

Village of Youngstown

VILLAGE CENTER • 240 LOCKPORT STREET
P. O. BOX 168
YOUNGSTOWN, NEW YORK 14174-0168



INCORPORATED:
APRIL 18, 1854

TELEPHONE:
(716) 745-7721
FAX:
(716) 745-3400

Board of Trustees meeting agenda- March 19, 2026

Village attendees	Present	Absent	Village attendees	Present	Absent
Mayor Rob Reisman		Excused	DPW Supt. Greg Quarantillo	X	
Deputy Mayor Rick Stortecky	X		Police Cipolletti	X	
Trustee Catherine Stella	X		Recreation Director Jeff Gruarin		Excused
Trustee Kristel Stevens	X		Attorney Chris Trapp		Excused
Trustee Nicole Quarantillo	X		Historian Peter Pfohl		Excused
Village Clerk Alexandra Long	X		Building Inspector James Fittante		Excused
Village Treasurer Kristin Larson		Excused	Deputy-Clerk Treasurer Kim Winning		Excused
Estimated Attendance	14		Grant Writer Shana DiCamillo		Excused

Reminder to all Trustees and Department Heads: Use the microphone closest to you while speaking. Turn the microphone off when not speaking.

QUORUM ANNOUNCEMENT: Clerk Long announced that a quorum was present, and the Deputy Mayor Stortecky was authorized to proceed with the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:04 P.M.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS: *A copy of all written reports submitted prior to the meeting are available for public viewing on the table with agenda and the sign in sheet in the board room.*

Police: The Youngstown Police Department advised that there has been a recent increase in auto thefts originating out of Lewiston that may be impacting the surrounding area. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and take appropriate precautions, including ensuring that vehicles are locked at all times, not leaving keys or key fobs inside vehicles, and removing any valuables or items of importance. With the arrival of the spring season, there is typically an increase in individuals going through unlocked vehicles, and based on long-term experience, this trend is expected to continue. Community members are encouraged to report any suspicious activity promptly.

Department of Public Works: The DPW Superintendent reported that slip lining operations have commenced along Route 93. During the jetting and camera inspection process, a house service line was discovered to have been core drilled through the middle of the sanitary sewer main at the invert. As a result, an emergency excavation will be required to complete the

necessary repairs. It was noted that groundwater infiltration at this location has likely been significant and ongoing for approximately 15 years. A quote in the amount of \$5,500 has been received to address and repair this issue.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$5,500.00 to transfer funds from Sewer Contingency to G8120.4 Sanitary Sewer for an emergency repair. Trustee Stevens made the motion and Trustee Stella seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Clerk's Office:

Recreation:

Grant Writer:

Building Inspector:

Attorney: Attorney Trapp advised the Board that he will be distributing a series of proposed local laws for their review. The Board may schedule public hearings for any or all of the proposed laws at the next meeting. Depending on the extent of any revisions, the Board is anticipated to be in a position to take action on these matters at the June meeting.

Village Historian:

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Sales Tax:

January 2026 monthly Sales Tax distribution to the Village of Youngstown was received on February 20, 2026 in the amount of \$41,597.21.

Abstract of Audited Vouchers:

Vouchers for the period from through March 18, 2026:

General:	\$	50,321.58
Water:	\$	2,717.43
Sewer:	\$	1,081.25
H-Cap	\$	0.00
<u>Trust:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	54,120.26

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers. Trustee Quarantillo made the motion and Trustee Stevens seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

CONTRACTS/AUTHORIZATIONS:

Resolution #001-2026

WHEREAS, the Village of Youngstown, through the combined efforts of the Recreation Commission and the non-profit organization, Friends of Youngstown created a scholarship in the name of Nancy Price, a respected local resident, and

WHEREAS, neither the scholarship program nor the Commission were established by local law, and

WHEREAS, there is a recurring difficulty in recruiting volunteers to work with the Recreation Commission such that it is the desire of the Board of Trustees to disband same, and

WHEREAS, no funds were supplied by the Village to fund or operate the scholarship, and

WHEREAS, all accounts were kept separate from Village operating accounts and there was no co-mingling of funds, and

