

**VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE
BOARD MINUTES
August 10, 2026**

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2026 Workshop Meeting was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. Trustee Irwin abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2026 Board Meeting was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Meier. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

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 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, September 21, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for Local Law #4 of 2026-To Amend Section 145-47 of the Village Code of Coxsackie for Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the appointment of Jocelyn Lane as Zoning Board Member for the remainder of an existing 3-Year Term ending April 2028 was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the appointment of Jason Southwick as Zoning Board Member for the remainder of an existing 4-Year Term ending April 2030 was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve adding water service to approximately 40 sites in Diederich's Mobile Home Park was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken on Resolution No. 162026-Municipal Resolution of Support-Greene Land Trust CFA. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The resolution passed.

A roll call vote was taken on Resolution No. 172026-Undertaking for the benefit of The New York State Department of Transportation in connection with work affecting State highways.

Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The resolution passed.

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

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

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #3, vouchers 133-165 totaling \$111,616.48; Water Fund Abstract #3, vouchers 53-67 totaling \$35,209.90; Sewer Fund Abstract #3, vouchers 48-59 totaling \$23,891.35; Heroes Banner Fund Abstract #3, vouchers 2-3 totaling \$190.03; Owl Project Fund Abstract #3, vouchers 14-18 totaling \$1,136.25, and Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #3, vouchers 3-4 totaling \$6,654.94 was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Evans swore in Jocelyn Lane as Zoning Board Member for the remainder of an existing 3-Year Term ending April 2028.

Public Comment Period

Mayor Evans stated that he just wants to make a comment about the recent rainstorm. The rain gauge at the Sewer Plant registered just about 10 inches of rain. We have not seen rain like that in a long time. His day started at 5:15 that morning when he was trying to get to the firehouse. He worked for 14 hours straight, and decided it was time to take a break. The Fire Department did an amazing job. Not only did they have three crews going out to pump basements all simultaneously, but the Department of Public Works was also down on Reed Street assisting with pump outs. The County provided the Village with some sandbags, because there was a concern about the control room at the Sewer Pump Station up by Bethany Village. The County also brought two pumps to be used that they had in storage from the State. Those pumps were strapped to the back of two more fire engines, and two more crews were sent out. At one time there were five crews out.

Trustee Irwin stated that there was also a group that came down from Ravenna to assist on Reed Street. It was amazing.

Mayor Evans stated that around 9:00-9:30 that morning, he decided to declare a State of Emergency. John Farrell, Director of Emergency Services, was here, and the Mayor let him know that he was declaring a State of Emergency. Mr. Farrell agreed that that was the best course of action. That activated the County Emergency Operations Center. He agreed to leave our Assistant Fire Chief, Barry Rausch, Jr., who is also a 911 dispatcher, in the Hose 3 firehouse, and he operated a command post, along with the CAD. So, as calls came in, he could acknowledge them in the CAD, without even talking on the radio. By about 9:30 that morning, the Village realized that it just couldn't keep up, so the calls were prioritized by if somebody's life was in danger, or the flood waters were going to hit their electrical panel, then they moved to the top of the list. By the afternoon, some of people's sump pumps were able to catch up. It was quite the day, and evening, and even into the next day, there were people that came back to their homes and found water in the basement. He thinks that there were seven pump outs on Thursday. It was a long week overall. All of the Departments did an amazing job. Just so everyone is aware, the Village is going to host a dinner put on by Frese's for the Fire Department, and for the Village staff, on Wednesday, August 19th at Hose Company #3 firehouse, just as a thank you. He

hasn't even calculated the number of man hours that everyone put in, but he doesn't know what the Village would have done without them. So, that's the Village's way of thanking them.

Margaret (Maggy) Howe, of 2 Elm Street, stated that she lives across from the 1 Elm Street apartments, and she is looking for Code Enforcement action regarding illegal pole mounted replacement lights in the parking lot adjacent to the apartments. She tried the neighborly route by coming to the Village with a letter seeking help 3 weeks ago. She was told the owner is Aaron Flach. She got his number and called him. He said it would take a few days and there are settings to adjust. Nothing has been done. Last week, she reached out to friends that know him. They called Mr. Flach. Mr. Flach said that he needs a shield for the lights, and that it is special order, and that he would call her. She has not heard from him as of tonight. The lighting is in violation of the Village Code 155-49-Lighting Standards. Code is law. This is causing a detrimental effect on her enjoyment of her property, unnecessary glare to adjacent properties, light pollution, annoyance, discomfort, and unnecessary illumination of adjacent residential properties across the street. The style of light is a 'shoebox', which is explicitly not allowed by Village Code. Decorative light is desired, and the intensity shall not exceed .3-foot candles at any property line that abuts a residential property. The light levels are excessive, and should possibly be on a motion sensor. This Friday will be 4 weeks of this nuisance. She said that she has photos that she would like to share with the Board.

Mayor Evans asked if Ms. Howe could send the pictures to the Board. She can email them to the Village Clerk, and the Board can take a look into it. He asked if Ms. Howe could also give the Village Clerk her phone number.

Maggy Howe stated that she can do that.

Elizabeth Stiteler, of Lawrence Avenue, stated that she just happened to be outside when the storm was happening in the morning, and she witnessed somebody drive into the flooded waters under the viaduct. She was just videotaping on Facebook, in order to help alert other residents about the closed roads. She made sure the person in the car was safe, and that 911 was called, just to find out later on that they were a Coxsackie Police Officer. She asked if there was any training for new employees of the Village and Police Department to not drive through flooded areas. That was the fourth car that she witnessed. He went around the barricade, and put himself in danger. She wouldn't have been able to get to him. She had to wait for 911 because of how the flooding came on so quickly. She is also curious if the Village could mark on the viaduct measurements, such as, a line showing 1 foot, 2 feet, etc. This way, maybe people could see that there is water 1 foot deep, and turn around, knowing that the viaduct could then get to 2 and 3 feet really quick. This gentleman's car was in 7 feet of water. If he was in a cop car, then that not only affects the Village, but it also affects the Village taxpayers. He just went around a barricade. Granted, he is an essential worker, she was an essential worker too, but everyone should know "Don't Drown. Turn Around", when it comes to flood waters.

Mayor Evans stated that there is a protocol within the Village that anytime there is a Police Officer on, and if we know that we are going to get that volume of rain, we have left an Officer on all night, and told them to watch the viaduct every 15 minutes or so. The problem that morning was that on that particular day, we didn't have anybody on after midnight, as he didn't see that there was call for that volume of rain. The protocol is that as soon as someone sees it start flooding, they are to call the 911 center, and have the Fire Department dispatched. D.M. Hamilton has road barricades all pre-set. Hose Company #3 firehouse has barricades that hang on the wall. The firemen just go grab them, they don't even have to pull the truck out, run out to the road, drop them down, and put the road closed sign. When he got there at 5:15 that morning, there was a car there already, and there was also a Deputy on the other side. He was wondering why nobody knew to call the 911 center and have the Fire Department dispatched. Mayor Evans stated that he turned his vehicle around, blocked the road, called the 911 center, and asked the

Fire Department to be dispatched. That's the Village's internal protocol. He has addressed the flooding under the viaduct issue with the State over half a dozen times over the years. It has gotten better because they did clear the drain. Everybody thinks there's pumps. There's no pumps. That drains to the northwest, out behind the houses, and up behind the houses on Mansion Street on the north side, and then it goes right between the two buildings by the motorcycle shop, and then out to the creek. When they cleaned that drain two years ago, it improved it dramatically. He thinks that this might be the first time it's flooded since then. So, it's better, and the Village is going to have to stay on them to make sure that they look at it, and probably clean it out every couple of years or so. He sat down with them a couple of years ago, and asked about a warning system, and if there is anything that can be done. They asked what he meant, and what he would want to see put in. He said that he has a really simple solution. Let's put some railroad crossing guards down with a sensor, so that when the water hits the sensor, the railroad crossing guards come down and blocks the road. Simple. Nobody has to be there. They thought that was insane. He said that he doesn't think it's insane, he thinks that it's a very simple solution to a long-standing problem. As a State highway, there's not a lot the Village can force them to do. The Village can try reaching out to Senator Hinchey again. They may look at the cost vs. benefits. If it's \$100,000 to put railroad crossing gates in, versus it flooding once a year now, he doesn't know if it would get anywhere.

Elizabeth Stiteler stated that be 10:00 that morning, it was 4 cars that went through there. She knows that the 2 were early in the morning, so they probably didn't see the water coming up, but after that, the road was closed.

Mayor Evans stated that if you're a local, you know it floods. That is what was surprising to him, because the first one, he is not going to say his name, but he drove in, and he actually used to be a fireman in the Village, and a Village resident. He asked him what happened, and the gentleman claimed he just didn't see it. Mayor Evans stated that he should've known that it has rained a lot, and known that it was flooding.

Trustee Hanse stated that in the meantime, perhaps at some point on rainy days when the Village knows that it's going to start filling up at the viaduct, maybe the Village could put out a public statement reminding people to avoid Mansion Street at the viaduct. He thinks that that might be just a handy thing to do that costs \$0, and then perhaps maybe the Village would remind the Department Heads that when it rains, don't drive their car into deep water. Kind of common-sense practices. He thinks that it would be great to see the Village get money from the State, or since it is a State highway, get the DOT or someone to put in a nice emergency system of some sort there.

Mayor Evans stated that he knows that it might not look the best, but on the other hand, the flooding happens every other year or so. Someone loses a car.

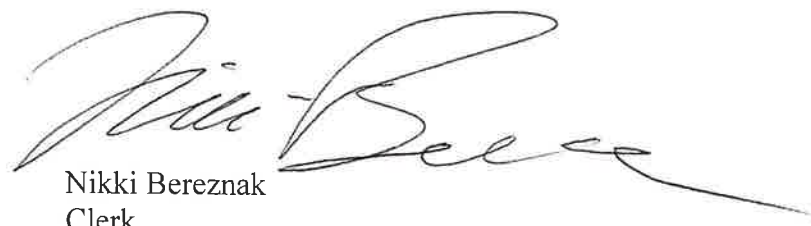
Elizabeth Stiteler stated that this year it was 4 cars.

No further public comments were offered.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nikki Berezna
Clerk