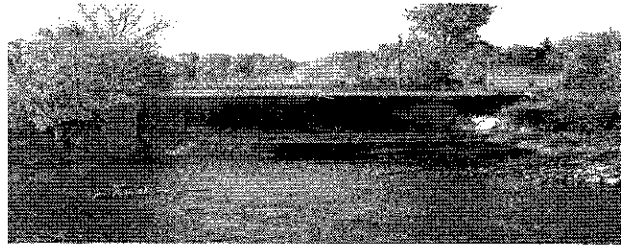


Board of Trustees
Village of Black River



Agenda
Regular Meeting
January 5, 2026

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of the 12/1/2025 regular meeting minutes
- Public Comment
- Police Department Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Superintendent's Report

Correspondence Received:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| A) JCIDA | <u>Re:</u> Uniform Tax Exemption Policy (UTEP) |
| B) Department of Health | <u>Re:</u> Water Project Funding |
| C) Black River Fire Department | <u>Re:</u> New Membership |
| D) George Birth – Jefferson County | <u>Re:</u> Stormwater Meetings |

Correspondence Sent:

- A) NONE

Unfinished Business:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| A) River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) | <u>Re:</u> Joining the Council |
|--|--------------------------------|

New Business:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A) 102 West Remington Street | <u>Re:</u> Abandoned Property |
| B) 103 Beaumont Avenue | <u>Re:</u> Falling Trees |

- 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
December 1, 2025

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 Randy Lake
Superintendent Eric Nier
Clerk-Treasurer Abigail Simpson
Police Chief Steven Wood
Code Enforcement Officer Terry Ault

Excused:

Trustee Corey Decillis

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Lake to approve the minutes of the 11/03/25 regular meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Barton & Loguidice representative, Matt Cooper, was present to give an update on the financing for the proposed water improvement project. He informed the Village Board that the WIIA grant application was not submitted on time and that “the ball was dropped” on their end but stated the Village is still in the running for IJA “BILL” grant with a score of 75 from the state. Representative Cooper also made the Board aware that any time and effort put into these applications has not been wasted and that they will use the same information next year if not awarded funding this time around.

River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) representative, Mickey Dietrich, presented the Board with a copy of their December Municipal Management Monthly Announcements and their COG (Council of Governments) Benefits. He shared that this council was formed in 2000 and that it is shared between Lewis and Jefferson Counties; it started with 5 municipalities and now has 14 municipalities involved. This council is utilized as an immediate resource for many things and they often bounce ideas and/or concerns off of the Tug Hill Commission.

Black River Improvement Committee (B.R.I.C.) Member, Carrie Bernard, was present to discuss the Hometown Hero Program. She stated that informational flyers with an application attached are available at the Village Office. The cost will be \$185 per order; that covers the flag, the bracket to hang it and the shipping. Completed applications can be dropped off at the Village Office or you can mail them to Carrie’s home address, she is not accepting emails this time. The cut-off day for the next order is January 5th, 2026 in hopes of receiving them three to four weeks before displaying them on poles.

Black River Improvement Committee (B.R.I.C.) Member, Melissa Liversedge, was present and expressed that the legion had received many new toys through Toys for Tots. She stated that there are roughly 30 to 40 toys ranging in all age groups to go to kids in need here in the Village. They are currently trying to determine how they are selecting the kids and when/where this giveaway will take place. She also mentioned that the legion is doing a Christmas decorating contest and providing 3 gift certificates to the top three houses; a few of the B.R.I.C. members will be judging the contest.

Mayor Leonard stated that the Black River Improvement Committee needs to set a date going forward for their monthly meetings; the first Wednesday of the month at 6 PM was discussed.

Police Department Report: Police Chief Wood stated that Officer Rupert and himself worked a total of 112 hours last month. They worked Halloween weekend and did 17 hours of DWI patrol. Police Chief Wood participated in some late-night foot patrol on West Street and West Remington Street due to recent car break-ins and did radar checks on Maple Street, LeRay Street, State Route 3, North Main Street, South Main Street and Howe Street. He also stated that computer updates have been completed, radars have been recertified and the new patrol vehicle is still on track to be delivered end of December/early January.

Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Ault stated that he had issued 4 permits and 5 violations. Violations can result in a fine up to \$250 if not taken care of and they would need to appear at the Town of LeRay or the Town of Rutland Court depending on property location.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Nier stated that the DPW is done collecting leaves for the season, all of the Christmas lights are up around the Village, all of our road salt has been delivered and that the heater in the Village Office and the pump station were replaced. He also mentioned that recycling falls on Christmas day and asked to move it to the 23rd; the office and DPW would like to close at noon on the 24th and use a Floating Holiday for Friday the 26th (weather depending). Mayor Leonard and the Board agreed to the changes.

Correspondence Received:

The Board received and reviewed an email from resident Levi Brownell in regards to his F.O.I.L requests and a meeting.

Village attorney, Henry Leader, was present and recommended going thru with the F.O.I.L requests but to keep full transparency and keep it public. He would like the Village to acknowledge Mr. Brownell's requests and give a time frame of when he could expect to receive this information. Attorney Leader also advised to process all requests thru him before sending.

Resident Paul Shepard spoke up and asked how much all of this will cost the Village? He prefers tax dollars were not "wasted" on this matter as the lawyer is now involved at \$195 per hour.

The Board received and reviewed a letter from Bond Schoeneck & King in regards to Case 25-T-0195 – Petition of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation DBA National Grid for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

The Board received and reviewed a letter from the Department of Public Service in regards to a Public Statement Hearing.

The Board received and reviewed a new membership request for the Black River Fire Department for Anthony Perusquia.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to accept the new membership request for Anthony Perusquia into the Black River Fire Department. The motion was carried unanimously.

Correspondence Sent:

NONE

Unfinished Business:

The Board discussed adding our new Planning Board Member, Allan Mace, to the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Lake to adopt the below resolution:

***WHEREAS**, the Black River Village Board of Trustees has the authority under its Bylaws to appoint members to its standing committees; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan Committee requires additional expertise to effectively fulfill its duties; and*

***WHEREAS**, Allan Mace with significant experience has expressed willingness to serve;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. That Allan Mace is hereby appointed as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, effective November 3rd, 2025, to serve at the pleasure of the Board.*
- 2. That the duties and responsibilities of the Comprehensive Plan Committee remain as outlined in the Committee Charter.*
- 3. That the officers of the Corporation are authorized to take all necessary actions to implement this resolution.*

ADOPTED AND CERTIFIED by the Board of Trustees on this date, as attested by the undersigned Clerk-Treasurer.

ADOPTED by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board discussed a request from the Comprehensive Plan Committee in regards to survey expenses; they are asking for an allowance of up to \$1000 to cover postcards and postage for an upcoming SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) session.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to allow the Comprehensive Plan Committee up to a one-thousand-dollar allowance to cover postcards and postage costs for an upcoming SWOT session. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board discussed an email received from Community Bank representative, Bob Tackman, in regards to the development of their property. He stated that the property should be listed sometime in December or January. Mayor Leonard will be reaching out to local developers to talk potential options.

It was asked if Watertown Savings Bank was interested; the answer was no.

It was asked who owns the property to the left of the bank; the answer was Community Bank according to the Tax Map.

New Business:

NONE

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Mayor Leonard to authorize the payment of bills on regular monthly abstract dated 12/1/25 in the amount of \$64,604.71. (General fund: \$52,906.21 Water Fund: \$11,698.50). The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to approve and adopt the list of annual appointments and the annual agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Mayor Leonard to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer