

April 8, 2026

Mayor Bush called the meeting to order at 6:01pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Attendees:

Mayor

Keith Bush

Trustees

Dawn Ashline

April Hayes

Mitch Robinson

Kylea Goff

Staff

Betsy Boliver, Clerk

Liz Jones, Deputy Clerk

Charlene Moser, Treasurer

Brandon DeLong, Village Maint

Travis Waldron, Village Maint (Absent)

Also in attendance: Evan Lyndaker, Charlotte Schweitzer, Brett McVoy

Public Hearing:

A **motion** was made by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Robinson to open the public hearing on the proposed water rate increase and the 2026-27 budget. **Motion** carried. The public hearing was opened at 6:04pm.

Floor/Discussion:

Evan Lyndaker requested to reserve the ballfield for June 19–21, 2026, and July 3–5, 2026. The Board approved the request. Trustee Hayes will add the events to the schedule.

Brett McVoy of Barton & Loguidice reported that PDF copies of the water plans have been emailed, and hard copies will be delivered soon. The plans and permits are being submitted to the DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers. They are still awaiting a response from the DOT, despite multiple follow-ups since October 1. The start of the water project is dependent upon receipt of all necessary permits.

Charlotte Schweitzer is uncertain about this year's swim program at the Croghan Recreation Park, as she has not received a response from Lowville School. The NY Swims grant is not available. It is believed that Beaver River Central School will not have a pool available this summer, which may impact their summer recreation program. The Board will confirm this. Charlotte plans to offer swimming lessons. The Board discussed extending pool hours one to two days per week, possibly Fridays from 11:00am to 7:00pm. Charlotte will determine feasibility after hiring lifeguards. Mayor Bush will look into obtaining parental consent forms for drug testing of underage lifeguards. Charlotte also reported that the Lewis County Hockey Association has mats available to donate to the ice rink. The Board expressed their appreciation.

Maintenance Report:

John Lehman, Wastewater Operator, inquired about the Village's long-term plans regarding his services. If the Village wishes to retain him, he has requested that the Village cover the cost of his certificate renewal fee and related training.

Brandon reported that the standby generator has been installed and is operational. Monnat's repaired the pipe near the lift station. The lift station continues to blow fuses; a technician from Koester inspected the issue and provided a quote of \$2,004.60 for parts, installation, and testing. The Board advised Brandon to purchase the necessary parts and complete the installation in-house, with Tilly and Red conducting the testing.

Spring cleanup has begun, and the new drags have been delivered. Greg Lehman, Little League Coach, has offered the teams to assist with community service work at the park.

Brayden Monnat, Village Maintenance, expressed interest in continuing to assist in the evenings if his temporary position, previously set to end on April 30, is extended. A **motion** was made by Trustee Hayes and seconded by Trustee Robinson to keep Brayden Monnat on an as-needed basis. All in favor.

Pratt Northam has awarded the Village funding for one lifeguard position. Brandon noted there is sufficient work for a summer helper; however, the Board agreed to hold off on hiring a part-time helper at this time.

The Rural Water Conference will be held May 18–20 at a cost of \$185 per day. A **motion** was made by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Goff to authorize Brandon to attend the conference, contingent upon Village work being in good standing. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

A **motion** was made by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Robinson to adopt Resolution No. 3 of 2026, authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Repair Reserve Fund, not to exceed \$40,000, for replacement of the Ice Rink roof, subject to permissive referendum. All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FROM REPAIR RESERVE FUND SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, the Village of Croghan has previously established a Repair Reserve Fund pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law §6-d for the purpose of financing repairs to Village buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has determined that it is necessary to replace the roof on the Ice Rink, and that sufficient funds are available in said Repair Reserve Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Croghan hereby authorizes the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$40,000 from the Repair Reserve Fund for the purpose of replacing the roof on the Ice Rink;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is subject to a permissive referendum pursuant to New York State law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of the adoption of this resolution in the official newspaper of the Village.

Charlene reported that the ARPA account has been closed and finalized. The Village tax cap report has been filed, and no override was required. Sewer invoices were mailed on March 31. The annual water report has been posted online, and a paper copy was included with each sewer invoice.

The Village's enrollment in the NYS Retirement System became effective April 1. An invoice of approximately \$12,000 for enrollment is expected but has not yet been received and will be due by the end of the month.

A **motion** was made by Trustee Hayes and seconded by Trustee Goff to adopt Resolution No. 4 of 2026, establishing updated water rates and billing options for the Village of Croghan. All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH UPDATED WATER RATES AND BILLING OPTIONS FOR THE VILLAGE OF CROGHAN

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croghan has reviewed the current costs associated with the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the municipal water system; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adjust water rates to ensure the continued financial stability and proper functioning of the water system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Croghan hereby adopts the following water rate schedule:

Base Rates:

- Inside Village: \$225.00
- Outside Village: \$281.00

Usage Rates (per 1,000 gallons):

- Inside Village: \$1.00
- Outside Village: \$1.25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that customers shall have the option to pay their water bills on a biannual basis, with installments due on July 1 and February 1, and a \$5.00 administrative fee shall be charged per installment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other provisions of the Village water billing policies not inconsistent with this resolution shall remain in full force and effect;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

The treasurer's report was included in the Board's packet. **Motion** by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Goff to accept the treasurer's report. All in favor.

Charlene discussed budget transfers. **Motion** by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Hayes to make the necessary transfers. All in favor.

Clerk's Report:

Betsy reported that she reached out to RACOG for an update on the new website and email project but has not yet received a response.

Lewis County Employment & Training provided an application for the Summer Youth Employment Program; however, the Board is not interested in applying.

Motion by Trustee Robinson and a second by Trustee Hayes to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting. All in favor.

Motion by Trustee Ashline and a second by Trustee Goff to pay the bills. All in favor.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bush introduced the resolution adopting the annual budget. A **motion** was made by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Hayes to adopt Resolution No. 5 of 2026, adopting the annual budget for the Village of Croghan for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 OF 2026

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR
THE VILLAGE OF CROGHAN**

WHEREAS, the tentative budget for the Village of Croghan for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2026, has been duly prepared and filed; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held thereon on April 8, 2026 and all persons desiring to be heard were heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Croghan hereby adopts the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2026, and ending May 31, 2027, as the final budget of the Village;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriations therein contained are hereby adopted and the amounts therein stated are hereby appropriated for the objects and purposes specified.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the tax rate for the fiscal year 2026–2027 is hereby set at **\$4.410048** per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the Town of Croghan and **\$2.604592** per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the Town of New Bremen.

Mayor Bush introduced a resolution in opposition to New York State energy policies. A **motion** was made by Trustee Goff and seconded by Trustee Ashline to adopt Resolution No. 6 of 2026, opposing New York State energy policies that result in excessive utility rate increases and urging reform to protect ratepayers. All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2026

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NEW YORK STATE ENERGY POLICIES THAT RESULT IN EXCESSIVE UTILITY RATE INCREASES AND URGING REFORM TO PROTECT RATEPAYERS

WHEREAS, the New York State Public Service Commission (“PSC”) under current state energy policies and mandates, approved multi-year rate plans for utilities that significantly increase electric and gas delivery revenues, creating undue hardship for rural residents, farms, seniors on fixed incomes, and small businesses across Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, these policies have created a severe imbalance of supply and demand by limiting energy supply primarily to green sources while simultaneously driving up demand through aggressive timelines for conversion to electrification, resulting in higher costs for consumers and businesses; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across New York State are required to comply with a statutory property tax cap of two percent (2%) per year, which limits their ability to raise revenue to offset rising costs; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable and equitable that utility rate increases be similarly capped at no more than two percent (2%) in any given year to protect residents and businesses from excessive financial burdens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Village of Croghan Board of Trustees hereby opposes current NTS energy policies that mandate aggressive timelines and costly requirements, resulting in excessive utility rate increases, and urges the Governor, the Public Service Commission (PSC), and State Legislature to reform these policies and adopt a cap limiting utility rate increases to no more than two percent (2%) annually.

Section 2. The Croghan Village Board supports legislative efforts to provide oversight and protect ratepayers from excessive increases, including measures that align utility rate caps with municipal tax cap standards.

Section 3. The Croghan Village Board directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the PSC, our State legislative delegation, and relevant state agencies overseeing energy policy, and any others deemed appropriate.

Section 4. The Board encourages other counties and local municipalities to join in this effort and urges Lewis County residents to submit comments to the PSC and the State Legislature advocating for energy policy reform.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Lastly, Mayor Bush introduced a resolution in opposition to New York State RAPID Act regulations. A **motion** was made by Trustee Hayes and seconded by Trustee Robinson to adopt Resolution No. 7 of 2026, opposing the NYS Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act regulations. All in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2026

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NYS RENEWABLE ACTION THROUGH PROJECT INTERCONNECTION AND DEPLOYMENT (RAPID) ACT REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Village of Croghan supports responsible renewable energy development and the transition to clean energy while preserving the authority of local governments to regulate land use, zoning, and community character; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment (“RAPID”) Act and related regulations significantly limit municipal authority over the siting and approval of large-scale renewable energy and electric transmission projects; and

WHEREAS, these measures undermine the principle of Home Rule guaranteed by the New York State Constitution by centralizing decision-making authority at the State level and reducing meaningful local oversight, by giving ORES (the Office of Renewable Energy Siting) responsibility for project approvals; and

WHEREAS, the RAPID Act regulations impose expedited permitting timelines that risk inadequate environmental review and community input, and allow automatic approval of projects if deadlines are not met; and

WHEREAS, the Act expands eminent domain authority and permits the extinguishment of conservation easements, threatening private property rights and natural resource protections, including lands within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks; and

WHEREAS, local governments, emergency services, and residents have expressed concerns that these regulations compromise public safety, infrastructure capacity, and the economic well-being of communities; and

WHEREAS, statewide policy goals should be advanced through local government collaboration and incentives rather than mandates that preempt local authority and override comprehensive planning;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Village of Croghan Board of Trustees hereby expresses its strong opposition to the RAPID ACT regulations and process based upon their significant limitation of local municipal authority over siting and approval, and the State’s undermining of Home Rule authority guaranteed by the NYS Constitution.

Section 2. The Village of Croghan Board of Trustees calls upon NYS to develop and advance statewide policy goals only when serious local collaboration and incentives have been undertaken so that local authority and comprehensive planning are not preempted.

Section 3. Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS Department of Public Services (ORES), the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), NYS Senator Mark Walczyk, NYS Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and any others deemed appropriate.

Section 4. This resolution is effective immediately.

The Board reviewed the submitted septic service bids. A **motion** was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Hayes to accept the bid from TW Septic Service. All in favor.

Mayor Bush reported that he found a second Wastewater Operator to meet DEC requirements. Greg Ingerson, currently the operator in Deferiet, was discussed, and the Board agreed to move forward with him.

A **motion** was made by Mayor Bush and seconded by Trustee Ashline for the Board to enter Executive Session at 7:50pm to discuss personnel issues.

A **motion** was made by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Goff to exit Executive Session at 8:53pm. All in favor.

Upon returning to regular session, a **motion** was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Hayes to appoint Brandon DeLong as Public Works Supervisor at a rate of \$21.00 per hour, effective April 20, 2026. All in favor.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Hayes distributed Rec Park calendars with scheduled events. Trustee Goff reported that she communicated with Jared Radley at NYSDOT, who reviewed items that could be covered under CHIPS funding and was noted to be a valuable resource.

A **motion** was made by Trustee Ashline and seconded by Trustee Goff to close the public hearing on the proposed water rate increase and budget at 8:18pm. No public comments were received. All in favor.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm was made by Trustee Goff and seconded by Trustee Ashline. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Tabolt Boliver