025 has passed.

Request from owner of Short-Term Rental at 373 Ontario St: Mayor Lawson read the letter. Mayor Lawson opened it to comments from the Board. Trustee Greg Martin that our Village code, Chapter 163-28 and 168-32 that it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain and keep in good working order. Discussion ensued. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to deny this resident's request. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, request denied.

Request from CEO Travis Evans request to amend interior remodel building permit fee: CEO Travis Evans stated that when the Village and Town combined efforts, we updated the Village fees to coincide with the Town. He has noticed with interior remodeling and with complete interior jobs, there is a high need for inspections to make sure they're complying with the new energy codes. He is requesting that the Village update the fee to \$25.00 base fee and \$1.00 per \$100.00. With all the inspections, it's a lot of his time to stay on the builders to comply with the code. Greg and Ellen agree with Travis and his request. Art stated that his time is valuable to our community and favors what he believes is required. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to amend the interior remodel fee. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to approve the increase, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked Clerk O'Connor to take roll call. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. Motion to approve increase as passed.

Request from Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor to approve an April 1st payment for the sewer bond in the amount of \$60,280.75: Clerk O'Connor stated that the bond payment is due May 1st, but with how slow our postal service is, she wanted to get it out early to avoid any issues or fees. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to approve the payment early on April 1, 2025, seconded by Trustee Greg Martin. Request approved.

Announce public hearing for the 2025-2026 Village budget at the village reorganizational meeting on April 7, 2025 at 7:00pm: Mayor Lawson announced the public hearing for the 25-26 tentative budget. Clerk O'Connor stated anyone can get a copy of the tentative budget in our clerk's office.

REPORTS

Mayor Art Lawson opened reports.

Legislator David Godfrey announced the request to help with the bike racks has been approved. He'd like to remind the board about the Iroquois job corp - people go through this program to learn a trade. One of the things they offer is to do work in the communities. It's federally funded. It's one of the largest in the country. He suggested to the Town that some of the students in the trades to set up demo stations during summer rec. He stated that if anyone had any questions, to reach out to him.

Engineer Mike Marino reported that we will get started soon on the water asset plan and he thanked the board for wanting to work with them. He's working on the EPG grant and is working on getting a report together. The second part of the grant will be submitted in April. The EV station grant has been submitted and will be covered 100%.

CEO Travis Evans, reported that he has issued eight new building permits for 2025. Ten are open, and he has completed eleven inspections. Seventeen fire inspections completed. He has received three complaints this month and they all have been handled. Short-term rental letters have been sent out. One sheriff has been called out. The contractor working over at the Villa apartments has ran into some issues. May have to amend some blueprints to fix the issues. He'd like to ask if anything is on our law in regards to solar? Trustee Greg Martin stated that we do not but he is looking into it and has looked at Medina's law.

Trustee Joanne Seefeldt would like to congratulate Greg for being nominated Mayor and Doug as well for Trustee.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard would like to congratulate Greg and Doug as well.

Attorney Michael Dowd has nothing at this time.

Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor has nothing at this time.

Deputy Mayor Greg Martin reported we received an energy audit at the WWTP and DPW. To become a Climate Smart community (CSC), we are looking into all the way to do so. With becoming a CSC we can put it in our CFA grant application. We have 8 out of the 10 right now. The comprehensive study could help with obtaining other grants. DEC grant came out with a 90/10 ratio (they cover 90%, we cover 10%) - we have a parks plan and possibly upgrading Martin Park with pickleball, a possible splash pad with a non-profit. Iroquois job corp - phase one would be a bathroom. We are looking for someone to do a concrete slab. Also our Wander about Wilson will launch late spring, early summer. Bike racks placed throughout Wilson. Bikes were donated by the sheriffs. There will be a flag on the bikes and people can use them to get around town. Greg thanks Dave Godfrey for helping with that. The Wilson Wander way...work with the greenway commission and using a stencil to mark the roads to be utilized around the village. He has also ordered signs to put around the village promoting Wander around Wilson. He has been promoting that our businesses become bike friendly. Brownies has become a bike friendly business already. He met with the niagara county IDA and is hoping to be able to work with them in the future when we meet the criteria.

Mayor Arthur Lawson stated this will be his final report after 8 years. He stated that government takes a lot of work behind the scenes. Planning and finally executing it. He thanks everyone for all their help over the years. He'd like to congratulate Greg and Doug and knows it couldn't be in better hands.

Mayor Art Lawson closed reports.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Art Lawson opened recess for public input.

No comments.

Public Input closed by Mayor Art Lawson.

CLOSING

Mayor Art Lawson stated that our next meeting will be held at the re-organizational meeting on April 7, 2025 at 7pm. The Employee Meeting will be on Thursday, April 17, 2025 here at the Town Hall at 2:30pm, and our Board meeting will be that evening at 7:00pm. Mayor Art Lawson requested a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:46pm. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Greg Martin . All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey L. O'Connor

Carey L. O'Connor
Village Clerk-Treasurer