WHEREAS, all funding was through community donations and fundraising efforts of the Friends of Youngstown, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees does not control the operations or decisions of either the scholarship fund or the Friends of Youngstown, and

WHEREAS, the auditors for the Village have recommended that the account should not exist anywhere on the Village ledger especially due to the lack of any control, and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Youngstown, a truly benevolent organization, have volunteered to take over the funds for purposes of the Nancy Price Scholarship,

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs the Village Clerk and the Village Treasurer to take such action as may be necessary to ensure that the funds are transferred to the Friends of Youngstown with their thanks for their continued support of the Village and its residents.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the Resolution entitled “Resolution #001-2026: Transfer of Nancy Price Scholarship Funds to Friends of Youngstown.” Trustee Quarantillo made the motion and Trustee Stella seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Stevens Yes

Trustee Stella Yes

Trustee Quarantillo Yes

Deputy Mayor Stortecky Yes

Recreation Commission:

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the determination regarding the Recreation Commission, including its dissolution as supported by the Recreation Director due to challenges in convening the Commission in compliance with Open Meetings Law requirements, and to

authorize the Village Board to formally dissolve the Recreation Commission by resolution. Trustee Stella made the motion and Trustee Stevens seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 004-2026 FOR THE 2026 VILLAGE OF YOUNGSTOWN GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, Section 15-118(3)(b)(2) of the Election Law of the State of New York requires the Village of Youngstown to hold its general election on the third Tuesday in May; and
WHEREAS, two Trustee positions and one Mayor position are to be filled, each for a four-year term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

First: The annual election of and for the Village of Youngstown, New York, will be held at the Village Center Gymnasium, 240 Lockport Street, Youngstown, New York, on the 19th day of May, 2026.

Second: The polls shall be open from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m.

Third: At such election, the offices to be filled are Mayor for a four-year term, one position, and Trustee for a four-year term, two positions.

Fourth: At least ten days prior to the Election Day set in this resolution, a copy of this resolution shall be published in the official newspaper and posted in at least six conspicuous places in the Village.

Fifth: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Sixth: The Village Board hereby determines and adopts this resolution as the official declaration for the conduct of the 2026 general election.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the Resolution entitled “2026 Village of Youngstown General Election.” Trustee Quarantillo made the motion and Trustee Stevens seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Stevens Yes

Trustee Stella Yes

Trustee Quarantillo Yes

Deputy Mayor Stortecky Yes

RESOLUTION 005-2026 NOTICE OF NO VILLAGE REGISTRATION DAY FOR 2026 ELECTION

WHEREAS, Section 15-118(3) of the Election Law of the State of New York requires the Village of Youngstown to announce that there will not be a Village Registration Day for the 2026 Election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Youngstown hereby formally announces that there will be no Village Registration Day for the 2026 Village Election in accordance with the requirements of Section 15-118(3) of the Election Law of the State of New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this notice shall be duly published and/or posted as required by law.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the Resolution entitled “Notice of No Village Registration Day for 2026 Election.” Trustee Quarantillo made the motion and Trustee Stevens seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Stevens Yes

Trustee Stella Yes

Trustee Quarantillo Yes

Deputy Mayor Stortecky Yes

Election Inspectors:

Determination needed on the appointment of the following Election Inspectors for the May 19, 2026 Village election at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour:

Jennifer Kilmer – Republican

Joseph Rotella – Republican

Lisa Lucas – Democrat

Peter Pfohl – Democrat

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the appointment of the following Election Inspectors for the May 19, 2026 Village election at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour. Trustee Stevens made the motion and Trustee Stella seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Election Custodian:

Determination needed on the appointment of the following Election Custodian at a rate of \$50.00 plus mileage:

Jack Bush – Custodian

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve the appointment of Jack Bush as Election Custodian at a rate of \$50.00 plus mileage. Trustee Stella made the motion and Trustee Quarantillo seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Grant Writing Services:

Determination was needed on the grant writing services contract with Shana DiCamillo, which is set to expire March 31, 2026, including authorization for continued grant writing assistance at a rate of \$500 per month. Shana submitted her report to the Board, and it was noted that she has successfully secured a few grants and is currently working on additional grant opportunities. She will also assist with Greenway Grant administration, which is anticipated to require significant support, and will provide guidance for the Police Department’s upcoming grant initiatives.

