

Board of Trustees
Village of Black River



Agenda
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2026

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of the 1/5/2026 regular meeting
- Public Comment
- Police Department Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Superintendent's Report

Correspondence Received:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A) Landmark Dividend | <u>Re:</u> Cell Tower Lease |
| B) Barton & Loguidice | <u>Re:</u> Engineering Consultant Services |
| C) Black River Fire Department | <u>Re:</u> New Membership |
| D) Black River Fire Department | <u>Re:</u> 2026 Elected Officials |

Correspondence Sent:

- A) NONE

Unfinished Business:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A) Honey Ridge Solar Project | <u>Re:</u> Attorney Responses |
| B) RACOG | <u>Re:</u> Membership |

New Business:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| A) D.A.N.C. | <u>Re:</u> Services Available to Municipal Partners |
| B) NY Department of State | <u>Re:</u> Local Government Efficiency Program |

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

Village of Black River
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
January 5, 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
Superintendent Eric Nier
Clerk-Treasurer Abigail Simpson
Police Chief Steven Wood
Code Enforcement Officer Terry Ault

Excused:

Trustee Randy Lake

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Mayor Leonard to approve the minutes of the 12/1/25 regular meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Barton & Loguidice representatives, Matt Cooper and Andrew Smith, were present to give an update on the proposed water improvement project. Mr. Cooper stated that the Village was given the best-case scenario; approved for the 5-million-dollar IJA federal grant thru NYS combined with a 0% interest loan on remaining project costs. He mentioned that next steps include a bond anticipation note, completing the financing application and adopting a “real” bond resolution. He also stated that this is a lengthy process but the project is funded and progressing. Matt will lead the way and provide monthly updates during the next phases.

Resident Carl Culbertson of North Main Street attended and spoke up about the great work done by the Department of Public Works replacing and fixing a water line near his home. He stated that he called about weak water pressure and next thing you knew they were there; they have a great crew with a quick response time and he was very impressed.

Resident Gregory Whealton of Pine Drive presented the Board with a letter asking for forgiveness on his January water/sewer bill. He received a large bill due to a leak that sprung and has now been fixed.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Daily to adjust Mr. Whealton’s January 2026 water/sewer bill to the average of his previous bills. The motion was carried unanimously.

Police Department Report: Police Chief Wood stated that Officer Rupert and himself worked a total of 19 days/127 hours last month. The department participated in Shop with a Cop and the Black River Christmas Parade. He also provided an update on the new patrol vehicle; the completion date is set for January 14th and he has to work out delivery details but the vehicle is registered and insured at this time.

Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Ault stated that he had issued 1 permit last month, made several phone calls on snow/ice removal from sidewalks, issued 2 violations for unregistered vehicles and attended two fire calls, one for a gas leak and another for water running into a panel box. He also attended the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition meeting in regards to the MS4 and stated that it was interesting and that there is a lot of confusion.

The Board discussed a property located on West Remington Street that appears to be abandoned and what to do in regards to the snow/ice removal from its sidewalk. There were questions around what it is zoned as (residential or commercial) and it was advised to contact Jefferson County's attorney about this property.

The Board also discussed the old library as a resident mentioned a sibling was interested in opening a bakery in there. Mayor Leonard stated that we will write a letter to the owner asking what his intentions are with the building.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Mayor Leonard to set the fee structure for snow/ice removal for sidewalks at \$150 per our code. The motion was carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Nier stated that the DPW worked with NCC to fix a water leak at 139 N. Main Street that was causing weak water pressure and they have kept busy plowing roads this month. He also mentioned that DPW Laborer, Robert Flint, passed his CDL permit test and got approved for the funding program through the WorkPlace.

Correspondence Received:

The Board received and reviewed a letter from JCIDA in regards to the Uniform Tax Exemption Policy (UTEF).

Mayor Leonard questioned if the Village should hire an attorney that specializes in solar as we are fighting against the state on this.

Trustee Daily stated that we need to do whatever it takes to hold this off.

Mayor Leonard will try to attend the Public Hearing that will be held on January 8th at 8:00 AM.

The Board received and reviewed a new membership request for the Black River Fire Department for Dylan Escudero and a new membership request for the Black River Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program for Jacob Williams.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to accept the new membership requests for Dylan Escudero into the Black River Fire Department and Jacob Williams into the Black River Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board received and reviewed an email from George Birth with Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition in regards to annual report deadlines and scheduling meetings with every involved municipality.

The Board would like Clerk-Treasurer Simpson to contact Mr. Birth to get clarification on the annual reports and what needs to be done with them on our end.

Unfinished Business:

The Board discussed a phone call the office received from RACOG representative, Mickey Dietrich, in regards to joining the council.

The Board has decided to table this topic until further notice.

New Business:

The Board discussed a phone call the office received from the resident of 103 Beaumont Avenue in regards to falling trees. She stated that there are trees on her neighbor's property that worry her during wind storms to the point that she leaves her home, but she is unable to get in contact with that neighbor to find a solution.

The Board looked up who owns the neighboring property and stated that they will have to talk to Code Enforcement Officer Ault about this matter.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Daily to authorize the payment of bills on regular monthly abstract dated 1/5/26 in the amount of \$148,104.87. (General fund: \$79,417.28 Water Fund: \$30,394.19 Sewer Fund: \$38,293.40). The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer