

Mayor Bucciferro called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Brown, Trustee Cook, Trustee Gray, Trustee Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Bucciferro opened the privilege of the floor at 6:30p.m.

Donna LaPoint of 211 Wren Street; inquired about the status of the Flint House.

Mayor Bucciferro closed the privilege of the floor at 6:34p.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mayor Bucciferro presented the 2025-2026 Tentative Budget for the Village of Scotia. The budget proposes an 8.16% increase to the Tax Rate and a 7.80% increase to the Tax Levy.

a) PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Bucciferro opened public hearing at 6:45p.m.

Amanda Barone of 6 No. Holmes Street: Presented the board with a petition with 264 signatures that reads as follows:

The petition presented to the Village of Scotia Board of Trustees, signed electronically by the following Village of Scotia Residents, reads as follows:

I am a resident of the Village of Scotia and the continued annual tax increases, in excess of 3-4+ times over the New York State tax cap, are making it unaffordable to live here.

We love living in our village and do not want to be forced out of our homes due to oppressive economic circumstances.

Additionally, while we understand that the village taxes only encompass the village services, we have to look at the aggregate situation. With the current downturn of our economy and rising prices for basic household goods, along with our Scotia-Glenville school taxes facing an enormous budget gap, our village taxes play a significant part in the entire economic situation that we are currently facing.

We cannot continue to support extreme and irresponsible tax hikes year over year.

By signing this petition, I am in favor of more aggressive means to manage Scotia Village tax increases, including:

1. An assessment, reimagining, and potential reduction of village services.
2. Limiting new village employee additions in light of our diminishing village population per US Census data.
3. Exploring more partnership and cooperative services with the Town of Glenville to leverage mutual efficiencies and economic savings on both sides.
4. A halt on new village projects, initiative, and expansions that will cause an additional tax burden on village residents until the existing tax burden is responsibly mitigated.

I am committed to take note of those members of the Village of Scotia Board of Trustees responsible for not exploring the above tax-management strategies, and I am committed to remember that information when I vote in the next election.

Concerned with increase in taxes; presented the Board of Trustees with personal suggestions on how to reduce the tax burden.

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Maurice LaPoint of 211 Wren Street; concerned with the tax rate increase and amount of taxes paid annually.

Morgan Rhodes of 103 Sunnyside Rd; residence is on the Freeman's Bridge side of Sunnyside Road; with the closure of Sunnyside Road Bridge has limited access to the Village. Concerned with the amount of tax increases.

John Bedell of 249 No Ballston Ave; regarding garbage collection in the Village; has had to replace his cans 4 times. Would like information regarding the Sunnyside Road Bridge; has caused increased traffic along Ballston Ave. Does not support tax increase.

Mayor Bucciferro closed public hearing at 7:15p.m.

Each member of the Board of Trustees provided a statement related to the budget.

Mayor Bucciferro stated that the board will be utilizing the 2nd work session of each month, held the 3rd Monday of the month, for discussion of a Strategic Plan. Discussions will include value of services the Village provides and strategically planning the future of the Village; encouraged all to attend.

b) ACTION

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Brown to reduce A.3120.2310(Patrol Cars) by \$5,000; offset by a decrease to A.1001(Real Property Taxes) by \$5,000.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gray to reduce Trustee Salaries to FY23-24 Salaries:

Reduce A.1010.1000(Personal Services) by \$400; offset by a decrease to A.1001(Real Property Taxes) by \$400.

Reduce F.8310.1000(Personal Services) by \$85; offset by decrease to F.2140(Water Sales) by \$85.

Reduce G.8110.1000(Personal Services) by \$85; offset by decrease to G.2120(Sewer Sales) by \$85.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray to reduce A.7140.4552 (Repair of Grounds/Diamond Mix) by \$1,750; offset by a decrease to A.1001(Real Property Taxes) by \$1,750.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray to reduce A.5110.4120(Blacktop & Concrete) by \$15,000; offset by a decrease to A.1001 (Real Property Taxes) by \$15,000.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

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MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray to reduce A.7140.1000(Personal Services/Seasonal) by \$7,500; offset by a decrease to A.1001 (Real Property Taxes) by \$7,500.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Mayor stated that with the changes made the revised tax rate increase is 7.68% and the revised tax levy increase is 7.32%.

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that

Whereas, the Board of Trustees approved the Mayor's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 on March 26, 2025, and

Whereas, a budget public hearing has been conducted this evening, April 9th, as required by law, and

Whereas, after the public hearing further amendments were heretofore made to the Tentative Budget this night by resolution of the Board of Trustees, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Tentative Budget approved by the Board of Trustees March 26, 2025, and as further amended this night after the public hearing, is hereby adopted as the Budget of the Village of Scotia for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MVP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gray to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the renewal of the MVP Health Plan for health insurance effective June 1, 2025.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

METLIFE DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Solotruck to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the renewal of the MetLife Dental Plan effective June 1, 2025 for the administration of the Village's dental insurance program.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

VILLAGE'S ANNUAL AUDIT AGREEMENT

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Brown that

Whereas, the Village has an annual audit conducted by a CPA, and

Whereas, the Village has received a proposal from CHS Wealth Management & CPA's, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement with CHS Wealth Management & CPA's, a professional service, for the Village single audit for the period ending May 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$22,800.00.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

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Noes: None
Abstentions: None

VILLAGE ANNUAL JUSTICE AUDIT AGREEMENT

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas, the Village Justice Court has an annual audit conducted by a CPA, and

Whereas, the Village has received a proposal from CHS Wealth Management & CPA's, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement with CHS Wealth Management & CPA's, a professional service, for the Village Justice Court single audit for the period ending May 31, 2025 in the amount of \$5,200.00.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

DPW SURPLUS VEHICLE

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Cook that

Whereas, the Superintendent of Public Works in a memo dated April 2, 2025 has identified DPW vehicle 2014 Ford F150 - VIN #1FTFX1EF7EFB77870 as no longer needed and surplus, now therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees declares DPW vehicle 2014 Ford F150- VIN #1FTFX1EF7EFB77870 as no longer needed and surplus and further authorizes the Superintendent of Public Works or his designee to sell or dispose of the item as authorized by law.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

AGREEMENT WITH KB ENGINEERING RELATED TO GLEN SANDERS MANSION RENOVATION

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas, Mazzone Holdings, LLC has submitted an application with the Building Inspector for the redevelopment of Glen Sanders Mansion, and

Whereas, the complexity of the applications requires the Village to engage engineering professionals to assist with the application review, and

Whereas, the Village Code provides that in such a case the applicant can be required to provide funds to the Village along with the application fee to cover such expenses, now therefore,

Be It Resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement with KB Engineering and Architecture, PC for professional engineering services in the amount of \$6,300.00 related to the review of the redevelopment plans for Glen Sanders Mansion.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

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LABELLA CHANGE ORDER #1

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas the Village received a grant related to the Mohawk Schonowee Trail Project, and

Whereas, the LaBella Associates pursuant to an agreement dated December 30, 2020 is

providing the planning, design and implementation work for the Project, and

Whereas, the Project was delayed due to unanticipated coordination and stipulations with National Grid causing additional work, now therefore

Be It Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves a Change Order with LaBella Associates in the amount of a \$10,000.00 increase to the Mohawk Schonowee Trail Project Agreement.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF GLENVILLE REGARDING TEMPORARY COURT FACILITIES

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that

Whereas, the Municipal Facilities Project, Phase 2, Municipal Building Renovation is moving forward, and

Whereas, Village offices and court will have to be temporarily relocated while the work is done, and

Whereas, a suitable temporary location for the Village Courtroom could not be found within the Village, and

Whereas, the Town of Glenville is agreeable to allowing Village Court to be held at the Town Court facilities at 18 Glenridge Road during the Village renovation project, now therefore,

Be It Resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign an Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Glenville for use of Town Court facilities during the Village Municipal Building Renovation Project.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

CHA CONSULTING, INC PAYMENT #24

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas, the Village has received a grant for the Sunnyside Road Rehabilitation or Replacement, and

Whereas, the Village entered into an agreement on July 13, 2022 with CHA Consulting for Project Architectural/Engineering services, now therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves payment #24 to CHA Consulting, Inc. for professional services related to the Sunnyside Road Rehabilitation or Replacement in the amount of \$5,991.01.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

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AGREEMENT WITH SCHENECTADY COUNTY FOR DISCOVERY REFORM FUNDING PLAN

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that

Whereas, on January 1, 2020 the reform of the NYS Discovery and Bail laws took effect, and
Whereas, it has been recognized that the new laws have created additional work for local law enforcement agencies, and

Whereas, New York State in an effort to help support local law enforcement though the counties has provided funding and Schenectady County has \$18,200.00 to distribute to the Village of Scotia for a part-time clerk, now therefore

Be It Resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor and Chief Halbfinger to sign an agreement with Schenectady County for the distribution of funds to support the Village in relation to NYS Discovery and Bail reform laws.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The board did not have any questions related to the Departmental Reports.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS TO THE BOARD

Village has relocated from 4 No. Ten Broeck; Mayor thanked department heads for all their hard work and dedication. Thanked Superintendent Kedzior and DPW staff for all their assistance with the move and relocation. Thanked Police Department and all officers that assisted with the move. Thanked the Clerk's Office for continue operations throughout the process. Village Hall will be open to the public Friday at noon for anyone who would like to tour the building prior to construction. Phase 2 – Abatement process will begin with a 10-day notice posted; followed by abatement throughout the whole building. Monitoring will be done throughout the process by an independent party. Construction will begin once abatement and testing are complete. Mayor and Trustee Solotruck will be providing updates to the board during Phase 2. Thanked Clerk Treasurer Schmitz for her diligence in obtaining a 1-million-dollar grant for the project. Thanked the board for their continued support. Mayor will provide an update on the Sunnyside Road Bridge and Champlain Hudson Power Line at the May meeting; both are proceeding with positive movement. Board supported the first Strategic Planning Process meeting to be held Monday, May 19th; Trustee Cook suggested the process to start with a listing of all Village services provided.

CORRESPONDENCE, LIAISON AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Cook – Thanked the Police Department for all their efforts in acquiring grant funds; ability to provide services and equipment with funding through DCJS and Federal Funding. Schenectady County Legislature passed an Inter-Municipal Agreement to allow for the Village's full-time Detective to be part of the Street Crimes Task Force which will allow assistance in investigation and funds from the County to help offset the cost of the position. Thanked School Resource Officer for his continued hard work. Police Department has been relocated to 299 No. Ballston, building next to Baptist Health; thanked the entire department for their efforts during the relocation. Town of Glenville – continue to have meetings to discuss ways to work together; Mayor will set up meeting with Supervisor and one member of the Town Board.

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Trustee Gray – Will be discussing with Police Chief the whether the Police Reform Committee will continue to meet. Traffic Safety Committee will be meeting; will have an update at next meeting. Thanked all Department Heads and employees for all their efforts.

Board took a brief recess; Mayor Bucciferro excused from meeting.

Trustee Solotruck – Attended Planning Board meeting; discussed Glen Sanders project and a proposed 10-unit project by the park and Washington Avenue.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Cook to approve the Budget Adjustments for the month of March.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray and Trustee Solotruck

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AUDIT OF CLAIMS

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that be it resolved that all claims against the Village dated April 9, 2025 be allowed and ordered paid in full in the amount of \$164,232.66 charged to the H04-Capital Project Fund Further the Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to draw checks in the claimants' favor and in the full amount listed and charge the same to the funds listed therein.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray and Trustee Solotruck

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

MOVED by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Brown that be it resolved that all claims against the Village dated April 9, 2025 be allowed and ordered paid in full, in the amount of \$173,328.02 charged to the following funds.

A-General Fund \$147,455.33

F-Water Fund \$ 23,406.29

G-Sewer Fund \$ 2,466.40

Further the Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to draw checks in the claimants' favor and in the full amount listed and charge the same to the funds listed therein.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray and Trustee Solotruck

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 12, 2025

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that the minutes of the March 12, 2025 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray and Trustee Solotruck

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

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MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING HELD MARCH 17, 2025

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gray that the minutes of the March 17, 2025 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook and Trustee Solotruck

Noes: None

Abstentions: Trustee Brown & Trustee Gray

Approval will be made at the May 14th meeting

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING HELD MARCH 26, 2025

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gray that the minutes of the March 26, 2025 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray and Trustee Solotruck

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING HELD APRIL 1, 2025

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that the minutes of the April 1, 2025 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Brown and Trustee Cook

Noes: None

Abstentions: Trustee Gray and Trustee Solotruck

Approval will be made at the May 14th meeting

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:20p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray and Trustee Solotruck

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees