

Zoom ID # 4118425407

**VILLAGE OF CAYUGA HEIGHT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING**

**June 17th 2026
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson and Salton; Fire Superintendent Tamborelle, Police Chief Wright, Superintendent of Public Works Cross and Southard; Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder; Village Clerk Walker.

1. Call to Order: Mayor Woodard calls the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2a. Approval of the May 20, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2027 - 25)

Resolution: 10074

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees approves the May 20, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion: Trustee Salton

Second: Trustee Hubbell

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

2b. Approval of the May 20, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2027 - 25)

Resolution: 10075

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees approves the June 4, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion: Trustee Hubbell

Second: Trustee Biloski

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

3. Privilege of the Floor: No members of the public were present to speak.

4. Report of Treasurer Dolch:

•Treasurer Dolch states that we have two abstracts that need approval, one for the last month of the current fiscal year and one for the first month of the new fiscal year.

•**Approval of Abstract 13:**

Resolution: 10076

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees authorizes and approves Abstract #13 for FYE2026, consisting of: TA vouchers 98-103 in the amount of \$4,855.23, Consolidated Fund vouchers 893-960 in the amount of \$280,701.69.

Motion: Trustee Conway

Second: Trustee Biloski

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

•Treasurer Dolch states that she now will need a resolution allowing her to bring any overdrawn accounts to zero in the A, F, and G funds.

Resolution: 10077

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees authorizes and approves Treasurer Dolch to make FYE 2025-2026 Final Budget Modifications as necessary to bring any overdrawn accounts to zero in the General, Water and Sewer Funds.

Motion: Trustee Conway

Second: Trustee Biloski

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

•**Approval of Abstract 1:**

Resolution: 10078

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees authorizes and approves Abstract #1 for FYE2027, consisting of: TA vouchers 1-2 in the amount of \$27,229.14, Consolidated Fund vouchers 1-34 in the amount of \$760,679.45.

Motion: Trustee Conway

Second: Trustee Biloski

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

5. Report of Superintendent of Public Works Southard:

- Superintendent of Public Works Southard states that this month he has been working with Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder on building permits and getting a system set up for the approval process.
- Superintendent of Public Works Southard states that he will be looking at a software program called [iworQ](#) as an option for code enforcement tracking.
- Superintendent of Public Works Southard states that U.S. Fish and Wildlife has identified a potential long-eared bat nesting area where the culvert project is located. We will need to conduct a study before we can cut any trees down for this project, which we hope to start in mid-June.
- Superintendent of Public Works Southard states that NYSDOT finally sent us the comments for the final design plan of the Cayuga Heights Road Sidewalk Project. He is working with HUNT Engineers to address those comments.
- Superintendent of Public Works Southard states that once this project is ready, we will have similar issues with the timing of cutting trees; ideally, the best time would be October.
- Superintendent of Public Works Southard states that the final draft of the Village WWTP cybersecurity and operation and maintenance plans is ready for review.
- Trustee Robinson states the only thing he would add is for the WWTP Committee to have the Village IT Committee review the cybersecurity plan.
- Mayor Woodard states that the long-eared bat is an endangered species, and to satisfy U.S. Fish and Wildlife, we will need to hire someone to monitor the few trees we plan to cut and watch for bats emerging from the trees.

6. Report of the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder:

- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that the crew has been working on water break repairs left from this past winter.
- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that, moving forward, we really need to time our lead line replacement with the homeowner who needs their line updated too. This will help since connections are different.
- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that T.G. Miller will be providing the annual I & I report to us at the next Village Public Works Committee meeting.

- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that we have been cleaning up old permits that have been in the system and were never closed out.
- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that he is working on an idea for property maintenance notifications, which we could either post in the yard or leave on the door. We recognize that not all residents read our Enewsblast or get Nixle alerts.
- Mayor Woodard asks Chief Wright what the rules are for leaving materials or notices on private property.
- Chief Wright states that he will have to look at that ordinance again. But he could see that it might be alarming for some residents.
- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that as a code enforcement officer, he is allowed to use the same path a mail carrier uses on private property. \
- Trustee Robinson states that when we looked at this before, we determined that this was illegal to do. The question remains: is it, or isn't it? That is the easiest way to start.
- Chief Wright states that when we approach a resident's property and they are not home, we will leave a card or attempt to call the homeowner. He suggests that we are identifiable as staff from the Village.
- Clerk Walker suggests we just call the residents and inform them of the local law and ask them to comply with it or face a violation.
- Trustee Salton asks how many residents are currently affected by our property maintenance law?
- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that we have about twenty residents.
- Mayor Woodard states that we have so many residents who do not follow the brush rules.
- Trustee Conway states that we just need a balance; we want people to maintain their properties, and with that come brush piles or yard waste. The timing may not work out for our pickups.

