



VILLAGE OF COLONIE

VILLAGE HALL

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JAMES M. RUBINO
MAYOR

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FRANK A. PREVRATIL
DEPUTY MAYOR

PATTY SCHWARZ LOCKART
TRUSTEE

JASON M. DEPAULO
TRUSTEE

MARK P. STEVENS
TRUSTEE

JAMIE L. BLOT
VILLAGE CLERK

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

6:30 P.M.

The meeting of the Mayor and Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205. Mayor Rubino opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:	Mayor Rubino	Present
	Deputy Mayor Prevratil	Present
	Trustee Lockart	Present
	Trustee DePaulo	Excused
	Trustee Stevens	Present
	Clerk Blot	Present

Minutes of the public hearing held on February 17, 2026, regarding Resolution 2025-92, were reviewed by the present members of the board.

A motion was made by Trustee Lockart to approve the minutes, as presented.

The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Prevratil.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Motion passed.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 17, 2026, were reviewed by the present members of the board.

A motion was made by Trustee Stevens to approve the minutes, as presented.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockart.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Motion passed.

Clerk Blot requested a vote on Local Law #1 of 2026 "Amendments to the Village of Colonie Code".

Clerk Blot explained that this local law is to remove section 79-39 abandoned/vacant building registration fee schedule from the code, and to add section 79-16 fees and section 243-3 registration process, these amendments give the Village the authority to add unpaid building department fees, such as fire inspection fees and ROP (rental of real property) fees to the Village tax bills as a levy, in the event of non-payment.

Trustee Stevens made a motion to approve Local Law #1 of 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Prevratil.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.
Motion passed.

Clerk Blot requested a vote on Resolution 2025-103 “Adopt changes to the Village of Colonie fee schedule”.

Resident Ellen Collins stated she was surprised to see the fee schedule on the agenda again, since there were amendments just made to the fee schedule at the last meeting, and asked what the changes were that were noted on the schedule.

Clerk Blot stated that “tenant change permit fee, if no construction” under section 2A, was an oversight from last time, it was changed in one area but forgotten in this area. Ms. Collins asked about the administration fees that were added under water and sewer, to which Clerk Blot said based on the size of the water meter, there will be an administrative billing charge according to each billing cycle, water and sewer. The fee for a ¾” meter is \$10 and 1” or more is \$30. Ms. Collins asked why the Village was considering adding this fee, to which Clerk Blot said in looking at the municipalities around is, several municipalities have had administrative costs for years, and we have never added such a cost, but with the rise of all related costs, we felt it was time to do so. Clerk Blot also added that these administrative fees are the same amounts as the Town of Colonie charges for their administrative costs. Ms. Collins stated that being a single-income household her concern is the rising cost of the sewer and water bills and now adding this additional rate. Clerk Blot stated that those are factors considered when there is a rate increase and added that previously the water bill minimum usage was 25,000 gallons, when we increased the rate a few years ago, we lowered that usage rate to 22,000, then when it was increased a second time we again lowered the minimum to 20,000 gallons, which is the current minimum usage, to balance out the increase for our single-income households, and we also consider our population of seniors who live on a fixed income. Clerk Blot added that the board does a good job of considering those things when having to increase fees, which no one likes to do, but also noted that the Village taxes have not been changed for many years, and the last time there was a change it was a decrease. Mayor Rubino added that he does not want to raise taxes, but the cost of everything continues to increase and to be able to maintain our expenses, we need to consider these options and act accordingly. Mayor Rubino asked the Clerk what the minimum charge was that the residents paid to the Town of Colonie for water, to which the Clerk didn’t have the figure readily available, but added that it isn’t the only amount paid, there are other fees associated with the cost. Mayor Rubino added that is what he was indicating, such as the operation and maintenance fee and the advalorem fee, that we too have to pay to Latham Water District, and added that these are all things brought into consideration when raising a rate or adding a fee such as this. Ms. Collins thanked the Mayor and Clerk for the explanation, and asked if notice would be made to the residents of this new charge, she added that when the increases happened last time there was an explanation in with the following bill, she thought that maybe advanced notice of the change might be nice, to which the Clerk said that the next billing cycle was approaching

in April for water, so to send something out ahead of the billing cycle might be difficult to accomplish and cost prohibitive but she would leave it at the discretion of the Board. Trustee Lockart made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-103, as presented. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Prevratil.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.
Motion passed.

