Board of Trustees
Village of Black River

Agenda
Regular Meeting
August 3, 2026

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of the 7/6/2026 regular meeting
- Public Comment
- Police Department Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Superintendent's Report

Correspondence Received:

A) OneDigital – Thomas Penn — Re: Employee Benefits (Health Insurance)
B) Barton & Loguidice — Re: Combined Test Well Locations
C) Howard Huber — Re: 106 Pine Drive – Water Bill
D) Jefferson County Department of Planning — Re: Public Transit (JCPT)
E) Jefferson County Board of Legislators — Re: Resolution No. 204
F) Williamson Law Book Company — Re: Annual Software Support fee increase
G) Mickey Dietrich – RACOG — Re: SuperCOG Meeting

Correspondence Sent:

A) NONE

Unfinished Business:

A) NONE

New Business:

A) NONE

- 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
July 6, 2026

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

Present:	Excused:
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	

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Decillis to approve the minutes of the 6/1/26 regular meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment:
Resident Eric Armstrong was present and approached the Board about who the owner of Poors Island is, tree limbs hanging over sidewalks causing people to have to duck while walking and confirmation of the leash law within the Village.

The Board responded with the following; the owner of Poors Island is Brookfield Power; the Board gives permission for the DPW to trim any limbs hanging low over/obstructing sidewalks and asked for a reminder to be put out on Village signs along with an IRIS alert about the leash law.

R.A.C.O.G representative, Mickey Dietrich, was present to provide the Board with an update from the last meeting. He stated that the September meeting is still TBD but they are planning a dinner meeting, they are actively looking for more associates and he touched on the fact that the Tug Hill Commission can assist with grant writing for free. Mr. Dietrich also provided an update on the student activity and outreach program.

Black River Ambulance, Jonathan Gaines, was present and supplied the Board with the monthly squad report. He stated that they have two new applicants that are volunteer hires and that there is a continued issue with cancellations/standbys. Mr. Gaines also made the Board aware that the squad decided to absorb the cost of the CPR training employees recently completed and that the certification is good for two years.

Resident Carrie Bernhard was present and approached the Board about allowing installment payments on Village taxes; 3 separate smaller payments that may be easier for some residents to pay.

The Board briefly discussed what this process would look like and asked Clerk-Treasurer Simpson to follow up on this with Jefferson County and the Village Attorney.

Summer Recreation Assistant, Francesca Kuehnle, was present to discuss the upcoming 2026 Summer Recreation Program along with the new sign-in/sign-out requirement. She stated that both assistants are on the same page and feel comfortable with every child, no matter the age, needing to be signed in and signed out by a parent or guardian.

The Board discussed looking into how other local municipalities run their recreation programs and the rules they have in place along with contacting our attorney for legal advice.

Police Department Report: Police Chief Wood stated that Officer Rupert and himself worked a total of 82 hours last month and that they participated in annual range along with completing the taser recertification. He also mentioned there were 12 complaints, 7 stops and 3 tickets issued last month and that they were given $2000 in DWI money from the County to work additional hours.

Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Ault stated that he had issued 6 permits, issued 10 lawncare violations and handled 2 complaints. He also mentioned that he attended the Stormwater Coalition (MS4) meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Nier stated that they got the slide fixed at the Maple Street Park and replaced any street/village signs around the Village that needed it. He also asked the Board if they would allow him to take the DPW employees to a water conference in Alexandria Bay on August 14th; the Board approved.

Correspondence Received:
Community Outreach Program representative, Judy Wallace, presented the Board with a letter requesting permission to hold a senior outreach program at the Village Offices once a week on Thursdays from 12PM until 3PM. The Program partners with Jefferson County Office of the Aging which provides hot, nutritious lunches at no cost to Jefferson County residents who are 60 years of age or older.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to allow the Jefferson County Office of the Aging to utilize the Village Office meeting room on Thursdays to host a Senior Outreach Program between 12PM and 3PM. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board received and reviewed a new proposal for lawncare from Smitty's Property Service.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to accept the new lawncare proposal for Smitty's Property Service to take care of lawn violations for $85 per hour. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in regards to an unpaid balance on a federal tax payment from 12/31/2022.

The Board received and reviewed a proposed premium rate change letter from Excellus BCBS. They also discussed the lack in follow through Paynes Insurance has had with the Village; they would like Clerk-Treasurer Simpson to contact additional brokers or employee benefit service companies in the area.

The Board received and reviewed an easement option agreement from Coates Field Services INC/National Grid.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Lake to sign the easement option agreement with National Grid pertaining to a piece of property on the road to the water reservoir. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board received and reviewed the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

The Board received a written complaint from a resident, Belinda Oliveau, of Stone Drive. The Board would like a response letter sent acknowledging their concerns.

The Board received and reviewed an email from Stormwater Coalition representative, Sarah Trick, in regards to a MS4 mapping grant.

The Board received and reviewed an email from Bank of Greene County representative, Donald MacCormack, in regards to a potential Bond Anticipation Note (BAN).

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Lake to move forward with Bank of Greene County for the closing of the $1,000,000 Bond Anticipation Note scheduled on July 15th, 2026. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board received and reviewed a public notice from NYS Public Service Commission.

Unfinished Business:

The Board discussed the time frame residents have after receiving a lawncare violation; they will monitor the number of violations and length of time to correct the violation throughout this summer and reevaluate at a later meeting.

The Board briefly discussed retaining a grant writer to complete future grants for the Village when needed; Trustee Proven stated that Tug Hill Commission will do any grant writing for their members (we are a member) free of charge.

The Board received and reviewed an email from Barton & Loguidice in regards to potential test well sites along with an overall project update; next steps are to draft letters to all property owners including the test site map provided and have agreements drafted by the Village attorney.

New Business:

The Board briefly discussed blocking off Village property on Public Square due to non-authorized vehicles parking on it; the Board would like a letter sent to the owner of the apartment that has residents parking on the property.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to block off the Village property located on Public Square with 'No Parking' signs on posts and a rope along with sending a letter to the owner of the apartments utilizing the property as parking. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the Village Historian and the space available for him to display historical archives. Trustee Proven mentioned that the space provided at the library is no longer sufficient and that there are grants available for this kind of matter.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Daily to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal or a particular person or corporation. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to exit out of executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal or a particular person or corporation. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Mayor Leonard to promote Department of Public Works employee, Jason Cullen, to Assistant Superintendent effective immediately including a $2 per hour increase in pay. The motion was carried unanimously.

A resident located on LeRay Street asked if there is a policy on chickens within the Village; his wife is interested in having chickens for personal use.

The Board stated that per the Code of the Village of Black River, chickens are not allowed within Village limits. They briefly discussed creating a forum for open discussion on this topic and letting the residents decide. They also mentioned getting Code Enforcement and the Village of Black River Planning Board involved.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Daily to authorize the payment of bills on regular monthly abstract dated 7/6/26 in the amount of $106,022.04. (General fund: $82,484.78 Water Fund: $12,738.05 Sewer Fund: $10,799.21). The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer