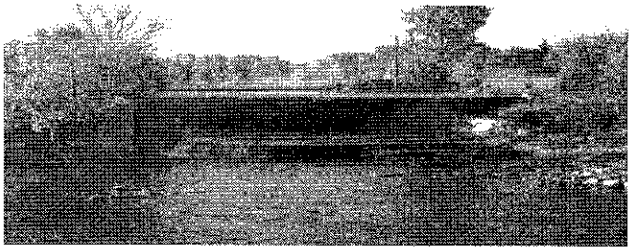
Board of Trustees

Village of Black River



Agenda
Regular Meeting
April 6, 2026

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of the 3/2/2026 regular meeting, 3/11/2026 special meeting & 3/23/2026 special meeting minutes
- Public Comment
- Police Department Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Superintendent's Report

Correspondence Received:

A) Senator Mark C. Walczyk Office — Re: Honey Ridge Solar Letter Response
B) Jefferson County Real Property — Re: Draft Zoning Map

Correspondence Sent:

A) NONE

Unfinished Business:

A) NONE

New Business:

A) Summer Recreation Program — Re: Guidelines for Operation
B) Case & Leader — Re: Review Local Law #2 & Set Public Hearing

- Reports from Standing Committees
- Reports from Special Meetings
- Comments from Board Members
- Authorize payment of bills; adjournment

Village of Black River
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
March 23, 2026

Mayor Leonard called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:
Mayor David Leonard
Trustee Bonnie Proven
Trustee David Daily
Trustee Randy Lake
Superintendent Eric Nier
Clerk-Treasurer Abigail Simpson

Excused:
Trustee Corey Decillis

The Board met for two Public Hearings around the 26-27 tentative budget.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to open Public Hearing one for Local Law #1 regarding overriding the tax levy limit. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to close Public Hearing one for Local Law #1 regarding overriding the tax levy limit. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, that Local Law #1 of 2026 be adopted. The motion was put to a vote as follows:

Mayor Leonard	YES
Trustee Daily	YES
Trustee Proven	YES
Trustee Lake	YES

The motion was carried and the resolution duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to open Public Hearing two regarding to the tentative 26-27 budget. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed the changes made since the last budget meeting on March 11th.

The Board mentioned the selling of the old police patrol vehicle; NYCOM stated that we are going about the process the correct way. Next step is to deem the vehicle as surplus.

A motion was made by Trustee Lake, seconded by Mayor Leonard to deem the 2017 Ford Explorer Police vehicle as surplus and sell it to the Black River Fire Department for $1. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed employee policies and benefits; they would like to hold a separate meeting to go over those in depth.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to close Public Hearing two regarding the tentative budget. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Lake to adopt the 2026-2027 budget. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer

Village of Black River
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
March 11, 2026

Mayor Leonard called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:
Mayor David Leonard
Trustee David Daily
Trustee Corey Decillis
Trustee Randy Lake
Superintendent Eric Nier
Clerk-Treasurer Abigail Simpson
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Josephine Yawger
Police Chief Steven Wood
Black River Ambulance Alan Gaines

Excused:
Trustee Bonnie Proven

The Board met to discuss the tentative 2026-2027 budget; they discussed general fund, water fund and sewer funds individually.

General fund – Clerk-Treasurer Simpson went over budget line items that changed from last year's budget. She proposed raising taxes from $450,000 to $550,000 and provided a comparison of local village current tax rates. The Board discussed overriding the tax cap and needing to establish a local law to do so. They briefly discussed the ambulance and fire department contracts; each contract received a 2% increase. Mayor Leonard mentioned instead of selling the old patrol vehicle to the fire department for $6000 that we gift it to them due to not being able to give a large increase in their annual contract. The Board was all in agreeance. They went over Superintendent Nier's "wish list" for the DPW and removed $10,000 from the rock salt budget and discussed eliminating the part time laborer position that is no longer needed. The Board then discussed the police budget with Police Chief Wood. He asked for an increase in personnel services so they can be present more hours per month; the Board increased personnel services to $45,000.

Water fund – Clerk-Treasurer Simpson stated that there were no major changes in the water budget. The Board went over Superintendent Nier's "wish list" for water and saw no room for improvements/cuts.

Sewer fund – Clerk-Treasurer Simpson increased capital charge on taxes to $308/EDU and increased the quarterly minimum sewer rate to $66 per the 2026 Route 3 Sewer Corridor & Development Authority of the North Country Administrative Operating Protocol.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Daily to set public hearing #1 at 6PM in regards to Local Law #1 to override the tax cap and set public hearing #2 at 6:15PM in regards to the 2026-2027 tentative budget. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board discussed W.B. Payne holding position as the village's health insurance broker; they are not happy with the lack of communication.

Trustee Daily will call and have a conversation with Bill Payne; he deals with the health insurance policies within their company.

They mentioned inviting Benefits Plus to an upcoming meeting to present options they have available to the Village.

The Board discussed the Rt 3 Sewer Corridor Administrative Operating Protocol and the process for reimbursements/adjustments on sewer bills.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer

Village of Black River
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
March 2, 2026

Mayor Leonard called the regular meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

Present:
Mayor David Leonard
Trustee Bonnie Proven
Trustee David Daily
Trustee Corey Decillis
Trustee Randy Lake
Superintendent Eric Nier
Clerk-Treasurer Abigail Simpson
Police Chief Steven Wood
Code Enforcement Officer Terry Ault

Excused:

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Decillis to approve the minutes of the 2/2/26 regular meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment:
LeRay Town Supervisor, Lee Carpenter, was present to discuss the towns water rate increase on their January bill. Clerk-Treasurer Simpson stated that she is waiting on a response from NYCOM after a conversation with Mr. Carpenter earlier that day. This topic was tabled until the April meeting. He also mentioned a letter he received from a resident in regards to a sewer adjustment and stated that was handled on the villages end.

There was a conversation around reimbursements for sewer and how DANC handles reimbursing the village. Trustee Decillis asked for a copy of the original Rt 3 Sewer Corridor contract.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Lake to write a letter to DANC in regards to the process of issuing refunds for sewer charges. The motion was carried unanimously.

Black River Fire Department, Matt Carpenter, was present with the fire departments annual report. He gave an overview of the report and stated that they had an increase in calls responded to this year; 6000 calls for 2025.

The Board briefly discussed the upcoming budget and asked about any "wish list" the fire department had. Mr. Carpenter stated that they are looking into new mics for radios and a UTV with tracks; they have received many donations and some grants towards the UTV purchase. He also asked to be invited to the next budget meeting.

Black River Ambulance, Jonathan Gaines, was present with the ambulance squads annual report and stated that they had an increase in calls responded to this year; 850 calls for 2025. He mentioned that the ambulance squad has increased their billing rate to $20. Mr. Gaines also mentioned that they have an inspection coming up in March; the first one post covid and there is a new inspector with the Department of Health.

Barton & Loguidice representatives, Matt Cooper and Andrew Smith, were present to discuss the next two steps for the proposed water improvement project; step one: pass the bond resolution and step two: engage in the engineering agreement.

The Board and B&L representatives briefly discussed a few what if scenarios and the possible solutions if those scenarios were to arise. It was also mentioned that a resident may have a spring on their property and that they would be interested in a meeting with the Board.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Lake to amend the bond resolution adopted on June 2, 2025 relating to the construction of various water system improvement.

(see attached amended resolution - pages 5 - 12)

The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Lake to sign Engineering Amendment No. 3 with Barton & Loguidice. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board discussed next steps from here which include; bond anticipation notes, completing the financing application, publishing the bond resolution and passing the permissive referendum period.

Police Department Report: Police Chief Wood stated that Officer Rupert and himself worked a total of 84 hours last month. He provided an update on the new patrol vehicle; they have all of the parts and are working on it but there are 23 other vehicles in the shop.

Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Ault stated that he had issued 0 permits and 1 unregistered vehicle was taken care of. He also mentioned he had been working with a contractor on 2 new multi-unit structures, completing annual fire inspections, filling out a DEC questionnaire and a sewage backup inspection.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Nier stated that the pump at the plant is back in service and the chlorine analyzer is up and going. He mentioned that we are having problems with the well pump not kicking on, he has a new pump on the 2026-2027 budget "wish list" as the old one has over 51,000 hours on it, but Aqua Logics replaced a box so the pump will kick on. Superintendent Nier also stated that the frozen pipes at 108 Stone Drive were fixed.

Correspondence Received:
The Board received and reviewed a response from the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library in regards to a social media post made by a library employee.

The Board received and reviewed a letter from 136 Maple Street asking for forgiveness on their water bill penalties due to a high bill from an unknown water leak while out of town.

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Mayor Leonard to waive the penalties associated with the January 2026 billing cycle. The motion was carried unanimously

The Board received and reviewed a message from Mary Ransome with the Black River Drive-In in regards to utilizing their grounds at no cost for any future flea/farmers' market. The Board was in agreeance that any village event should be held inside of the village but they do appreciate the thought/offer.

Mayor Leonard briefly brought up the idea of a 4th of July celebration; 135 years as a village and 250 years as the United States of America. He mentioned that they will talk more about this at the next Black River Improvement Committee meeting as they could head the event.

The Board received and reviewed a new membership request for the Black River Fire Department for Austin M. Wood and Cameron M. Brooking and a new membership request for the Black River Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program for John Bowers.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Daily to accept the new membership requests for Austin M. Wood and Cameron M. Brooking into the Black River Fire Department and John Bowers into the Black River Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board received and reviewed a letter from NYCOM in regards to temporary municipal assistance.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Mayor Leonard to sign the resolution supporting increased aid to municipalities and strengthening New York's state-local partnership.

(see attached resolution - page 13)

The motion was carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:
The Board discussed the proposed Honey Ridge Solar Project and potentially starting a petition in opposition of their plan.

The Board discussed allowing resident, Eric Armstong, to utilize the Department of Public Works garage on March 28th at 2PM for a demonstration on preparing and caring of lawn/garden equipment. Clerk-Treasurer Simpson will follow up with our insurance company to verify this is something we can do and we are protected if anything was to happen.

New Business:
The Board reviewed the amendments the Black River Planning Board would like to make in the Village Code Book. They proposed altering the Home Occupations 175-16 (c) code to remove prohibited occupations 1-4, 6, & 8-9 and add a single line item to prohibit Hotels, Auto Courts and Motels. Clerk-Treasurer Simpson will send this over to our attorney for editing.

Trustee Daily mentioned that tri-village baseball league sign-ups are scheduled and will be held March 9th and March 24th from 530PM until 7PM at the William C. Dexter American Legion.

The Board briefly discussed how budget was coming with Clerk-Treasurer Simpson and they scheduled a budget meeting for March 11th at 6PM.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Mayor Leonard to authorize the payment of bills on regular monthly abstract dated 3/2/26 in the amount of $80,664.95. (General fund: $30,485.10 Water Fund: $50,179.85). The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer

EXTRACT OF MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the

Village of Black River, in the

County of Jefferson, New York

March 3, 2026

* * *

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Black River, in the County of Jefferson, New York, was held at the Karl J. Vebber Municipal Building, 107 Jefferson Place, Black River, New York, on March 3, 2026.

There were present: David Leonard, Mayor; and

Trustees: Corey Decillis
David Daily
Bonnie Proven
Randy Lake

There were absent:

Also present: Abigail Simpson, Village Clerk

* * *

Trustee Corey Decillis offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF BLACK RIVER, NEW YORK, ADOPTED MARCH 3, 2026, AMENDING THE BOND RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON JUNE 2, 2025 RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Recitals

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Black River, in the County of Jefferson, New York, has heretofore duly authorized the construction of various water system improvements, consisting of new water source development, installation of a bi-directional meter vault to monitor the currently unmetered section of main along Route 3, SCADA system and Route 3 Water Treatment Plant upgrades, and improvements to the Village's distribution system, all as further described in the report prepared by Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C., dated May 2025, at the estimated maximum cost of $9,800,000 pursuant to the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the bond resolution adopted on June 2, 2025 limited the maximum maturity of the bonds to five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village has now determined that it is in the best interests of the Village to amend said bond resolution to authorize bonds with the maximum maturity authorized pursuant to the Local Finance Law for such purpose, forty (40) years, as authorized pursuant to Section 11.00 a. 1 of the Local Finance Law;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BLACK RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, NEW YORK (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all members of said Board of Trustees) AS FOLLOWS:

Section (A) The bond resolution of the Village of Black River duly adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 2, 2025, entitled:

> "Bond Resolution of the Village of Black River, New York, adopted June 2, 2025, authorizing the issuance of bonds in a principal amount not to exceed $9,800,000 to finance the construction of various water system improvements, stating the estimated maximum cost thereof is $9,800,000 and appropriating said amount for such purpose,"

is hereby amended to read as follows:

BOND RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF BLACK RIVER, NEW YORK, ADOPTED JUNE 2, 2025 AND AMENDED MARCH 3, 2026, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $9,800,000 TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS $9,800,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT FOR SUCH PURPOSE

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BLACK RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all the members of said Board of Trustees) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Village of Black River, in the County of Jefferson, New York (herein called the "Village"), is hereby authorized to issue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed $9,800,000 pursuant to the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called the "Law"), to finance the construction of various water system improvements, consisting of new water source development, installation of a bi-directional meter vault to monitor the currently unmetered section of main along Route 3, SCADA system and Route 3 Water Treatment Plant upgrades, and improvements to the Village's distribution system, all as further described in the report prepared by Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C., dated May 2025.