Clerk Blot requested a vote for Resolution 2025-104 “Emergency spending – MRX water meter reader”.

Mayor Rubino explained that our current MRX reader is at the end of its life and will not read the meters, which we just realized last week when we went to read the meters. We have two (2) of the three (3) towers installed that can read the meters, but this device is required to read the meters that are not being picked up since that third tower is not installed yet. This device will also be used after the meter is installed to capture any meters that may not be captured by the towers for any miscellaneous reason. Our current device is original to the system, and we need this reader to be able to read for the quickly approaching water billing cycle. The amount is not to exceed \$16,000.00.

Trustee Lockart made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-104, as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Stevens.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.
Motion passed.

Clerk Blot requested a vote for Resolution 2025-105 “Refund of rental fee”.

Resident Ellen Collins stated that she was present at a board meeting a few weeks ago where a refund was issued to an employee since the employee did not require someone to work the event since she was the “employee” at the event, and a refund was granted, and Ms. Collins noticed that was a one day event and based on this resolution states its two events and the amount is different. Mayor Rubino stated that this was request was due to inclement weather, it took place when we had significant snow and the recreation center was closed, and therefore the individual was seeking a refund, to which Ms. Collins asked why the amount was different from the amount granted to the employee who received a refund a few weeks prior, to which Clerk Blot stated that the employee event was a birthday party, and this was for pickleball games for a set of dates. She continued stating a one-day event such as a birthday party has a different rate than an event such as this where there is an hourly rate with a 3-hour minimum, as stated in the Village fee schedule. Ms. Collins thanked Mayor Rubino and Clerk Blot for the explanation.

Deputy Mayor Prevratil made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-105, as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockart.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.
Motion passed.

Clerk Blot requested authorization to advertise for a public hearing for Resolution 2025-106 “Authorize to expend funds out of the Village Hall capital reserve for the purchase of a digital sign” to be held on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Rubino explained that after a few meetings ago, there was a resident who mentioned lack of notification, and while Mayor Rubino thinks that there is a notification is done very well with postings and advertisements, the digital sign will enhance our ability to get the word out on more information to the public. The proposed location is on Central Avenue, at the location of the former outreach center, 1639 Central Avenue. Trustee Stevens made a motion to authorize the Clerk to advertise, as stated above. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Prevratil.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.
Motion passed.

Clerk Blot requested a vote on Resolution 2025-107 “Resolution supporting increased aid to municipalities and strengthening New York’s state-local partnership”. Clerk Blot explained that this is to support Governor Hochul’s request for additional funding for municipalities for Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA). Trustee Stevens made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-107, as presented. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Prevratil.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.
Motion passed.

Chief Kayser read aloud the February 2026 fire report, adding that we have had 108 fire calls as of the end of February, which is high for this time of year.

Mayor Rubino stated that he is glad the Chief read aloud all the hours, and added that those are unpaid hours, and are all covered by volunteers, which is a remarkable amount of dedication. He also added that we don’t have a fire tax here in the Village, and that fire coverage is included in the Village tax which as noted by the Clerk has remained the same for many years, even decreasing with the last change 25 years ago. He mentioned that municipalities around us have fire districts and residents that belong to those districts pay an additional fire tax on their taxes, some of which are in the range of \$300 in fire tax alone.

Deputy Mayor Prevratil echoed what the Mayor stated saying that the fire department does a great job protecting the residents. He also added that the department of public works has done a great job this season with all the inclement weather, and stated we are supposed to get more tomorrow.

Trustee Lockart thanked resident Ellen Collins for attending the meetings and always asking such good questions.

Mayor Rubino said that the department of public works has had a tough winter with the weather and water breaks, and the overtime is nice, but sometimes a break from it is what

they need. He added that we have great personnel all around and couldn't ask for better people.

Reports Submitted:

Senior Center Expenditure VS. Revenue Report 2/9/2026 to 2/20/2026

Recreation Center Report February 2026

Fire Department Report February 2026

Abstract #19

General: \$180,707.08

Water: \$21,971.09

Sewer: \$45,456.41

Total: \$248,134.58

Trustee Lockart made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

This motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Prevratil.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie L. Blot

Village Clerk