

# Village of Cuba Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Public Hearing 2026-2027 Budget, Proposed Local Law #2-2026 Tax Cap override, and Organizational Meeting.

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Date: April 13, 2026

Location: 17 East Main St. Village of Cuba, NY Board Room

Committee Meeting- 5:30 p.m. Discussion took place regarding Summer recreation applications, dispute requests for credits on sewer accounts, sprucing up the parks, community service volunteers to stain and remove the sprouts growing in the mulch at the playground, possible appointments to the ZBA, and Village committees.

RC arrived 5:53 p.m.

**Call to Order & Attendance-**The monthly meeting of the Village of Cuba Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Jason Morrison. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

**Present:** Mayor Jason Morrison, Trustee Michele Miller, Trustee Gene Wild, Trustee Chris Dalton, and Trustee Donna Raub

**Also Present:** Clerk Treasurer Corine Bump, DPW Superintendent Kris Krzos, STP Operator Roman Cavalletti, Nick Pezzino/ Barton and Loguidice, Community Members- Cindy Colley, Jennifer Burdsall, David Crowley (Village Historian), & Heather Forness.

**Excused:** N/A

**Public Hearing:** Trustee Miller made a motion with a second offered by Trustee Wild to open the Public Hearing of the 2026-2026 Village of Cuba, NY and Proposed Local Law #2-2026 Override to the tax cap.

Mayor Morrison read the following Budget Message for the 26-27 Budget year-

The 2026-2027 Cuba Village Preliminary Budget was prepared at three budget workshops held on February 6, March 6, and April 6th, 2026. It is on file and is available for public review. The Village Budget consists of several funds: the General Fund, which is funded mainly by taxes and other revenues. The Water Fund and the

Sewer Fund are funded by a quarterly water capital charge and water and sewer rents. Capital Accounts are used for Capital Projects with short term financing through EFC and grant funds from the EPA. All funds are managed according to accounting standards set by the New York State Comptroller's Office.

The General Fund Budget: The Town of Cuba 2025 assessment will be in effect for the 2026-2027 Village Budget. The new assessments show a total assessed taxable value of \$44,106,234 which is a decrease of \$23,453,926 than last year's total. Exempt property assessment is \$23,984,376 or 54.39 % of the total assessed value. The \$1,028,754 General Fund appropriation includes a \$835,905 tax levy at a tax rate of \$18.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is an increase from last year due to the impact of recently resolved litigation on assessment. The Village Board is obligated to prepare a responsible budget, which meets the Village's mandated obligations and provides beneficial services, while minimizing the tax burden on the citizens of Cuba. This year expenditures include salary increases for employees, rising fuel costs, and an increase in health insurance costs.

A Village property assessed at 60,000 will have a tax bill of \$1137 an increase from last year. Our unreserved fund balance has continued to grow as Village fiscal management has reduced some expenditures and made economic improvements.

The Water Fund is entirely financed by water rents received and miscellaneous revenues. Water lines are being replaced as the infrastructure is old, as it is in other communities. The Village Board continues to monitor the water rents and expenditures in order to close out a capital project to complete replacement of water lines in the village.

The Sewer Fund Budget is entirely financed by sewer rents and charges. Upgrades are needed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant as equipment ages and in order to comply with DEC regulations. The Village Board continues to monitor this to determine if the rates are adequate to support the costs, with a possible Sewer Project in the future.

The Village's total outstanding debt balances for the fiscal year ending on May 31, 2026 are:

- CLEAN WATER (ARRA PROJECT) BALANCE \$363,970 INTEREST FREE MATURES 6/2033
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT- WATER IMPROVEMENT -Long Term Loan Principal and assumed interest \$146,200; SHORT/ LONG TERM FINANCING INTEREST DUE \$24,000.

We are fortunate to be able to continue to provide quality services to the village. Leaf pick-up, snow removal, tree maintenance, brush pick-up, street sweeping, summer recreation, garbage and recycling pick-up, and well-maintained parks are some of the services available to all. The last year saw the completion of the water improvement project with the installation of 4 miles of new pipes, repaving of three streets, and engineering studies for upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant. We wish to thank the Village employees who, as always, have been outstanding in their daily tasks.

