Board of Trustees

Village of Black River

Agenda
Regular Meeting
November 2, 2026

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of the 10/5/2026 regular meeting and 10/26/2026 special meeting
- Public Comment
- Police Department Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Superintendent's Report

Correspondence Received:

A) Barton & Loguidice — Re: Water Project Update
B) Case & Leader — Re: Moratorium – Data Centers
C) National Grid/JR Russo — Re: NYSDEC Letter of Authorization
D) National Grid — Re: Part 1 – 115kV Transmission Rebuild
E) Jefferson County/Mike Bagley — Re: Purchasing Connection

Correspondence Sent:

A) NONE

Unfinished Business:

A) Employee Benefits

New Business:

B) DPW Employee Structure
C) Library Annual Contract
D) Tax Exemption for EMS/Fire

- 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
October 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
Trustee Randy Lake
Superintendent Eric Nier
Clerk-Treasurer Abigail Simpson
Police Chief Steven Wood

Excused:

Approval Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Decillis to approve the minutes of the 9/14/2026 regular board meeting. All in favor.

Public Comment

A discussion was held regarding comments made at a previous meeting suggesting that the Village of Black River had historically been perceived as unfriendly toward business development or anti-business.

A resident expressed concern regarding this statement and reviewed several businesses that had operated within the Village over the years. The resident noted that various business closures resulted from factors outside the Village's control, including changing economic conditions, business decisions and changes in access to Fort Drum.

Mayor Leonard discussed ongoing efforts to encourage economic development and attract new businesses to the Village. He highlighted recent and potential development opportunities, including the possible reopening of commercial properties, improvements to existing buildings and potential development along the Route 3 corridor.

Mayor Leonard also discussed efforts to assist a proposed pizza shop owner with obtaining updated engineering plans at a reduced cost, allowing additional resources to be directed toward building improvements.

The Board emphasized its support for business development and expressed a desire to continue encouraging commercial investment and revitalization within the Village.

This resident also reported that the Town of LeRay recently changed fuel suppliers to Christman Fuel and was paying approximately $4.93 per gallon for diesel and $3.07 per gallon for gasoline.

The Board discussed the Village's current fuel expenses and the possibility of obtaining more competitive pricing through an alternative supplier. They expressed interest in exploring the potential cost savings before making a final determination.

RACOG Report

A representative from the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) provided the following updates:

- *Annual Dinner Meeting*: The next RACOG Board meeting and annual dinner was scheduled for October 21, 2026, at Tug Hill Estates. County representatives were expected to provide presentations.
- *Associate Circuit Riders*: RACOG continues to seek an additional associate circuit rider to assist with its growing workload.
- *Student Government Activity Program*: RACOG is coordinating with BOCES and area school districts to provide students with an interactive educational program focused on local government operations, community planning, and civic engagement. Local government officials were encouraged to participate as mentors.
- *Website Development*: RACOG is working on an updated website with the goal of having it available for the annual dinner meeting.
- *Infrastructure Funding Roundtable*: Discussions are underway with the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center regarding a potential infrastructure funding roundtable in April or May 2027. Mayor Leonard expressed interest in including sidewalk infrastructure and funding opportunities.
- *Regional Summit*: RACOG is exploring a summit involving regional organizations to identify common challenges and opportunities for collaboration.
- *Monthly Community Reports*: RACOG has implemented monthly reporting tools to identify municipal projects, needs and challenges and encourage cooperation between communities.
- *Project Closeout Summaries*: A new reporting process will allow municipalities to share completed project information, including funding sources, partnerships and lessons learned.
- *Training Opportunities*: Information was provided regarding upcoming municipal training sessions, including a fire protection workshop scheduled for October.

Police Department Report

The Police Department presented its monthly report:

- *Monthly Activity*: The department reported 19 working days during September and approximately 96 hours of service. Officers participated in community activities, including a block party and a Blue Mass ceremony. They continue to monitor traffic activity and maintain records of radar enforcement locations.
- *Equipment Replacement*: The department reported that its current Taser equipment, purchased in approximately 2012, is becoming obsolete and will no longer be supported for training purposes after the upcoming year. Replacement costs have increased

substantially, with newer models estimated at approximately $4,500 per unit. The department will continue exploring funding assistance and budget options for future replacement. The department also discussed the condition of its protective body armor. While the protective panels remain serviceable, the outer carriers have experienced wear and deterioration. Replacement carriers were estimated at approximately $250 each.

Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement Officer Ault's report was reviewed and read by Mayor Leonard.

The report included:

- 2 permits issued
- 5 inspections conducted
- 1 certificate of conformance issued
- 3 lawncare violations issued

The Board discussed ongoing concerns regarding the condition of a residential property within the Village, particularly the deteriorating roof and porch.