Board members discussed the importance of receiving consistent monthly updates from Shana regarding the grants she is pursuing and those received, including projects for DPW, Recreation, and other Village departments. It was suggested that her contract be extended through May 31, 2027, to align with the Village budget year and other appointments. The extension is pending the requirement that Shana provide monthly reports and maintain communication with department heads regarding grant opportunities.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to extend Shana DiCamillo's grant writing services contract through May 31, 2027, at a rate of \$500 per month, pending monthly reporting and coordination with department heads. Trustee Quarantillo made the motion and Trustee Stevens seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Copier Services:

A determination was needed regarding copier services for the Village. The Board is currently evaluating two proposals from Toshiba and UBS and requires an additional week to make a final decision. In the meantime, authorization was requested for the Clerk's Office to select the service deemed most appropriate, provided that the cost does not exceed the current budgeted amount of \$431 per month.

The Clerk reported that quotes had been obtained from multiple companies, with Toshiba and UBS providing the most competitive rates and technology options, including cloud scanning and improved cloud faxing. The lease rates for both companies are expected to be under \$300 per month, well below the current budgeted amount. The Clerk noted issues with the previous Xerox copier, including frequent toner shortages and higher costs, and emphasized the need to ensure the new contract meets the Village's technology requirements. The proposed contract would be for a term of three years, with consideration for potential additional benefits, such as a complimentary copier for the DPW office.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to authorize the Clerk's Office to execute a copier services contract with the selected company, at a monthly cost not to exceed the current budgeted amount of \$431. Trustee Stella made the motion and Trustee Stevens seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Town of Lewiston Annual Sewer Agreement:

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to authorize the signing of the Annual Town of Lewiston Sewer contract on behalf of the Mayor. Trustee Quarantillo made the motion and Trustee Stella seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company membership:

Pursuant to New York Village Law Section 10-1006, the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co., Inc. has notified the Village that its membership has accepted Brandon Campbell as a probationary member, subject to approval by the Village Board.

The applicant has satisfactorily completed the required background check and physical examination, with no negative findings. The applicant has met with the review board, received recommendation to the full company membership at the monthly meeting, and has been approved by the membership for probationary status.

Name: Heather Campigotto
Date Of Birth: 09-27-1993
Home Address: 575 Oak Street
Youngstown, NY 14174

Deputy Mayor Stortecky requested a motion to approve Heather Campigotto as a probationary member of the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co., Inc., and to authorize the issuance of a resolution confirming such approval. Trustee Stella made the motion and Trustee Stevens seconded. Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked if there was any further discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

ITEMS / DISCUSSION/ CORRESPONDENCE:

Blood Drive for American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive at the Youngstown Fire Hall, located at 625 Third Street, on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Residents and Board members are welcome to attend.

NYS Betterment Project:

The Board received an update regarding the New York State water line betterment project. A call with DOT engineer Brian Denker revealed that the final bid came in approximately \$25,900 higher than the initial estimate. An itemized breakdown of the costs was requested to review the discrepancy. Earlier in the project, a significant error in labor costs—nearly \$300,000—was identified and successfully negotiated with the DOT, resulting in the State covering that portion, which benefitted the Village substantially.

Currently, there are some discrepancies between prior communications and the latest cost breakdown, prompting the Board to delay action. The Board plans to meet on April 9 to review all documentation thoroughly, continue discussions with the State to potentially reduce the additional \$25,900, and ensure all figures are accurate before moving forward.

Once the review is complete and the cost is finalized, a new resolution will be required to proceed with the project under the DOT guidelines. This approach allows the Board adequate time to evaluate the numbers, confirm any discrepancies, and negotiate as needed.

Youngstown Garden Club Gazebo Restoration Proposal:

Representatives from the Youngstown Garden Club presented a brief overview of their proposed project to restore and remodel the Village gazebo, originally donated to the Village in 1986. The proposal includes a historically inspired design with a cleaner, more welcoming appearance, aimed at enhancing park aesthetics and supporting Village beautification. Ms. O'Keefe, along with Colleen Somerville, Joan Gillespie, and Laurel Tuma, explained that while the main structure of the gazebo is sound, age and mismatched repairs have made it outdated and in need of improvement.

The restoration plan includes opening the front with wide, welcoming steps, replacing outdated lattice trim, painting the structure a crisp white, and redesigning and planting the surrounding gardens. The project is envisioned as a two-year effort, culminating in a rededication ceremony for the gazebo on its 40th anniversary, honoring community volunteers. Ms. O'Keefe highlighted the importance of coordinating with contractors and ensuring proper materials and techniques are used, noting the painting and structural work require specialized attention due to the gazebo's age.

The estimated cost for restoring the gazebo structure is approximately \$15,800, with the Garden Club committing to fundraising for the garden redesign and plantings. The Board discussed procurement and funding considerations, noting that if Village funds are contributed, three written quotes are recommended for projects under \$20,000, while volunteer labor and donated materials do not count toward this threshold. Ms. O'Keefe confirmed that three quotes have been obtained and that the Garden Club will manage fundraising, volunteer efforts, and contractor coordination.

While there was strong support and positive feedback for the proposal during the meeting, the Board has not formally approved the \$15,800 funding request at this time. Several items require further review, including procurement requirements, ADA compliance, and the structure of the project depending on the level of Village involvement. Because of these considerations, the Board will continue the discussion and wait for additional information before making a final determination on the funding request.

Board members expressed appreciation for the Garden Club's ongoing contributions to Village beautification and community engagement, and emphasized the importance of careful planning and oversight to ensure the project moves forward successfully.

Consideration of Water/Sewer Rate Adjustment or Infrastructure Surcharge:

The Board discussed the potential for adjusting Village water and sewer rates or implementing an infrastructure surcharge to fund necessary capital improvements. This consideration comes in response to notice from the Town of Lewiston that their sewer treatment fee will increase from \$3.65 to \$3.70 per 1,000 gallons starting in 2026, consistent with a similar increase in 2024. Currently, Village water rates are \$5.05 per 1,000 gallons, and sewer rates are \$7.08 per 1,000 gallons. No other increases are expected from the Town of Porter or Niagara County at this time. If the Board decides to adjust rates or implement a surcharge, a public hearing would be scheduled next month for community review.

DPW Superintendent Greg provided insight into the Village's aging water infrastructure, emphasizing that only one section of the water line has been replaced and that older valves have caused significant operational challenges, including a recent 17-hour repair on Lower River Road. He highlighted areas such as Cherry Street, Elm Street, and River Road as priorities for future improvements and recommended creating a long-term plan for water main maintenance and replacement.

Options for funding infrastructure improvements were discussed, including a small percentage increase based on water usage or a flat-rate quarterly fee. The Board noted that a percentage-based approach would align better with usage-based billing and distribute costs fairly among residents. Superintendent Greg outlined the costs for valve replacement and related materials, emphasizing that work may need to be subcontracted due to the complexity and size of the mains.

The Board agreed that no immediate action will be taken and that additional review is needed. Members plan to consider the long-term infrastructure needs, potential funding mechanisms, and cost estimates over the next few weeks before making a decision on any water or sewer rate adjustments.

BOARD REPORTS:

Trustee Stella: Trustee Stella updated the Board on recent and upcoming community events. The 14th annual O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on March 14 and was well attended despite one of the colder days of the season. The community showed strong support with families attending and participating in the festivities. Following the parade, the Youngstown Lions Club hosted their annual cash bash at the Youngstown Fire Hall, adding to the day's activities.

The St. Patrick's Rock'n 5K at the Ontario House (Stone Jug) was also held on March 14, drawing participants for the run along the Village streets and providing a post-race celebration, with proceeds benefiting the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company Fire Police.

Trustee Stella shared upcoming events and opportunities for community involvement, including the Youngstown Business Professional Association (YBPA) membership meeting scheduled for April 14 at Griffon Brewery, where new and renewed board members will be sworn in and awards, such as the 2026 Business of the Year and Community Service Award, will be announced.

The Friends of the Youngstown Free Library announced their annual spring book sale to be held May 8 (9:30 AM–6:00 PM) and May 9 (9:30 AM–3:00 PM). Those wishing to donate books are encouraged to do so beginning around May 4 due to limited storage.

Trustee Stella also highlighted the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration at Griffon Brewery, featuring live music and Irish beer, which brought the community together for a successful event. Additionally, the Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce board is exploring improvements to this year's Artisans Market to enhance member and visitor experiences.

Mark your calendars for the annual Smelt Fest on Friday, May 22 at the Griffon Gastro Pub in Lewiston, and the community looks forward to welcoming a new business, Alcott Lobster Company, with a grand opening anticipated in May.

These events reflect ongoing community engagement and the vibrancy of local organizations working together to support and celebrate Youngstown.

Trustee Stevens: Nothing to report at this time

Trustee Quarantillo: Nothing to report at this time

Deputy Mayor Stortecky: Deputy Mayor Stortecky provided a brief update to the Board on two main topics. First, she addressed the recent property tax assessments that residents of the Village have received. She noted that results varied—some saw decreases or no significant change, while others experienced substantial increases. She emphasized that the Village does not handle property tax assessments, which are conducted by the Town. Residents wishing to contest their assessment can contact the Town Tax Assessor directly or visit www.tax.ny.gov to file a grievance. The deadline for grievances is May 26, 2026, and residents are reminded not to bring assessment disputes to the Village office.

Second, Deputy Mayor Stortecky discussed the Village budget process for the next fiscal year. She has begun meetings with department heads and expects to complete additional meetings next week. A draft budget will be reviewed by the Board in April, with a goal of approval by the end of April. She highlighted the Board's focus on being tax-sensitive, aiming to manage costs efficiently while maintaining services, noting that no tax rate changes occurred over the past few years, though future adjustments cannot be guaranteed.

This update serves as both a public service reminder regarding tax grievances and an overview of the Village's proactive budget planning efforts.

Mayor Reisman: Nothing to report at this time

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Comments shall be kept to 3 minutes and directed to the Village Board of Trustees.

Resident Christine Rath addressed the Board to emphasize the need for a comprehensive municipal planning approach. She highlighted the recent discussions regarding water and sewer infrastructure, noting that while individual projects—such as valve replacements, gazebo improvements, roadwork, and park upgrades—are moving in a positive direction, the Village would benefit from a holistic municipal plan. Christine suggested that the Village consider contracting an engineering firm to develop a long-term plan, similar to what the Village of Wilson has implemented. She explained that such a plan would allow the Village to anticipate infrastructure needs, prioritize projects, and provide

residents with a clear understanding of the Village's overall direction and strategy for maintaining and improving its facilities.

Resident John Stevens inquired about the Mayor's whereabouts, expressing concern and asking if the Mayor would be attending the meeting. Deputy Mayor Stortecky clarified that the Mayor is currently out of town and was not expected to attend. He noted that he had seen the Mayor recently, but confirmed that the Mayor would not be present for this evening's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next Village Board meeting will be held on April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m for the budget public hearing and April 30th at 6:00 p.m. for the budget adoption.

ADJOURNMENT:

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment of a particular person at 7: 05 P.M.. Trustee Quarantillo made the motion, and Trustee Stevens seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to enter back into the regular meeting at 7:23 p.m. Trustee Stella made the motion, and Trustee Quarantillo seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to extend Village Clerk Alexandra Long's vacation time rollover to the next year, from her anniversary date of April 15th to April 21st, allowing her to use it for upcoming leave. Trustee Stevens made the motion, and Trustee Quarantillo seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to make Village Treasurer Kristin Larson and the Deputy Registrar full-time positions at 32 hours per week until the end of the fiscal year, with \$5,000 for salary and benefits to be moved from account \$1210.1 to the Clerk's account \$1325.1. Trustee Stevens made the motion, and Trustee Quarantillo seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Trustee Quarantillo made the motion, and Trustee Stevens seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.