Mayor Morrison read the LOCAL LAW NUMBER 2 OF 2026 TAX CAP OVERRIDE FOR 2026-2027 BUDGET

A Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cuba, in the County of Allegany, as follows:

#### SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of this Local Law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Cuba, County of Allegany pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Village of Cuba, County of Allegany to adopt a Village Budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

The Village of Cuba is concerned about uncertainties in the existing Tax Cap Law, including how uncertain expenditures mandated by law and uncertain expenditures and revenues controlled by the County and State interact with the Tax Cap, as well as the impact of recently resolved litigation on assessment. The Village Board is obligated to prepare a responsible budget, which meets the Village's mandated obligations and provides beneficial services, while minimizing the tax burden on the citizens of Cuba.

#### SECTION 2: AUTHORITY

This Local Law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Village Board of Trustees to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a Local Law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Village Board of Trustees.

#### SECTION 3: TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE

The Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Cuba, County of Allegany is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit that is specified in General Municipal Law §3-c.

#### SECTION 4: SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

#### SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

TRUSTEE MILLER MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW #2-2026 TAX CAP OVERRIDE FOR 2026-2027 BUDGET WITH TRUSTEE DALTON OFFERING A SECOND. ROLL CALL VOTE- MAYOR JASON MORRISON AYE, TRUSTEE MICHELE MILLER- AYE, TRUSTEE GENE WILD- AYE, TRUSTEE DONNA RAUB- AYE, TRUSTEE CHRIS DALTON-AYE.

Mayor Morrison asked if the public had any questions, hearing none, left the Public Hearing open.

**Organizational Meeting:** The Cuba Village Board Meeting will be held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Village Hall Board Room at 17 East Main St. Cuba, New York. A Committee Meeting will be held at 5:30 prior to the board meeting each month. BBS Accounting is authorized to work as consulting accountant for the Village books as well as the Board with an internal audit. Lumsden and McCormick has been contracted to perform a Single Audit in Compliance with NYS OSC and Capital Projects. The official newspaper is the Olean Times Herald. The Clerk Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Treasurer will maintain the Village of Cuba, NY Social Media "Facebook Page" as informational only, and as time allows. The Board of Trustees of Cuba Village agree to pay a fixed rate of **.725 cents per mile** when documentation has been submitted for authorization as mileage reimbursement to officers and employees of the Village who use their personal vehicles while performing official duties authorized on behalf of the Village. NO mileage reimbursement will be given if a Village vehicle is made available. The Board authorizes the reimbursement of up to \$60.00 per day (See Travel/ Conference Policy) for meal expenses while traveling for conferences, and receipts for purchases with the business name, date of purchase and cost listed. However, if

meals are included and provided by conference fees, there will be no additional reimbursement. There will be NO reimbursement for tax or alcohol, and no reimbursement if itemized receipts are not submitted- expense logs and mileage forms will be provided and required for reimbursement at the following month board meeting. Hotel rooms will be shared when more than one employee is in attendance unless employees are opposite gender, then two rooms will be reserved. Members of the Village Board, Clerk Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Works are authorized to attend conferences and schools as provided in Section 7B of the General Municipal Law. Major conferences to be attended are: NYCOM Annual Meeting; NYCOM Fall Training School; NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting; NYCOM Public Works, Parks & Maintenance School; Annual Highway School and Fall Highway Conference. THE DPW Staff and STP staff are permitted to attend the quarterly conferences with NYS Waterworks, and shall contact the Clerk's Office to register and attend each quarter. The Village Clerk is authorized to invest Village funds as per the investment policy passed by the Village Board. The Board also authorizes the Clerk/Treasurer to pay prior to the monthly board meeting, payroll, utilities, health insurance, Slack Chemical for sodium-hypochlorite and any contract payments.

**Guests-** Nick Pezzino/ Barton and Loguidice, Cindy Colley, Jennifer Burdsall, David Crowley, Heather Forness

Nick Pezzino attended to talk about the proposed potential sewer treatment plant upgrades due to DEC regulation. Back in 2022, Barton and Loguidice, completed a study that looked at the village's sewer infrastructure, both in the collection system and also at the wastewater treatment plant. This was to evaluate the collection system on infiltration and inflow, so how much groundwater or stormwater are getting into the sewer system, This costs the village extra money to treat, and also to evaluate the asset condition of the various components of the wastewater treatment plant. Coming out of that, they authored a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), with a timeline submitted for approval. A PER potential project that included upgrades to the collection system and some components at the wastewater plant, including the headworks, an effluent pump station, and a few other small pieces and parts, as well as wholesale and collection system improvements, within your sewer system. submitted that, got comments from DEC, revised it in December of that year, and then moved forward and submitted that report for grant money.

In June of 2023, the Village passed a bond resolution for \$8.9 million that allows them to take on debt for the project, but commits the Village to nothing. In December of 23, the Village received a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant that would cover 25% of that project which was a good start, but not enough to move forward. Since then, the

process has been working on submitting for additional grant applications, but haven't had success. Part of the reason for that is because the village did not yet have a new permit and was operating on a permit set to expire. In August of last year, the DEC submitted a draft permit that added some additional effluent requirements for the wastewater plant, namely ammonia and phosphorus, and also reduced some of your existing, effluent limitations. As your consultant, Barton and Loguidice pushed back against those additional requirements, feeling that they were unnecessary. Ultimately, none of the permit limits were changed. In April, the permit became final, and so it's implemented, and now the village has a compliance schedule that needs to be met over the next several years. (copies on file)

The first big, piece that needs addressed is how the village WWTF is going to treat for ammonia and phosphorus. The answer to that yet is not yet known, because we don't even know if we need to. So, over the next several months, Roman's going to be working to conduct additional samples, & get additional laboratory work done, so that it can be determined if the village is currently meeting the proposed ammonia and phosphorus limits. If limits are met, there will not be changes to anything in the preliminary engineering report. A revised report to the DEC on October 1st of this year. The first big benchmark is to have a plan in place for whether there's a need to do additional improvements from what was recommended originally, or whether the original improvements can proceed. Secondary to that, because the original report was drafted in 2022, and it's close to a half decade later, costs will need updated. How much of the project The Village is willing to take on at this time? The potential project is not going to unilaterally change and go from an \$8.9 million project to something more expensive. B & L will work with The Village to see what can actually proceed with examples of what project thresholds that could be potentially pursued, and what the cost impact will be to the individual users. (on file and circulated amongst attendees). Sampling will be conducted during the summer. An income survey while not required, might would useful in helping The Village get grant money. If the village is going to take on a sewer treatment plant and sewer infrastructure project, funding is going to be of the utmost importance, to minimize the impact to The Village users. Nick said the good news in all of this is that now that The Village has a new permit, it's a major driver to getting additional grant funding, with a decent start, of a 25% grant. The Village can reapply for additional LEA grant, they will give up to 50%. The project is becoming much stronger now that there's a new permit. It's recommended that the village completes an income survey, because right now, the low to moderate income percentage is just about 40% within the village. And looking at the Median Household Income and the poverty rate it's very likely that with a well-done income survey, The Village could get above the 50.1% LMI threshold, which would open up Community Development Block Grant funding to the Village, which would be up to an additional \$2 million in funding for the Village. (schedules on file) RCAP Solutions and Catherine Rees have done this in the past which is pro bono or there are other companies such as C & G with a cost of nearly \$20,000 which gets results much quicker. Once we the sampling data is available and The Village and Engineers feel really comfortable about it, B&L will go through and make their recommendations as to whether they think anything needs added to the project. B and L will meet with the Village, go through what the budgetary impacts of that are before anything is submitted to the DEC and then at that time, they submit the revised preliminary engineering report in October, and start pursuing additional grant funding with the goal of how much project can be taken on for the least amount of impact to The Village users. A few questions were answered about the types of testing. Mayor Morrison asked if there were any further questions at this time.

Cindy Colley told the Board she almost hit a child that went into the road down by McDonald's and cited no crosswalk for them to use. Can anything be done about a crosswalk at that end of town? She will be contacting Senator Barello's office about the problem and is concerned for all that travel by foot and bicycle in the village. She asked about sidewalks and why people that have never had sidewalks don't have to have them, and why some that did have them have not replaced them after the house was torn down. She asked if the Board would consider lifting the no parking on Village Streets from 2:00 – 6:00 a.m. before the end of April.

Jennifer Burdsall asked for clarification regarding brush and leaf pickup, citing more clear wording is needed besides leaves and brush will be picked up by the DPW "during the growing season".

Nick Pezzino left at 6:38 p.m.

**Minutes- TRUSTEE WILD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH A SECOND OFFERED BY TRUSTEE RAUB, ALL IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**Bills-** All vouchers and reports were submitted via shared drive and physical packets prior to the meeting.

**A Fund- \$27,613.99**

**F Fund- \$17,758.73**

**G Fund-\$35,866.73**

**WIP-\$251,030.90**

**TRUSTEE MILLER MADE A MOTION TO AMMEND THE G FUND BUDGET LINE G008130-4- \$24,844.28 TO PAY THE BARTON AND LOGUIDICE INVOICE FOR THE ENGINEERING INVOICE WITH A SECOND OFFERED BY TRUSTEE WILD. ALL IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED. TRUSTTE MILLER MADE A MOTION TO AMMEND THE A FUND LINE 5110-1 STREETS PAYROLL USING \$40,000 OF A FUND BALANCE DUE TO CHANGE IN PAYROLL AFTER THE BUDGET YEAR AND EXCESSIVE SNOW PLOWING DEPLETING THE FUNDS IN THE LINE WITH TRUSTEE WILD OFFERING A SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED. TRUSTEE MILLER MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE SLACK CHEMICAL LATE ARRIVING INVOICE TO THE MONTHLY ABSTRACT AND PAYMENT OF THE APRIL 13 MONTHLY ABSTRACT WITH A SECOND OFFERED BY TRUSTEE RAUB. ALL IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**Code Report-** Full report on File- Brief discussion took place.

Discussion took place regarding three anonymous complaints in the Village. One is already pursued in Town of Cuba, NY Court through the Village Code Enforcement, One is already being followed up on by the ZBA and one did not make sense with the address as presented and the attached letter. Clerk Treasurer Bump shared with the Mayor, SPW Krzos, The Board, and Code Enforcement. Once directed, she can also pass along to the ZBA.

**STP Report:** The DMR was sent in for the month of February with a soft violation for fecal coliform. He was just over the limit of 500, and the Board asked what the cause was. He said he didn't know but it could have been higher flows with the amount of rain.

Roman said he is in need of hours for his 3A license recertification. May 18th - 20th is the NYRWA yearly meeting, good for 15 hours credit. He needs sixty hours and would like to

attend. He wants to go up Sunday with Conference Golf Tournament kicking off on Monday Morning at 10:00 and The Training Workshop classes beginning at 1:30. He told the Board he would probably leave Wednesday at Noon since there is a 4 hour drive home even though two afternoon classes remain relevant to his renewal. Roman is completing the new samples under monitor status. Roman stated he cleaned up the parking lot. Mayor Morrison asked when it be fully repaired and Roman said soon.

**TRUSTEE MILLER MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW ROMAN TO ATTEND THE NYRWA TRAINING IN VERONA WITH HOTEL STAY FROM SUNDAY MAY 17, CHECKING OUT WEDNESDAY MAY 20, WITH TRUSTEE RAUB OFFERING A SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Roman thinks it would be nice if the Board would allow Bob Howard an additional set of water boots to be kept at the sewer plant only in addition to his boot and glove allowance of \$450. Clerk Treasurer Bump stated the boots were purchased in September and she deducted \$118 from his boot allowance already; no one told her different. Brief discussion took place and Trustee Miller asked to notify Clerk Treasurer Bump when something is purchased in addition to the CBA agreement so it can be noted and approved. **TRUSTEE MILLER MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE PAST PURCHASE OF BOOTS WITH TRUSTEE WILD OFFERING A SECOND, ALL IN FAVOR AND CLERK TREASURER BUMP WILL ADD THE \$118 COST BACK INTO BOB'S BOOT ALLOWANCE SPREADSHEET.**

Roman left at 7:03 and came back at 7:13.

#### **Clerk Treasurer's Report-**

- Newly elected Trustees signed the Oath of Office Book on Monday 4/6/26
- The Preliminary Budget meeting with BBS and a quorum of the Board – Mayor Morrison, Trustees Miller, Raub and Dalton approved the preliminary budget for the public hearing and budget adoption on 4/13/26 was held 4-6-26
- Prepped Arbor Day Proc, Allegany County Mutual Aid Agreement renewal
- Continue Scanning Documents/ Paperless as much as possible
- Many docs uploaded for Board review to the shared Drive for March and April
- The Park Rental calendar is filling up fast for 2026
- Worked with SPW Krzos for meter change out list, We have 30 meters left to change out
- Attended a Zoom meeting for Weebly Maintenance for the Village's Website- Both Lori and I will have more responsibility for editing the website now- per Southern Tier West, there is an issue with accessing the editors side, that needs more attention
- Filed March NYSLRS and continued with Gold Transition- expected to be completed by 3/31/26 per Kristina from NYSLRS
- Paid Annual and Semi- Annual Staff in addition to weekly and monthly payroll
- A5110-1 payroll line is over due to budget distribution and changes in DPW Staff payroll, excessive work in snow
- All quarterly payroll tax reports filed with Fed. State and Allegany County Worker's Comp