

Village of Cherry Valley Organizational Meeting/Budget Hearing Part 2 Minutes
Tuesday April 14, 2026

The Village of Cherry Valley Organizational Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by Mayor Stiles with the Pledge to the Flag. In attendance were Mayor Jeffrey S. Stiles, Trustees Ian M. Feulner and K. Don Brigham, DPW Superintendent Wayne B. Valentine, Clerk-Treasurer Melissa F. Gregory. Also in attendance was one guest.

*Please note that items placed on the agenda that are not listed below will be included in the regular Board meeting agenda (and minutes) for April 21, 2026.

Mirabito Gas

Mirabito reached out to Clerk-Treasurer Gregory regarding the letter they received from the office noting that their water bill payment was late. Upon speaking with them, they asked if the Board would waive the late fee since they had mailed their bill on February 5, 2026 and had proof of doing so. The check was eventually received in the office, postmarked April 2026, and so the Board agreed to waive their late fee.

Cemetery Information Sheet

It was discovered that, after the most recent update regarding the May 1st date for the first (potential) available date for burials, information on the back of the document stated contradictory information. The Board, along with DPW Superintendent Valentine reviewed the current wording and agreed to change that date to May 1st as well.

Treasurer's Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Gregory inquired about the reasoning for the layout of the treasurer's reports and abstracts of paid bills. The Board, along with the guest in attendance, discussed the potential reasoning for why the format is the way it is, then agreed to maintain the format for now.

Potential Funding Opportunities

Clerk-Treasurer Gregory noted that there are frequently emails, articles, etc that she receives which note various funding opportunities. She inquired to the Board if anyone had extra time to help sort through said potential opportunities and they responded noting they'd stop in the office when they had a free moment.

Regarding the current EFC (Environmental Facilities Corporation) loan that the Village received in October 2025 for emergency funding for the well repair this past summer, EFC has informed Clerk-Treasurer Gregory that there is the potential for a one year extension. With this extension (with no interest) the Village would have the opportunity to gain resources to repay the loan. Such options currently include: a USDA Rural Development grant - research being

completed by resident Julie Barown; working with Otsego County, a local bank, or EFC themselves to bond the loan; potentially utilizing Village water savings accounts. Updates will be provided as available.

Policies and Procedures

There are currently no new updates from last week's first budget hearing/organizational meeting.

Motion was made by Trustee Brigham, seconded by Trustee Feulner, to open the Budget Hearing at 6:44 pm.

Office Software and Equipment

The Board reviewed a breakdown of estimated expenditures related to the upcoming budget. Among those items were the following: new website; updated email; accounting software; antivirus software; training at NYCOM (New York Conference of Mayors); training at IIMC (International Institute for Municipal Clerks); a new printer; water software; and miscellaneous supplies. The original total came to \$28,335.00. Upon further discussion, it was decided that 1) updating the water software will need to wait until at least next year; 2) more research needs to be completed to find additional quotes for updating the website, email, and antivirus software. Further details will be provided once those quotes have been researched and received. Purchase of accounting software for the office is still being pursued and further discussions will be held before the final budget is approved. After discussions were held, the most current total has been brought down to \$19,700.00.

CVCFC Room Rental Contract

The Village rents half of the room where they are located within the community building on 2 Genesee Street, while the other half of the room is rented by the Town of Cherry Valley. A new rental contract was received by the office with notification of an increase to the fee by \$50.00 per month. This new total was provided in the drafted budget document for review by the Board.

"Off Street Parking"

The Village parking lot, located next to Red Point Builders on Genesee Street, was discussed regarding potential upgrades such as lighting, fencing, line painting, adjustment to sign location, and additional signs around the Village. After discussion by the Board it was agreed that this year's budget will only be able to absorb small upgrades such as painting lines and potentially relocating the sign for the lot towards the middle of the lot's entrance. The addition of lighting will be further discussed at next year's budget hearing.

Youth Sports

At the regular Board meeting on March 17, 2026, Mrs. Allison Gridley attended and shared updates with the Board. At that time she also inquired about the potential for the youth sports group (that she and Mrs. Kimberly Buck lead) to be added to the Village's budget. With the addition to the budget, the group has greater opportunities to receive more funding as the Village is viewed as a non-profit organization. Clerk-Treasurer Gregory confirmed that the Board wants to add youth sports to the budget and they agreed.

Water Testing

For a number of years the Village has worked with PACE Labs out of Ballston Spa, NY, to retrieve and test water samples that are required of each Village for reporting to the NYSDOH (New York State Department of Health). Over the last year there have been many instances where PACE has not met the Villages' needs in a timely manner, which impacts the reporting to NYSDOH. As this has been the case, DPW Superintendent Valentine researched other companies and found a local company out of Oneonta owned by Mr. Scott Kellogg; this information was relayed to the Board. Mr. Scott Kellogg owns Highland Property Inspections, LLC and he provided the Village with a very reasonable and comparable quote to what they currently pay PACE. Upon review and agreement of the quote by the Board, Mr. Kellogg will begin sampling and testing for the Village in early May.

Metered Water Sales

Due to rising costs to maintain equipment, have services provided to the Village, to provide services to residents, and to help offset the cost of repaying for this past summer's well repair, the Board discussed and agreed to raise the rate of metered water sales by \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons. The price will increase to \$12.75 per 1,000 gallons of usage, which will cost \$255.00 for the minimum usage of 20,000 gallons (per 6 months). The bills will continue to be sent in late June and December. At this time, the interest and penalties, along with water service charges, will remain the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Gregory, Clerk-Treasurer
April 17, 2026