Section 2. The estimated maximum cost of the project described herein, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, is $9,800,000 and said amount is hereby appropriated for such purpose. The plan of financing includes the issuance of

bonds in a principal amount not to exceed $9,800,000 to finance said appropriation, and the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the Village to pay the principal of said bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable. Any funds received from grants and/or other sources are hereby authorized to be applied toward the cost of said project or redemption of the Village's bonds or notes issued therefor, or to be budgeted as an offset to the taxes to be collected for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds or notes. All or part of the cost of the project may be financed through the State of New York Environmental Facilities Corporation pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA), or any other source of funding. The Mayor or his/her designee is hereby authorized to submit any necessary applications on behalf of the Village and/or perform any and all acts necessary or required to arrange for financing of the project through bonds, notes, loans, grants or any other sources.

Section 3. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The period of probable usefulness applicable to the object or purpose for which said bonds are authorized to be issued, within the limitations of Section 11.00 a. 1 of the Law, is forty (40) years.

(b) The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, may be applied to reimburse the Village for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said bonds are authorized. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department.

(c) The proposed maturity of the bonds authorized by this resolution will exceed five (5) years.

Section 4. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and said bonds, and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, shall be general obligations of the Village, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the Village. The faith and credit of the Village are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds, and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the Village by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Law and pursuant to the provisions of Section 21.00 of the Law relative to the authorization of bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, Section 30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and Section 50.00 and Sections 56.00 to 60.00 and Section 168.00 of the Law, the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees relative to authorizing bond anticipation notes and prescribing the terms, form and contents and as to the sale and issuance of the bonds herein authorized, and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, and the renewals of said bond anticipation notes, and as to the execution of credit enhancement agreements, are hereby delegated to the Village Treasurer, the chief fiscal officer of the Village.

Section 6. The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution, and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the Village is not authorized to expend money, or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution, or a summary thereof, are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7. This bond resolution is subject to a permissive referendum and the Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed, within ten (10) days after the adoption of this resolution, to publish or cause to be published, in full, in the official newspaper of the Village, having a general circulation within said Village, and posted in at least six (6) public places and in each polling place in the Village, a Notice in substantially the form appearing in Exhibit A hereto.

Section 8. The Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed, after said bond resolution shall take effect, to cause said bond resolution to be published, in summary, in the official newspaper of the Village, having a general circulation within said Village, together with a Notice in substantially the form as provided by Section 81.00 of the Law.

Section (B) The amendment of the bond resolution as set forth in Section (A) of this resolution shall in no way affect the validity of any liabilities incurred, obligations issued, or action taken pursuant to said bond resolution prior to amendment, and all such liabilities incurred, obligations issued, or action taken shall be deemed to have been incurred, issued or taken pursuant to said bond resolution, as amended.

Section (C) Said bond resolution, as amended, is subject to a permissive referendum as therein provided. In the event that a valid petition protesting against said bond resolution and

requesting that it be submitted to the electors of said Village for their approval or disapproval is filed and the Proposition submitted therefor is defeated, the validity of the bond resolution adopted on June 2, 2025, shall not be in any way affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

* * *

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

The resolution was declared adopted.

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED AID TO MUNICIPALITIES AND STRENGTHENING NEW YORK'S STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul released her 30-day amendments to the Executive Budget, which include an additional $100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA) to be allocated in the same manner as in the past two years; and

WHEREAS, these additional investments reflect a recognition that New York's strength begins in its cities, villages, and towns, and that a strong state-local partnership is essential to delivering the services, infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life that residents expect and deserve; and

WHEREAS, local governments across New York continue to face mounting fiscal pressures driven by inflation, increased service demands, infrastructure needs, and rising operational costs, while striving to provide relief to taxpayers amid a rising cost of living; and

WHEREAS, NYCOM Executive Director Barbara Van Epps, along with mayors from across the State, testified at the Local Government Joint Budget Hearing in Albany, advocating for increased unrestricted aid and a strengthened state-local partnership; and

WHEREAS, the additional $100 million in TMA will offer meaningful assistance to many municipalities statewide, helping to address fiscal challenges and maintain essential services for residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Black River applauds Governor Hochul for recognizing the importance of investing in local governments and for reaffirming her commitment to strengthening New York's cities and villages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Black River urges the New York State Legislature to include, at a minimum, this additional $100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance in the adopted state budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Black River calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to develop a more permanent and predictable solution for unrestricted municipal aid to ensure long-term fiscal stability for New York's local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the members of the State Legislature representing the Village of Black River.