

Village of Franklinville

May 11, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the village office at 6pm. Members present were Mayor Ashley Schumaker, Trustees Carissa Vincent, Steve Pockey and Scott Hillman. Trustee Sherrill Sciortino was absent. Others present were Chief Robert Cintron, SPW Cary Hatch, CCEO John Helgager, Jeff Peterson, Mike Sikora, Dick Hall, Rick Heavern, Dennis Lashway and Bruce Pagels.

Trustee Vincent moved, 2nd by Trustee Pockey to accept the April 13, 2026, re-organizational minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hillman moved, 2nd by Trustee Vincent to accept the April 13, 2026, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Scheduled guests-

Trustee Hillman moved, 2nd by Trustee Pockey to enter public hearing to discuss 14 Elm Street property conditions. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Schumaker said the purpose of the meeting was to move forward with the Village board's intentions of dealing with unkept and blighted properties within the Village. She said that they (Board of Trustees) have been making slow but precise efforts to keep progression moving forward, they have passed zoning updates, instituted the rental inspection law and completing fire safety inspections as required for all commercial properties. They are now addressing individual properties that are non-compliant with these regulations, and the first one is 14 Elm Street, owned by Dennis Lashway. This property has been non-compliant for years, and it is time to get it cleaned up. She asked if any board members had any other comments, there were none.

Dennis Lashway said that there is no reason for the Village to deem his building uninhabitable because there should be no one in there anyway. He asked why he was not notified directly about this public hearing; he heard about it from a friend. He went on to say that he knows the law as he is also a code enforcement officer and they (Village board) cannot make him do anything with his property. He said he has no intentions of cleaning up anything around his property, "as long as I own it, nothing will be done to improve that property. If the Village wants to see it improved, they can make me an offer and buy it themselves." He went on to say that if he moves two items out of the building a year, code enforcement cannot do anything, he has been taken to court twice for the condition of his property and both times the Village has lost.

CCEO Helgager said NYS law requires all commercial properties to have a fire safety inspection every three years, this property has not been inspected and there are visible

“step cracks” in the masonry block joints on the outside of the building which are red flags showing possible structural damage, this would require a design professional to look at and confirm the building is structurally sound. Mr. Lashway said he wants a copy of that law and the code enforcement officer does not have permission to step foot on his property to put a placard sign on it. He is not prepared to have it inspected.

Mayor Schumaker said the Village will move forward with the plan to get the property cleaned up and if a court warrant is needed, they will get one.

Mr. Lashway said if the code officer wants to put a placard up, he can, it will not change anything anyway.

Trustee Hillman moved, 2nd by Trustee Pockey to close the public hearing and go back to regular session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Vincent moved, 2nd by Trustee Pockey to deem 14 Elm Street building uninhabitable and authorized CCEO Helgager to placard the building condemned. All ayes. Motion carried.

Petitions and requests from the floor-

Mike Sikora said that this past weekend there was an event at the high school which attracted a lot of visitors and cars looking for parking. There were several no parking signs along North Academy Street, however people still parked on the street. He said that a NYS Trooper came into the high school and asked where the local police were during such a large event.

Mayor Schumaker said that the NYS Trooper came into her restaurant as well and asked the same thing, she said there was no village officer on duty Saturday, and the Village police department is now a part time police department. The one full-time officer we had has moved on and the village cannot afford another full-time officer at this time, so they are only working with part-time officers.

Jeff Peterson asked why the budget does not reflect the police department being a part time department, what were the raises for? He has been gone for 4 months, just came back and everything in Park Square is closed and nothing is safe, from his observations it looks things are going backwards, not forward for the Village.

Mayor Schumaker said that police department increases were made in the last few years and that part time officer availability has been inconsistent lately and coverage has been spotty.

Rick Heavern said that the inconsistency of hours is done intentionally so people do not know the exact patrol shift, correct? Mayor Schumaker said that is correct. She said that

the Village has continued to ask to work with the Town for a court, but they just keep denying sharing facilities.

Mike Sikora said that he has also heard that the Village has not allowed any new businesses to come into the former Rich's station or in Park Square.

Mayor Schumaker said that is absolutely not true and wanted to address the constant rumor that is going around saying that she, in particular, does not want new businesses to come into the village because it would "hurt my business." On the contrary, whenever there are any new business inquiries or potential owners that want to come into the Village she always helps in any way she can. The last request that was brought before the Village Board requesting zoning variances for potential new businesses was approved by the Village Board. Neither the Village Board nor the mayor have any say on what or who comes to the village. The most recent request for a zoning variance for a new business that was brought to the area was from Schwab LLC and that property is located in the Town of Franklinville for which they denied the variance.

Trustee Pockey said the Village Board has always and continues to be business friendly, growing up in the Village one of his favorite places to spend time in was the Martiny store located at 14 Elm Street, and every time he runs past that building now it saddens him seeing the condition it is in. We need to keep trying to improve the Village and the board will not give up.

Mike Sikora asked why the Board is meeting only one Monday a month now.

Mayor Schumaker said the hope is that a monthly meeting will encourage more public participation, the newsletter will also be done quarterly now instead of monthly.

Jeff Peterson asked what the substantial raises for the board was for last year, and now they are meeting less frequently.

Mayor Schumaker said that the trustees did not get raises and she designs the website and writes grants for the village, she puts in many hours of work for her salary.

Mayor Schumaker said there are a lot of changes happening behind the scenes that people may not see. She said the most recent success stories are the Park Square Market and Skateland. The owners are doing well and continue to invest in their businesses and people are supporting their businesses. She also said that she has been contacted by Pauline Hoffman, owner of the Beekeepers Bookstore and said she may be interested in starting a chamber of commerce. She said that business owners must put in a lot of hard work and the community needs to support them. She said the unsuccessful businesses were not due to the Village Board. Mayor Schumaker encouraged anyone that had questions to please come to a Board meeting and ask the questions, not rely on the "rumor mill."

Reports from Department Heads-

Chief Cintron said they had 5 officers on duty during the Maple Festival and had no incidents. He handed out a monthly incident report.

SPW Hatch-said the DPW is waiting for good weather to stay so sidewalk projects can begin, they are in the process of spring cleanup, the brush pile has been taken care of and he is getting quotes for roof replacement at the North Well House, it has started leaking quite badly. Cattaraugus County Health Department has notified him that they will no longer assist with the annual water quality report so they are waiting for required test results to come back and they will have the report ready for the public.

Mayor Schumaker said she is collaborating with Clerk Sage and Librarian Jessie Frank to plan a community celebration for America's 250th anniversary to be held July 1, 2026, 6-8pm in Park Square.

Trustee Pockey moved, 2nd by Trustee Hillman adopting the hazard mitigation plan in conjunction with Cattaraugus County. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hillman moved, 2nd by Trustee Pockey to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation. All ayes. Motion carried. 7pm

Trustee Pockey moved, 2nd, by Trustee Vincent to go back into regular session. All ayes. Motion carried. 7:35pm

Trustee Pockey moved, 2nd by Trustee Vincent to accept the bills totaling \$38,780.28 from the General Fund, \$14,612.44 from the Water Fund, \$9193.33 from the Sewer Fund and \$17,054.90 from the ARPA funds. All ayes. Motion carried.