

VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE
BOARD MINUTES
June 15, 2026

Mayor Mark Evans called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Trustee Christopher Hanse, Trustee Katlyn Irwin, Trustee Rodney Levine, and Trustee Deidre Meier.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2026 Proposed Highway Garage SEQR Initiation Public Hearing was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2026 Local Law #2 of 2026 Public Hearing was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2026 Board Meeting was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier abstained. The motion carried.

Correspondence Received

A letter was received from the NYS Department of Transportation, in response to the Village's letters, stating that they will install a crosswalk at Bailey Street & Mansion Street. However, they will not install "No Parking" signs within 20 feet of the various crosswalks. Mayor Evans stated that this is something the Village requested of them, but it seems that it will be up to the Village to decide whether or not to spend tax payer money to do so.

A letter was received from Luisa Recine, of 1 Beechwood Drive, requesting the waiving of late fees from her water/sewer account in the amount of \$39.59, due to her not being able to find the bill.

Old Business/Informational

Mayor Evans stated that the Village's Water Tank Project is progressing. This is for (2), 900,000-gallon water tanks, that are being constructed at the Water Treatment Facility through a grant received. Everything seems to be on time, and on budget. The Village expects to hopefully have those online for the water system in late summer/early fall. That project is not seen from village residents, since it is located behind the Water Treatment Plant in Climax, and is very well hidden. However, the village residents have likely noticed the Sewer Line Replacement Project going on, and that is quite extensive. So far, they have worked on Freleigh Place, New Street, and they have completed boring under the railroad tracks. Unfortunately, that is probably going to continue for the remainder of the summer at various locations. However, a bunch of roads will be repaved as a result of this work. The Village also applied for a \$200,000.00 grant for the rehabilitation of Firemens' Park. Mayor Evans stated that he would like to remind everyone that the Village has a July 4th celebration coming up. This year is the 250th Anniversary of the Country. This will be a free picnic day down at Riverside Park, starting at 3:00 p.m. on the 4th. There will be food trucks there, games, things to do, and music from 5:00-6:30 p.m., and again from 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Fireworks will go off at approximately 9:15 p.m. or so. There is an entity that is trying to coordinate all of the fireworks throughout the Hudson Valley and the Hudson River to go off at the same time. He is not sure how they are going to record this, whether they are using drones, or aircraft, but he thinks that it will be a pretty impressive sight to see all of the fireworks up and down the Hudson River. He hopes it will be a great day. The only thing people will have to pay for is the food. However, if people do not want to utilize the food

trucks, people can come down and BBQ on their own. The Village will be running shuttle busses, just like what is done for the Riverside Festival. The stops are either here at the Village Building, 119 Mansion Street, or over at the Coxsackie-Athens School, 24 Sunset Boulevard. That should help alleviate some parking concerns downtown. He hopes that everyone comes to the event and enjoys themselves.

Liaisons & Board Reports

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board will dispense with the reading of the monthly department head reports, but that all monthly reports are on file with the Village Clerk.

Motions & Resolutions

A motion to approve the request received from Luisa Recine, of 1 Beechwood Drive, asking for the waiving of late fees from her water/sewer account in the amount of \$39.59, due to her not being able to find the bill was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve Local Law #2 of 2026-Prohibition on Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems was tabled for further review.

A motion to approve the request received from Precision Roads in the amount of \$142,275.00 for the paving of Betke Boulevard, Center Street, Howard Drive, Lower New Street, Upper New Street, North Street, Railroad Avenue, and Water Street was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve engaging with Creighton Manning to design the items in their traffic study for implementation on Sunset Boulevard was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from the Coxsackie Yacht Club to play music at their Annual Fundraiser until 12:00 a.m. on July 18th, and to also have fireworks was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2026-To Provide for the Annexation of Certain Territory Located in the Town of Coxsackie by the Village of Coxsackie for Monday, July 13, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the General Representation Agreement from Roemer, Wallens, Gold, & Mineaux for this year was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve hiring Michael J. McDowell as a Part-Time Police Officer was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken on Resolution No. 132026-Forgiving Certain Interfund Debt for the

Village of Coxsackie. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The resolution passed.

A motion to approve the May 2026 monthly Treasurer's Report was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the water/sewer adjustments for the month of May 2026 was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #13, vouchers 755-785 totaling \$58,696.55; Water Fund Abstract #13, vouchers 378-397 totaling \$40,993.10; Sewer Fund Abstract #13, vouchers 342-353 totaling \$25,204.43; Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #13, voucher 17 totaling \$6,086.50 was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #1, vouchers 2-55 totaling \$106,690.03; Water Fund Abstract #1, vouchers 1-21 totaling \$24,633.63; Sewer Fund Abstract #1, vouchers 1-20 totaling \$35,137.69; Capital Projects Fund Abstract #1, vouchers 1-3 totaling \$379,448.22; Heroes Banner Fund Abstract #1, voucher 1 totaling \$10.00; Owl Project Fund Abstract #1, vouchers 1-4 totaling \$1,396.16, and Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #1, voucher 1 totaling \$8,791.38 was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Evans swore in Michael J. McDowell as Police Officer.

Public Comment Period

Carol Ann Luccio, of 48 Mansion Street, stated that she has noticed a sewer smell in front of her house. She asked if this issue would be resolved as part of the Sewer Line Replacement work.

Mayor Evans stated that he would have to check. They are working on several different locations, he just can't remember exactly without checking.

Carol Ann Luccio asked if it turns out that it will not be resolved as part of that work, what is the procedure to get it looked at.

Mayor Evans stated that Ms. Luccio could contact the Sewer Plant to have them come check and make sure that there are no blockages, and everything is clear, etc.

Carol Ann Luccio stated that there are "No Parking" signs in front of her house. She knows that it has been talked about before. The driveway above her, and two or three driveways below her, allow for parking, but in front of her house there is "No Parking" allowed. She knows that in the past, the condition of the road was not the best. However, since it has been fixed and repaved, she is wondering if they can have the use of parking back. At least in front of her house, it is a real wide shoulder, so cars wouldn't encroach on the road. She is just hoping since all of these things have been taken care of, that parking could be restored.

Mayor Evans stated that the Board can take a look at that.

Carol Ann Luccio stated that the new paved road on Mansion Street is wonderful, but by the time someone gets to the bottom of the hill, they could be up to 50 mph and not realize it. It is not

hard to do since it is nice and smooth, and people really have to pay attention. There are a lot of new people coming into the village on weekends, and traffic seems to be very noisy and fast. She knows that somebody's cat got hit recently, and this is all down close to the park. Children are also down close to the park. She doesn't want to just complain; she is hoping to find solutions. She is not sure if moveable speed bumps could be looked at. Another option could be having a sign, like the one in front of the Village Building, but have one that issues tickets. She knows that Bethlehem uses the ones that give out tickets. It takes a picture of the car and license plate, and you get a ticket in the mail. This might help, not only with revenue, but with speeders. There is also an issue with a lot of kids on e-bikes and scooters riding in the road. She thinks that portable speed bumps that can be removed in the winter may be a solution, because it is not only the speed that is the issue, but also the loudness of vehicles coming up Mansion Street hill. She doesn't want to see any more animals hit, or see a child get hit. A lot of families go down to the park, and she is just hoping for some creative ideas to resolve these issues.

Mark Evans stated that Police Chief, Samuel Mento, is here tonight. He may be able to provide some comments as topics are discussed tonight. Mayor Evans stated that the law recently changed in relation to electric bikes. If the bikes have pedals, than they are legal to be on the side of the road, etc. If they have no moving pedals, or they are what you would consider an electric dirt bike, than they are now illegal to be used in public, except on someone's private property. The Village has already caught one or two kids that have them, the Police have advised them of the law, and if they don't comply and stay on their property, then the bikes could be confiscated, and the parents would be called in as well. Aside from that issue, the Village is aware of groups of kids on regular bikes causing issues. There is a group on Spencer Boulevard that the Village is addressing almost on a daily basis, that is hopefully getting under control. He has witnessed, himself, a kid pull out in front of him and pull a wheelie in the road. The Village is fully aware of these issues. There is another small group of kids by Peppertree Apartments on Bailey Street. These kids are involved in some other things going on in the village. He said that people would be surprised at what goes on in this village. A lot doesn't get publicized because they are underage, and that gets dealt with through family court. The Police Chief makes the Board aware of things going on. A lot are things that can be shared with the public, but some of which cannot be shared with the public, other than saying that it has been addressed. If it involves a minor, than that is the most that can be said about it.

John Borter, of 16 Mansion Street, stated that he would like to extrapolate on Ms. Luccio's comments from earlier. The speeding issue is not just with people going down Mansion Street hill. He sat on his porch, and in 30 minutes, he counted 18 out of 24 cars that were going up the hill, obviously faster than 30 mph. It's not just that people lose track of their speed going down the hill. He said that he actually reported one vehicle to the Police Department that was speeding around the village every night, between 10:00-10:30 p.m. He also posted a picture of the vehicle on social media, and received numerous responses from residents stating that the driver was doing the same thing around the village. One gentleman said that he almost had a head on collision with this gentleman over in Athens. So, it's not just an instance of people not using their brakes while going down the hill, it's more so about reckless driving. He is the resident who had his cat killed. He takes responsibility for letting the cat out of the house, but he was told that it was hit by someone doing an excessive speed. The closest speed limit sign on Mansion Street is by Spencer Boulevard. There is nothing posted going downtown. There are numerous issues around the village, not just speed, but also cars doing donuts around the parking lot in the park at night, or going the wrong way down a one-way street. It is bad enough that his cat got killed, but he is wondering what can be done before a child gets hurt, or a tourist. People are driving dangerously and excessively. He talked with NYS Police, since the Village PD wasn't available at the time, regarding the repeat offender. He found out that the gentleman had a police scanner in his vehicle, and was using it to apparently avoid the police, and they found him parked behind the Gazebo at the park, on the lawn. He tried to hide from the Cops when he heard they were coming, and he drove down the sidewalk as well. This gentleman was good after the interaction

with the police for about a day, but was back at it again the next night. He thinks that speed bumps, or a speed camera, or have more of a police presence at the bottom of the hill at certain times of night, are really needed.

Katlyn Irwin stated that she lives downtown also, and asked if Mr. Borter has found that these sorts of things are happening during a specific timeframe. For example, nighttime vs. daytime, weekends vs. weekdays, etc.

John Borter stated that he sees cars do it at night, and they are likely teenagers. However, when he counted the speeding cars it was in the evening, right after dinner time. He knows that there are dozens of responses he received on social media from residents also experiencing the same thing. He would be happy to help in any way, but it is definitely a problem.

Elizabeth Stiteler, of 3 Lawrence Avenue, stated that she is not sure who put the ADA compliant sidewalk ramps along the northwest side of Lawrence Avenue. She doesn't understand why there was not one put on the northeast side of Lawrence Avenue. If someone is in need of a ramp, they would have to cross the street, where there is no crosswalk. As far as speeding, Lawrence Avenue is 15 mph. People fly down Lawrence Avenue. She has actually stood in the road and yelled at speeders, but nothing changes. There are also a lot of little kids in that area. She also sees 4-wheelers up and down the road. They use it to cross over to Cato Street, and back by the railroad tracks.

Mayor Evans stated that in relation to the crosswalk question, most residents may know this, and some may not, but Mansion Street and Washington Avenue are considered State Route 385, which is a State road, not the Village's. The Village does not have the authority to put up any signs or anything. Anything that the Village wants to see done on that road, they have to go to the State and request them to do so. The Village received approval for the crosswalk up by Hose Company #3 firehouse, but it took 8 months. The Village received letters from a few folks that live in that area with kids, and have to walk to get picked up by the school bus. The Village Board wrote a letter to the NYS DOT, and he just received a reply from the State, from a letter that was sent last October. That is the speed in which the State moves. Positively, they did say that they will put a crosswalk in. They need to do a little more work up there first. All of the work that was done on Mansion Street was all done through NYS DOT. The Village has no say in it, they can only suggest, and ask, but at the end of the day, it is their road. One interesting thing that he is sure that nobody knows, is that even though it is a State highway, the Village is still responsible for maintaining all of the trees along the road. If there is a tree that looks diseased, or dead, or leaning, or has fallen, the Village doesn't call State DOT, the Village DPW has to do out and take care of it. He didn't know that until there was a tree that was leaning up by Bethany Village a few years ago, and an Attorney for DOT sent him the law. So, since it is not the Village's road, they don't have the authority to just change anything. There were also some folks who expressed concerns on Sunset Boulevard several months ago. The Board decided that they are not the traffic experts, and that it would be better to find those who are, and have them give recommendations. So, they reached out to a company called Creighton Manning, who did a traffic study. The Board has received that study, and are going to engage them on the recommendations they included in their study. In addition, the signage is wrong over there on Sunset, and needs to be changed. The other thing the Board had them take a look at is the church corners. As you can see, the Village has those very ugly orange stanchions there. The problem is, when someone pulls up from either Lafayette Avenue or Washington Avenue, you need sight distance to look for these speeding cars coming up the hill. If there isn't sight distance around all of the people that park for church, or a funeral, or mass, you can't see. By the time you pull up far enough to see, you are in the middle of the intersection. People are more susceptible to being hit there. So, even though the Village thinks those orange stanchions are just horrible looking, it helps temporarily push traffic and parking back, until the experts can give a suggestion of what might work better to make that intersection safer. He has heard people suggest making it a 4-way

stop. He doesn't think that the Village Board would be opposed to that, but again, because it is a State road, a recommendation can only be made to the State to put stop signs up. That's not something the Village can do.

John Borter asked if he could seek clarification on one thing. He asked how far down Mansion Street is owned by the State.

Mayor Evans stated that Mansion Street is a State road down to the church corners, then it proceeds up Washington Avenue. The Mansion Street hill, and going downtown, is owned by the Village.

A resident asked if the State owns Mansion Street and Washington Avenue, if they are responsible for maintenance.

Mayor Evans stated that that is correct.

A resident asked if the State is responsible for plowing.

Mayor Evans stated not exactly.

A resident asked if the State reimburses the Village.

Mayor Evans stated that technically, the State is responsible to plow to the white line on the road. Where there aren't cars parked, they can put the wing down. However, in areas like West Cocksackie, where cars are parked on the side of the road, they cannot put the wing down while plowing, and snow gets packed up against the cars, and it creates a mess. Years ago, the Village was told that if there is a big enough snow fall, which is subjective, that if the snow falls back down over the white line, they could assist in cleaning up. The Village tried that for a few years, but it would take them several days to a week to clean it up. The Village cannot wait a week. There are businesses up there, and people that need to get in and out. Then they said that the Village could submit for reimbursement. So, they Village tried that for a couple of years, and was reimbursed only once. So, the Village's position is since it is within the village and affects residents and businesses, the Village is just going to eat the cost of clearing when needed. The Village receives some great assistance from the Town, who has a big, front-end loader. The Village has it down pretty well now. There is usually an extra Police Officer on duty when clearing to control traffic.

Darlene Knott, of 46 Terry Lane, stated that as the Board is aware, speeding has been a problem on Terry Lane for a very long time. It's a very short street, with 2 stop signs. There are also a lot of small children. Now, there are not only cars speeding, but there are also kids on dirt bikes.

Trustee Hanse asked the Police Chief how difficult it is for enforcement on dirt bikes.

Police Chief, Samuel Mento, stated that it is not difficult. Often times, the Police Department can find out who the owners of the dirt bikes are, and address it with their parents. Essentially, the Police Department can take that dirt bike, and tell the owner that they either need to keep it on their property, or it will get confiscated. Usually, they opt to keep it on their property. The problem is, the Police Department needs to be able to identify who these people are. So, if anybody gets any information, they can forward it to the Police Department to look into.

Mayor Evans stated that he would just like to make one general comment. The gentleman that Mr. Borter mentioned earlier, that was hiding out from the Police Department in the park, was found by the Police Department the next day.

Chief Mento stated that they also addressed his loud muffler, his illegal lights on the front of his car, and let him know that the Police Department is aware of who he is, and that the Village is watching him. He has since been adhering to the speed limit, because the Police Department has been monitoring him.

Mayor Evans stated that any time anybody sees anything like that, the best thing to do is to get a description and either let himself, or the Police Chief know.

John Borter thanked the Police Chief for his quick response.

Mayor Evans stated that anybody can text or call him at any time, and he will be sure to pass the information on to the Police Department, and get back to people. If there are specific vehicles that are a routine problem, he asked residents to get a description the best they can, and he can let the Police Officer on duty know, in order to try and catch them in the act.

Amber (last name not heard), of Terry Lane, stated that there is a problem with speeders on Terry Lane. She has 2 small children, and she shouldn't have to worry about them on their bikes, or scooters, with people flying down such a small section of road.

Arlene Matthews, of 176 Mansion Street, stated that her concern is with some of these young guys driving trucks around the village. There are trucks stopping and skidding, to make skid marks. The other night, she counted 19 times of trucks skidding in 2 ½ hours. It seems to be every night, starting around 4:00 p.m., and goes until midnight sometimes. It seems to be the same trucks over and over again.

Mayor Evans stated that if Ms. Matthews can get a description of the vehicles, and let either himself, or the Police Department, know, then they can try to go out and find these people.

Arlene Matthews stated that one repeat offender is a truck with a Ski-Doo on a trailer. When he comes from Reed Street, into the park, he revs his engine, and skids his truck 4 or 5 times. The other night, he almost hit a little kid in the Riverside Park parking lot.

Paul Klein, of Glenmont, via Zoom Video Conference, stated that he has excessive speed concerns. He is a prior Village Board member and has owned 88 Washington Avenue since 1984. Although he moved to Glenmont, his daughter now takes care of 88 Washington Avenue. For years, Cossackie and Athens controlled speeding by having a reputation of being tough on speeders especially at the entrances to the 2 communities. His concern is with Route 385, entering and leaving the southern edge of the village. When it comes to Commercial vehicles, people can notify the company and have their representative come to the Town Court. He said that the Police are welcome to sit in the driveway at 88 Washington Avenue in order to catch speeders. He suggested mounting several fake cameras, and rotating them with a real unit. The neighborhood could also log the time and frequency they are witnessing speeders, and let the Police Department know. Bethlehem has a "TIP LINE". Residents can contact Bethlehem Police at (518) 439-1503. Maybe the Village could do something similar. As for penalties, the Village should post arrests (arrests need to be phrased as "assumption of not guilty" but noting the areas of concern) on the Village website. Especially for Commercial vehicles, where both the employee and company could be noted. He said that he remembers a sign indicating "30 mph MEANS 30."

Trustee Hanse stated that to Mr. Kelin's point of word getting around, he knows of colleagues, for example, that have driven fast on Route 9W through Ravena, who strictly enforce their speed limit over there, and they have since made sure to slow down on 9W.

A resident stated that around Albany County, especially around the schools, they have cameras

that issue traffic tickets. If anyone goes over the speed limit, they get a ticket. They are so strict that they issue citations for going 21 mph in a 20-mph school speed zone. She said that that sounds like the easiest thing to do, to put one on Route 385, because the Coxsackie Police Department just doesn't have enough manpower. One could even be placed going down Mansion Street hill.

Mayor Evans stated that he had received a ticket in the mail from one of those cameras around Albany. He said that a couple of months ago, he was coming back late from a meeting, about 10:00 p.m., and when he was near Cumberland Farms, a car came up quickly behind him, following him. By the time he got to Bethany Village, the car sped and went around him on Mansion Street. The car was going so fast that he could not keep up with it. He called the Police Department and talked to the Sgt. on duty, and let him know where the car was headed. The car ended up pulling into the Sunoco gas station on Mansion Street. Mayor Evans stated that he isn't sure whether or not the driver saw him pull in behind him and panicked, but the guy ran back to his car and took off. However, he was able to get the license plate information. The Police Sgt. ran the plate information, and it came back as not matching the make/model of the vehicle. Unfortunately, that driver was probably doing something nefarious.

Trish Smith, of 16 Mansion Street, stated that a possibility may be reducing the speed limit going down Mansion Street hill. This section of Mansion Street is not a State-owned road, so the Village can control it. She knows that it may not help, because speeders are going to speed, and not care, but maybe that, in addition to signage, would help that area. Aside from the speeding topic, she would just like to say that the volunteers that work with the plants and flowers in Riverside Park do a fantastic job. However, she is not sure what is going on down in the park lately, but there seems to be a lot of trash down there, and the signs by the Portolets are bent. There seems to be kids actively vandalizing down there. People are parking on the grass with their boat trailers, when there are still open spots in the parking lot. Maybe there can be more of a Police presence downtown.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village just put up cameras in Riverside Park. It has taken a little while to get set up, but this past Friday, a very large TV was just put up in the Police Department that displays all of the consolidated cameras that the Village has. Unfortunately, it has taken working with 3 or 4 different providers, working with the Village's IT folks, to get it all on one screen, and it will be recorded. Now, if the Police Officer is out on the road, he's not watching the cameras. So, it is not a situation where the Village has someone watching the cameras around the clock. That would be outrageously expensive. However, because everything is recorded, if there is a situation that occurred in the park, per se, the Police Department can look back on the camera recording to find out any information they may need. He said that any descriptions that the public can give the Police Department is always helpful. He agrees that the Village needs to get the word out that as Village Board Members, and residents, that some of this nonsense is not going to be tolerated.

John Borter stated on social media that he would entertain starting a "Neighborhood Watch", but he was viciously attacked online for the idea. He just wanted to make the point that if someone sees something, they should report it.

Mayor Evans stated that he had seen that online. He also wanted to say that as an owner of 4 cats, and a dog, he sympathizes with the loss of Mr. Borter's cat. He said that when it comes to the speeding situation, any ideas are on the table. There is nothing that the Board won't discuss about trying to do. When it comes to particulars, such as speed bumps, signage, etc., the Board Members are not the traffic experts. They do not work in the field. However, that is good, because they know that they need to seek advice from experts. If it means reaching back out to Creighton Manning to assist, they can do that. The Board is still waiting on the study of the church corners. He is not quite sure why it is taking a lot longer than the Sunset Boulevard one.

Once they get that study, the Board can review it during their monthly Workshop Meeting. Some residents may not know, but each month the Board holds a Workshop Meeting, where each Department Head comes in, and that gives them an opportunity to discuss any issues. So, the Board gets one-on-one time with the Police Chief each month, where they can discuss any solutions.

Elizabeth Galle, of 21 Lawrence Avenue, stated that a couple of weeks ago there was a Planning Board Meeting regarding 14 Lawrence Avenue seeking approval for adding an additional rental unit. However, they could not accommodate additional parking. She could not attend the meeting, but she did send in a letter. There is an issue with parking on Lawrence Avenue. People park on both sides of the street, and you cannot get a firetruck up one way, or a bus up one way. People coming from the north on Lawrence Avenue are flying. They come off of the flats, and they do not slow down. Also, when they come around the corner off of Mansion Street, the second they crest the hill in front of someone's house, they floor it. She has stood out there and yelled at cars to slow down, but they just look at her like she is from another planet. Some of these drivers are just disrespectful. Everyone in this village pays taxes, and chooses to live in the village because they want a certain quality of life. That isn't happening. There are snowmobiles on the road in the winter, and there are quads, and dirtbikes, in the nice weather. The other day, she came running down to the Police Station to report disturbance on Lawrence Avenue, and they were already aware and heading there. So, somebody else on the street must have called. They had dirtbikes doing wheelies in the middle of the road. They floor it and go up to where the construction is being done, turn around, and go flying back down. They seem to be in that apartment building on Lawrence Avenue. Whether or not they live there, or just visiting, is unknown, but it is not safe. There are little kids that live on the street, as well as pets. She feels like Lawrence Avenue residents are part of the community, but at the same time not part of the community. Maybe it is because the street heads out of the village. The other problem with Lawrence Avenue is the same as the Route 385 problem. If you are driving on Mansion Street from Route 81/9W, and you have to make that turn onto Lawrence Avenue, with the telephone pole there, trucks cannot make that turn easily. However, if there was a stop line there, then that poses an issue with people being seen underneath the viaduct. So, there are all kinds of issues, but as far as speeders riding through the village, she likes to walk her dogs late at night, and there is a truck that likes to rev the turbo on his diesel. She is not sure what is different, but when people go through Athens, they go through Athens at 30 mph. She said that the Police Department can park in her driveway anytime they want. If they just want to sit and observe, that is fine too, but something has got to be done to make people understand that they are adults, and they need to respect the other folks that live in the community. It's not all about them, it's about all of us. They all have a right to live in the village, and to have the laws be respected. She has a neighbor that uses cruise control, and sets it for 30 mph. They were on Mansion Street by the speed trailer in front of the Village Building, and sees that the car behind him is doing 47 mph. Her neighbor knows who the speeding person is, and confronts them about it, but it didn't change anything. Putting signs around isn't going to make a difference if people don't have respect. People need to be pulled over and given a ticket. They can't be given a ticket for doing 40 mph on Mansion Street, that then gets reduced to Parking on a Sidewalk. People need to understand that if they are going to go through the village, they need to be doing a respectful speed. If they are 3 mph over, then she can live with that, but she is not going to live with people going 40 mph down Mansion Street, or faster on Lawrence Avenue, which is posted at 15 mph. Nobody seems to be doing 15 mph on that street.

Wayne Dixson, of 119 Kings Road, stated that the speeding on Kings Road is terrible. While sitting on his porch the one night, he watched 4 people come to the stop sign, and never even touch their brakes. One of them was a Halsted's dump truck. He had dumped a load of dirt in his neighbor's yard, and he took off right through the stop sign, and never even stopped. There is also a kid on a 4-wheeler in the road every night. The electric bikes and scooters are also a problem. He has been down to the Police Station at least 5 times. He has also stopped a Police

Patrol car on the road at least 3 or 4 times, and even offered to allow them to sit in his driveway. About 2 years ago, he had a kid on a loud motorcycle stop at the stop sign, and then took off doing about 80 mph. He sees people go through the stop signs all of the time. He is afraid to walk his dog. He used to walk his dog at night with a reflective vest, and he has had close calls even then. There is a yellow sign at the end that says something to the effect of "20 mph-Slow Children". There are small children that live on the road, and he doesn't want to see anybody get hurt.

Cathy Zanchelli, of 78 Lafayette Avenue, asked if residents can legally take pictures of cars and trucks that are speeding and disturbing the peace.

Trustee Levine stated that taking pictures of vehicles is legal.

Cathy Zanchelli stated that there are 2 trucks that speed on Lafayette Avenue/Van Dyck Street. There are a lot of walkers in that area. These trucks are loud when they leave for work in the morning around 6:00 a.m., and they don't always stop at the stop sign. If they do stop, they then peel out onto Van Dyck Street. This happens at night also. It is so noisy late at night, that she wrote the owners a note, saying that she has a husband that is a Veteran, and it is very upsetting listening to that. It is scary because there are both kids and adults that walk the street. There is a motorcycle that comes up from Noble Street that speeds on Van Dyck Street also. She said that the Police can park in her driveway if they need to.

Mayor Evans asked Ms. Zanchelli to send pictures to either himself or the Police Chief if she can. The word can be spread to the NYS Police and Greene County Sheriff's also.

Cathy Zanchelli stated that it is mostly trucks that are flying on Lafayette Avenue.

Mayor Evans stated that two weeks ago he was going to a fire call at 5:00 a.m., and as he was coming up Mansion Street, he saw a County Waste dump truck. After responding to the call, he found the County Waste dump truck downtown. He pulled over and let him know that garbage trucks aren't supposed to be in the village until after 7:00 a.m. The Village has a noise ordinance that needs to be adhered to. A camera was put up to monitor whether or not they have been coming into the village before 7 a.m., and it has been good so far. He also made a phone call to County Waste letting them know that they can't come into the village before 7 a.m.

Cathy Zanchelli stated that there is also a problem with getting in and out during the Sewer Line Replacement project work on Lafayette Avenue. There are signs that say, "Local Traffic Only", but when she has tried to get in and out, the workers always seem to get annoyed with her going around the sign.

Mayor Evans stated that he will have the Engineer stop by. The whole purpose of the Sewer Line Replacement project is to separate combined sewers. The Village has lines for both Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water. The Village is working on separating them because storm water doesn't need to go down to the Wastewater Plant and be treated. That is required by the DEC.

Patrick Ray, former resident of 49 Mansion Street, stated that he currently works up by Union College and St. Peter's Hospital, and he isn't sure what 2 cameras would cost, but he received a ticket for doing 21 mph in a 20-mph school zone by St. Peter's Hospital. It cost him \$250.00. Fines will make people slow down and pay attention. Cameras would pay for themselves pretty quickly.

Trustee Hanse stated that as the Board explores all of the other options, if talking about speed cameras, he would be more comfortable with a closed-circuit system rather than a flock system. The Board would have to see how much these things cost.

Trustee Meier stated that unfortunately, the Village doesn't receive much of the revenue from a speeding ticket.

Mayor Evans stated that the Town and State get the majority. The Village gets very little.

Patrick Ray stated revenue or not, it will still stop people from speeding. Unfortunately, someone is going to get killed, and then it is going to have to happen.

A resident stated that it is a little off topic, but he wants to thank the Board for their commitment to work on the water holding tanks that are being constructed. He has seen a lot of new development, but he doesn't think that the reservoir has gotten any bigger. So, he thanked the Board for that work.

Mayor Evans stated that the Board appreciates that. Over his tenure, they have done a lot of work on water and sewer, and the one gap the Village has had in its water system is that the Village can produce up to 1.2 million gallons per day of potable water, but only has the ability to store about 450,000 gallons underneath the Water Plant. In his tenure, he may have experienced the water system go dry 3 times, and it is horrible. It takes days to bring the water system back up to where it should be, because of air locks, and other problems. Then, you have brown water and all sorts of issues. When there is a big break, like a break in an 8, 10, or 12-inch line, you'd be amazed at how fast the Village can lose water. The first thing the Water Plant is doing is monitoring the well. Right now, if it gets critically low, the first thing they do is shut off Greene Correctional Facility, and that helps slow it. He's been out in the middle of the night helping look for a water break, and if it is a rainy night with puddles in the ditches, it makes it very difficult to spot the break. The tanks won't solve everything, but it will provide a decent safety net so that if the Village has situations like that, the Water Plant will have more time to correct whatever is going on.

Corina Loubier, of 49 Sunset Boulevard, stated that she just would like to thank the Board for the traffic study that was done for Sunset Boulevard. It is very informative. It looks like over 95% of the people who drive on Sunset Boulevard go over the speed limit. She would also like to thank the Police Department for giving out tickets. There was a teacher caught doing 57 mph going into school.

Chief Mento stated that it's a lot of teachers speeding on Sunset Boulevard more often than not.

Corina Loubier stated that most people don't realize that it is 15 mph on Sunset Boulevard. There is a black and white sign saying so. She asked what happens next, now that the Board has this traffic study.

Mayor Evans stated that the Board is going to go back to Creighton Manning who did the study. In the study there is a lot of recommendations, such as fixing the signage, which is an easy one to fix. They came up with lots of ideas. The Board needs to see what the best options are. If they are telling the Board that some speed bumps need to be put in, then the Village needs to know where they should be placed, how they should be constructed, etc. The Village's DPW isn't going to construct the speed bumps. That is something that would have to be put out to bid. Before it can be put out to bid, the Village needs to get any specs, such as height, width, etc. He has seen some in Bethlehem, and by Crossgates Mall, that have even taken him by surprise while driving. That is the last time he has driven over them, going over 20 mph. So, the Board just needs to get recommendations on what could best be employed over there, and get some specs, and go out to bid for the work.

Corina Loubier asked if when the Village talks with Creighton Manning, if they could ask for

additional stop signs on Sunset Boulevard. People going down Sunset Boulevard act like it is one main strip from Washington Avenue to Stacy Road, and they fly down the road. She said that right now, a school employee goes out to stop traffic for cars and buses. That is insane.

Mayor Evans stated that technically, that is illegal for them to direct traffic. The school has been told this. The other issue that needs to be addressed with the new School Superintendent for next year is their system for pick up/drop off. Right now, traffic gets backed up on Sunset Boulevard, even though there is plenty of room in the parking lot. It is very difficult to get 2 vehicles by on the road during these times. What is going to happen when a firetruck needs to get down the road? There can't be this long line of cars on the street.

Elizabeth Galle asked if she understood correctly that if an e-bike has pedals that move they are allowed to be on the road.

Mayor Evans stated that they are allowed to be on the side of the road.

Elizabeth Galle stated that the other night, around 10:00 p.m., she was coming into the village, there were 2 kids on scooters with no lights, no helmets, no reflective anything. Cars could not see them until they were already on top of them. There's got to be some way to get a handle on these kids, but if there are no identifying markers, because it is a scooter, what are you supposed to do? They don't seem to realize that if somebody hits them, it would be really bad, with no helmet or protection.

Trustee Levine stated that the question is, where are the parents? Do the parents know that their kids are out in the middle of the street at night riding their electric scooters or bikes? He has probably experienced 90% of every complaint heard tonight. He is driving all around the village constantly for work, and he sees it all of the time. He thinks that the majority of it is younger drivers, and people that are coming into the community from elsewhere. Most of the people that live within the community hopefully would know to stay within 5 mph of over the speed limit. Everyone else seems to believe that they can do 45 mph, or 55 mph, and it's not a problem. He is in agreement that something needs to be done, whether it's signage, or cameras, or a combination of both, whatever they can do to help resolve the issue, needs to be employed. He agrees with what the Mayor said earlier about the Board reaching out to Creighton Manning to study what can be done to actually reduce the occurrences of people speeding and so forth. Outside of that, for now, people need to grab as much evidence as they can, and hand it in to the Police Department. Unfortunately, if someone wants to speed, they are just going to speed, until they get caught. This is something that the Board has known for a while, and has been in the process of trying to resolve it, but with everyone here explaining and sharing their experiences, he thinks that the Board can definitely move forward a bit faster now to see if they can try to get some of these issues resolved, and solutions implemented.