7. Report of Police Chief Wright:

- Chief Wright states that at our Public Safety Committee, we had an opportunity to meet with two members of FLOCK via Zoom.
- Chief Wright states that firearm training will begin next week.
- Chief Wright states that he has two individuals interested in working for the department on a part -time basis. He would like to bring on one individual now and possibly another next month.
- Chief Wright states that his action item for tonight is offering Alex Hitchcock a part-time police officer position.

Resolution: 10079

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees authorizes and approves hiring Alex Hitchcock as a Village of Cayuga Heights part-time police officer at the current PBA contract hourly rate.

Motion: Trustee Hubbell

Second: Trustee Biloski

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

- Chief Wright states that his training and areas of expertise have put him on the fast track, and that is one of the reasons we were interested in having him join our department.

- Chief Wright states that he has one more interested officer who has potential for coming on board next month.

Motion Carried

- Trustee Biloski states that with the new four ten-hour day schedule for the police officers, how do you know where to place the part-time officers?

- Chief Wright states that seniority has a role in that, but also who is willing and available to work.

8. Report of Fire Superintendent Tamborelle:

- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that we had a steady stream of calls for the month.

- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that we have not had any interest in the old ladder truck, so we are taking more pictures, and it looks like we will have to lower the price in order to sell that truck.

- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that we have had a personnel change; Assistant Chief S. Janowski has moved out of the 824 Hanshaw house and relocated to Newfield. The Council has appointed J. Putnam to that position.

- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that he spoke to Grant Champs; they are going to start onboarding grants and are hopeful that our department might be one of the first to receive a grant from them.

- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that, as mentioned by Superintendent Southard, we will be looking at software that can track inspections and code enforcement.

- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that the reason he is interested in this is for the fire inspections. He could also see us charging a fee for the inspections, which would offset the cost. He has learned that every municipality around us charges for this service.

- Mayor Woodard inquires about the cost of this program and whether this could be used for the property maintenance enforcement.

- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that the first year is ten thousand dollars and then just an annual service fee, eight thousand dollars. If we structure the fee schedule correctly, it should cover the cost of the software, and yes, this platform will work for that as well.
- Mayor Woodard states that since the 825 house is now vacant, what are we doing with it?
- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that Galen Walsh, who is one of our lieutenants, is in a bunker at the station but would move into the house once some staff members come back to town. The timing is good, so we can get some projects done inside the house before he moves in.
- Trustee Conway asks what we normally do with older gear.
- Fire Superintendent Tamborelle states that if we cannot give it away, then eventually we may throw gear away.

9. Report of Clerk Walker:

- Clerk Walker states that it has been a busy month and thanked all those who were able to attend the public gathering for Brent’s retirement.
- Clerk Walker states that tax collections have been consuming most of the time in the office. To date, we have collected just under nine hundred thousand dollars. He expects most of the payments will be received by the end of next week.

10. Report of Mayor Woodard:

a. Appointment of Jennifer Kuszniir to the Village Planning Board:

- Mayor Woodard states that we have recently had Elaine Quaroni retire from the Board, and now Roger Segelken has moved up his retirement from this board.
- Mayor Woodard states that we placed a notice in our Village Enewsblast, and Jennifer was one of the residents who was interested.
- Mayor Woodard states that she would like to appoint Jennifer Kuszniir to the Village Planning Board for one official year (4/27)

Resolution: 10080

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Village resident Jennifer Kuszniir to the Village Planning Board for one official year (4/27)

Motion: Trustee Biloski

Second: Trustee Fleming

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

b. CSI Grant Approval:

- Mayor Woodard states that this company does a lot of testing for our WWTP, and their funding comes from donations and grants.

Resolution: 10081

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees authorizes and approves the annual funding to CSI for support with water testing for the Village WWTP.

Motion: Trustee Hubbell

Second: Trustee Biloski

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

c. 216 Dearborn Place:

- Mayor Woodard states that we will postpone this discussion for an executive session.

d. Yaws Contract:

- Mayor Woodard states that we have renegotiated with Yaws management for a five-year contract starting this year at a forty percent increase in the monthly contractual amounts, followed by a three percent increase over the next four years.

•Village Attorney Middleton states that she wanted the Board to be aware of a couple of things in the contract that were confusing. One incremental increase section included a notation of a three percent increase each year, which was already built into the paragraph before. Two, there was also language stating that it was an annual renewal, which did not make sense since it is a five-year contract.

•Trustee Robinson states that there were other concerns with spelling and grammar, but he thought the Board was comfortable with it as is.

•Trustee Salton states he is in favor of having a corrected document.

Resolution: 10082

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees approves and authorizes Mayor Woodard to sign the Yaws Contract pending final review with changes by Village Attorney Middleton.

Motion: Trustee Salton

Second: Trustee Biloski

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none.

Motion Carried

e. Staff Reimbursement:

- Mayor Woodard states that this will be discussed in Attorney-Client Privilege

f. Flock Camera Contract Resolution:

- Trustee Fleming states that he would like to thank Chief Wright for working so closely with the Board and the Public Safety Committee and reads the following statement.

It is really good to have a partner who's been so transparent about the pros and the cons of this, kind of the benefits and the challenges, as we weigh this decision. As many of us have seen, neighboring municipalities have also been re-evaluating their use of cloud cameras, so we are not alone in weighing the potential benefits of this technology against the growing concerns about privacy, data usage, and accountability. The Public Safety Committee is focused on three primary questions. How data is used and shared, the security of Flock's infrastructure, and the value of participating in a regional camera network that is shrinking as other municipalities withdraw.

So, at our most recent meeting, we discussed these concerns with representatives from Flock. We are the first municipality in upstate New York to have had this conversation directly with Flock. I appreciate their willingness to attend our meeting and answer questions directly. But unfortunately, most of our concerns remain unresolved after meeting with them. The representatives appeared unfamiliar with past cybersecurity issues involving the company, and they were also unable to provide satisfactory answers regarding when data may be shared without the Villagers' prior consent. For example, in Flock's Terms and Conditions, Flock states they may share data when a government agency claims that doing so prevents an undefined harm. The term is not clearly defined, leaving significant room for interpretation. This matters because definitions can obviously vary widely. What one person considers harm, another person may consider free speech. So, without clear limitations and transparent standards, residents have little assurance around how their data may be used or shared by Flock.

We examined the company's policies more closely, and we found there's an increasing disconnect between Flock's marketing claims and their actual terms governing data access and control. So, Flock frequently states that the village owns its data, but the company's own terms provide Flock with exclusive authority over how and when data is accessed or delivered. If access is delayed or restricted, the village could run into issues meeting legal obligations under public records laws, despite supposedly being the owner of that information.

For me, this decision ultimately comes down to kind of transparency and trust. And based on concerns we kind of raised and the answers we received or didn't receive from FLOC, I do not believe continuing this partnership is justified at this time.

- Trustee Salton states that he endorses Trustee Fleming's statement and points out that there is a downside to not having some sort of camera system in place, not just in the village but in the county as well. We should try to find an alternative and remind ourselves that there is another side to this, which is public safety.
- Trustee Fleming states that we are trying to balance something here. The City of Ithaca kind of came to this conclusion in a different way (looking at their resolution), as it was drafted, which is very different from the conclusion that we came to.
- Trustee Salton states that we are two very different municipalities, and we don't have the classes of people who are really objecting to this here in the Village.
- Trustee Fleming states there were parts of the City of Ithaca that were in favor of the cameras, but broadly speaking, Ithaca at large declined them.
- Trustee Salton states that he wants to be clear he supports the removal of the cameras but has mixed feelings about now having nothing in the county, let alone the Village.
- Mayor Woodard states that passing this resolution doesn't preclude discussions and thinking of different ways to protect our community. The fundamental factor is the lack of ability to control the data collected.

Resolution: 10083

RESOLUTION TO DECLINE RENEWAL OF FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA SYSTEM CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Village of Cayuga Heights currently maintains a contract with Flock Safety for a license plate reader camera system that is scheduled to expire on or about September 27, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Village currently operates four (4) Flock Safety cameras, which have been in service since May 2025; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Village of Cayuga Heights and Tompkins County at large have expressed concerns regarding the creation of searchable databases documenting vehicle movements, which may potentially reveal sensitive personal information such as visits to medical facilities, places of worship, and other private associations; and

WHEREAS, while Flock Safety states that data collected through its system is owned by the Village, access to such data is controlled solely by Flock, which retains “the exclusive right to determine and control the method, timing, format, and medium of such access or delivery,” raising concerns regarding the Village’s ability to timely comply with Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests and other statutory transparency obligations; and

WHEREAS, concerns have also been raised regarding third-party access to data generated by the system, including provisions indicating that Flock may share data with other governmental agencies without requiring a court order or subpoena, and that Flock reserves the ability to disclose data beyond what is strictly required by law; and

WHEREAS, the number of such systems in neighboring jurisdictions is expected to decline significantly in the near future, including the March 2026 unanimous vote by the City of Ithaca Common Council to terminate its

Flock Safety contract as well as Tompkins County; and

WHEREAS, as the regional network of Flock Safety cameras decreases, the operational value of the system for legitimate law enforcement purposes within the Village of Cayuga Heights Police Department correspondingly decreases, while the cost to the Village would remain unchanged; and

WHEREAS, the Contract between the parties can be renewed annually by Board Resolution and a corresponding annual payment to Flock is required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cayuga Heights hereby **does not renew** the Flock Safety camera system contract upon its expiration in September 2026, thereby terminating the said Contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village Administration and/or Chief of Police is/are authorized and directed to take any necessary steps to ensure an orderly conclusion of the contract and system use at the end of the contract term; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Flock Safety shall remove all deployed equipment and associated hardware within thirty (30) days of the contract expiration date; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village Board directs staff to explore and evaluate alternative public safety technologies and tools that better align with the Village's operational needs and address the concerns identified herein; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion: Trustee Salton

Second: Trustee Fleming

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson, and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none.

•Chief Wright states that this equipment has a tremendous amount of deterrent to crime and is an amazing tool for investigative purposes. He is the voice for moving forward with all the municipalities as we work to find an alternative where we have complete control over the data.

•Chief Wright states that he greatly appreciates the time of the Board and committees to fully listen to all sides at length and allow Flock to present to the Village.

Motion Carried

12. Report of the Trustees:

a. Village Finance Committee Update:

•Trustee Conway states that he has an update from the finance committee. Going forward, we are adding some charts so that members of the Board can see trends and how we are doing on a deeper level, month to month.

- Trustee Conway states that we also talked through some financial numbers since the passage of the new budget, like CHIPS.
- Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Cowder states that we have an additional seventy-nine thousand dollars that we are applying to T.G. Miller invoices from the Right Sizing Culvert Project.
- Trustee Conway states that we also talked about the expenses of the Kline Road Bypass and how that will affect the Sewer Fund. This will most likely result in a sewer rate increase. On a positive side, our insurance rates overall for Compensation and general coverage only increase by three and a half percent.
- Trustee Conway states that we also discussed sewer permit fees and a possible increase for them since we will be addressing the I & I issue without financial support from the other municipal users.
- Trustee Salton inquires about the fund balance on the sewer fund.
- Mayor Woodard states that we just spent almost seventy thousand dollars to the Town of Ithaca for sewage (mainly Stormwater) for the use of the Kline Road Bypass.
- Trustee Salton states that we didn't create this problem by closing the bypass before.
- Mayor Woodard states that no, we did not. Our plant should be able to handle normal inflow, but this spring's rains (I & I) caused us to go over our daily limit. Thus, we had no choice but to send that to the IAWWTP.
- Trustee Robinson states that the bottom line was that putting sewage down to the Ithaca plant was costing us a lot of money. Having the ability to take all the sewage saves us a lot of money, but we don't want to exceed the two million gallons per day limit.
- Trustee Conway states that we are trying to attack this in multiple ways. One through the I & I study; two, as the Lansing's grow, we need to account for the fact that there might be I & I from them, so we need to charge more for permits and raise rates.
- Mayor Woodard states that we may be forced to put a moratorium on all sewer permits if we can't get the levels down.
- Trustee Salton states that we can talk about a moratorium if we can't monitor what's going on ourselves.
- Trustee Robinson states that this was the first time since its inception that we exceeded the daily limit two months in a row. We have always taken serious, corrective actions early in the month to stay on top of it.
- Mayor Woodard states that we need the other municipalities to talk about long-term solutions for all of the aging infrastructure to resolve the I & I. The plant has plenty of capacity, but not when it is all stormwater.
- Trustee Conway states that this is why we are taking a closer look at the sewer fund.
- Trustee Salton states that he has a quick update on the health consortium. The budget is holding for this year, and we have added a few more members. The consortium has put out an RFP for a new actuarial firm. The key issue is

finding trends to prevent losses.

- Trustee Robinson closes out the trustees' reports by stating that the staff will be focusing this summer on property maintenance law and enforcement.

13. Report of Village Attorney:

- No report at this time.

14. Executive Session:

Resolution: 10084

WHEREAS: The NYS Open Meeting Law §105 prescribes matters for which a public body may conduct an executive session; and,

WHEREAS: Upon a majority vote of its total membership, taken in an open meeting under a motion identifying the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered; and,

WHEREAS: The conduct of an executive session for these enumerated purposes only, provided, however, that no action by formal vote shall be taken to appropriate public money:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an Executive Session of the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees is conducted for subsection (d), Discussion regarding proposed, pending, or current litigation.

Motion: Trustee Conway

Second: Trustee Fleming

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, Robinson and Salton

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

Village Board of Trustees exits an Executive Session and returns to an open meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Resolution: 10085

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of Cayuga Heights Board of Trustees authorizes and approves entering an attorney/client privilege session to discuss a need.

Motion: Trustee Conway

Second: Trustee Hubbell

Ayes: Mayor Woodard; Trustees: Biloski, Conway, Fleming, Hubbell, and Robinson

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried

14. Adjournment: Mayor Woodard adjourns the meeting at 9:24 p.m.