Trustee Irwin stated that she knew just from social media that there was going to be presence tonight. She said that for anybody who doesn't know her, she lives at the bottom of Reed Street. She has been a chronic malcontent since being on the Board about traffic here. She thinks that it's very powerful that there is so much representation here from all corners of the community, which she was not expecting. While she is so sorry for the problem, she is really glad to see that. To piggyback on a couple of points that have been made, she thinks that because the Village does have a small Police Department, these eyewitness accounts are super important. It can feel a little like big brother, or tattling, when talking about reporting neighbors and such, but in this scenario we are talking about people's lives that are truly at stake. She does think that helping out one another as a community is super important. The last thing she wanted to say, because she never really hears it talked about too much, but this is just her personal perspective, is that she is aware that there are kids with bikes, e-bikes, trucks, a presence of tourism that the village didn't have a few years ago, and with that comes people that don't know the rules, and/or don't care

about the rules, and she agrees with that. However, there is a third part that she thinks is very important, that she has observed. During her last 6 ½ years on the Board, the village has been a community that has been wildly supportive of commercial and economic development. With that, comes a crucial need to plan for safer roadways, safer walkways, and all of those things, but again, she is saying this as a Coxsackie native, the residents are so resistive to changes. One of the first things the Village implemented when she got on the Board, after the hotel was built in downtown Coxsackie, was putting an absolutely necessary stop sign at the intersection of South River Street and Reed Street. She said that because she is a mother, and she has to be halfway out in the street before she can even cross the street with her son. The loudest opposition she has seen to that stop sign are from other people like her, who have lived here forever, that don't understand why they need to stop now all of a sudden. So, that is a very crucial part three. Not just the kids, not just the tourists, but the people who have to be willing to bend, and become flexible, as we see these major changes in our community.

Corina Loubier asked what the hours of the Police Department are.

Chief Mento stated that the village has grown quite a bit. Particularly in the last 6 years or so since the hotel has gone up. One thing that hasn't changed is that there is still only 1 Police Officer working per shift. That Officer needs to answer calls, fire calls, ambulance assists, watching Riverside Park for vandalism, watching McQuade Park for bullying, running radar on Sunset Boulevard by the school, etc. He appreciates all of the offers from residents to allow Police to come and sit in their driveways to catch speeders, but he still only has 1 Officer on duty per shift. This is something endemic to all village and towns. A simple remedy, if you want more enforcement, is to have more Officers out there, because it's very difficult to meet all of these needs if you don't have the manpower. It would be a cost. The other thing is, you can look at a speeding car, but you actually need a radar to confirm it. He understands the want to step up enforcement, but that is going to mean getting more Officers out there. The Coxsackie Police Department is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and then 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. from fall through spring. During the summer, there is someone on duty until 4:00 a.m., sometimes 8:00 a.m., depending on availability. Anytime after midnight, you can try the Coxsackie Police, but you can also try the NYS Police or Greene County Sheriff's, because they also can cover the area.

Mayor Evans stated that if it is something urgent, call 911. The dispatcher will make the determination as to whether there is a need for a Police car with lights and siren, or it can be handled when someone is available. If you call (518) 731-8121 or 8122, it will rollover to the NYS Police if a Coxsackie Officer is not available. The only problem the Village has run into, and are trying to work around it, is that the NYS Police has changed their dispatch, so there is no longer a dispatcher in the South Cairo barracks. Now it goes down to Middletown. The Village tried to keep it so that the Village's number goes to the Emergency Dispatch Center in Cairo, and was told that it is too much for them to handle. So, the Village had to switch it so that it goes to Middletown. They've had issues, because they don't know that Coxsackie has a patrol on. So, next thing you know, there is a call in the village, and they are sending a Sheriff's car from Greenville. It has not been a good changeover. In order for the Greene County 911 Center to take the Village's number back, the Village may have to go the Legislative route. The Village may have to go to the local Legislators and ask, because the Village has issues with it.

Carol Ann Luccio stated that she can appreciate needing more help, but everyone has been talking about the signs that can take pictures, and issue tickets, and she is just wondering if that could help.

Chief Mento stated that the Police Department does not have the mechanism for that, and that is a very huge expense. That means integrating with DMV. They do not have capacity at the present time to do that, he wishes that they could, and had the budget to allow for that, but it is a

very small village. Presently, what they do have, is license plate readers, and they could look into getting flock cameras, but there is a lot of controversy regarding those.

Carol Ann Luccio asked if there is a noise ordinance for the loudness of vehicles.

Trustee Hanse stated that there might be a State law in relation to that.

Chief Mento stated that it seems like there are some Diesel trucks around the village that are spooling their motors. They have witnessed trucks revving their motors, and spitting out a bunch of black smoke. They write tickets for them all of the time. There are certain individuals in the village that the Police Department is very familiar with. He told residents to not hesitate to get a license plate number to him, and he would be glad to follow up on it. Again, the Officer needs to visualize the offense to write a ticket. That's a State law. That's part of the problem, and why there needs to be more Officers out there to step up enforcement.

Mayor Evans thanked residents for coming. He stated that the Board hears their concerns, and will look into any, and all, possibilities for better enforcement. As changes are made, they will be sure to try and make the public aware through the Village's Facebook page and website.

Trustee Hanse stated that the Sunset Boulevard traffic study is the start of a conversation for methods of resolving these issues.

No further public comments were offered.

A motion to adjourn the Board Meeting was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Meier. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nikki Berezna
Clerk