Mayor Leonard reported that he had contacted a community housing organization in the Watertown area to explore potential grant assistance for necessary repairs.

The Board acknowledged the safety concerns associated with the property and discussed continuing efforts to assist the property owners in identifying available resources.

Superintendents Report

DPW Superintendent Nier provided the Board with an update on activities and operations completed during September 2026:

- ***Spring House***: Reported that the spring house was vented
- ***Water Leak***: Reported a water leak at 29038 State Route 3
- ***Brush Collection***: Provided an update regarding brush collection throughout the Village
- ***Personnel***: Informed the Board that Robert Flint submitted his two-week notice

Correspondence Received

The Board acknowledged receipt of a resignation letter from Robert Flint, MEO, effective October 16, 2026. Mr. Flint expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work for the Village and provided two weeks' notice.

Unfinished Business

The Board was advised that a resident, Eric Armstrong, would conduct a small engine repair and maintenance demonstration at the Department of Public Works on October 17, 2026. The required liability waivers and documentation would be utilized as previously established.

The Board discussed an inconsistency between the Village Code and existing winter parking restriction signs. It was noted that the Village Code establishes an April 1st expiration date for

winter parking restrictions while street signs indicate April 15th. The Board considered the expense and administrative requirements associated with amending the Village Code compared with correcting the existing signs.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that the signage should be updated to reflect the existing Village Code. The use of reflective materials to correct the dates on existing signs was discussed as a cost-effective option.

New Business

The Board discussed a request forwarded by the Planning Board to consider amending the Village's existing regulations to permit the operation of ATVs, UTVs and golf carts within Village limits.

Board members reviewed the history of the existing restrictions and discussed concerns regarding public safety, enforcement capabilities and limited access to established recreational trail systems.

Police Chief Wood provided input regarding enforcement challenges, including the operation of unregistered motor vehicles on public roadways, underage operators and individuals operating vehicles recklessly. He noted that enforcement discretion is exercised when appropriate but emphasized the importance of maintaining clear regulations.

Following discussion, the Board reached a consensus that the existing regulations should remain unchanged. No action was taken to amend the current law.

Mayor Leonard reported that he had been in contact with Upstate Medical Center regarding bringing its mobile breast exam bus to the Village of Black River. The screening unit is scheduled to visit the Village on April 28, 2027 and will be utilizing the municipal parking lot.

The Board reviewed a proposed purchase agreement associated with property being considered for the Village's water improvement project. The agreement includes a contingency requiring confirmation of a sufficient water supply for Village needs. The Board discussed the possibility of drilling operations beginning before winter conditions prevent the work, provided the necessary agreements are finalized.

The Board reviewed a sample local law establishing a temporary moratorium on data center development, based on legislation considered by a neighboring municipality.

Discussion included concerns regarding the potential impact of large-scale data centers on municipal infrastructure, water resources, land use and future development. Board members acknowledged that certain industrial locations may be more appropriate for these facilities than residential or other areas of the Village.

The Board discussed the benefits of a temporary moratorium to allow time for evaluating potential impacts and developing appropriate zoning and land-use regulations. They also discussed consulting with the Village Attorney to review the proposed language and determine the necessary legal procedures, including a public hearing.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Lake to proceed with the process of considering a temporary moratorium on data center development, subject to legal review and applicable public hearing requirements. All in favor.

The Board briefly discussed the proposed sidewalk improvements near the school.

Mayor Leonard indicated that the Village would continue exploring grant funding opportunities and assistance through regional planning organizations. The proposed improvements are also being considered as part of the Village's ongoing Comprehensive Plan process.

Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Decillis to authorize the payment of bills on regular monthly abstract dated 10/5/26 in the amount of $145,158.25. (General fund: $131,366.32 Water Fund: $13,791.93). All in favor.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Lake to enter 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 of a particular person or corporation. All in favor.

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to exit executive session from discussing 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 of a particular person or corporation. All in favor.

Following executive session, the Board discussed the Village's existing personnel policy requiring an employee to provide 30 days' notice of resignation to qualify for payment of accrued vacation benefits.

The Board determined that the 30-day requirement was more appropriate for supervisory and leadership positions and that a two-week notice was reasonable for non-management employees.

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Lake to approve payment of Robert Flint's accrued vacation time following his resignation and to amend the Village's personnel policy to require: management and supervisory employees to provide 30 days' notice of resignation and non-management employees to provide two weeks' notice of resignation. All in favor.

The Board discussed applications received for the vacant MEO position. Several applications had been submitted following the posting of the vacancy.

Board members briefly discussed potential candidates and agreed to allow additional time for applications before scheduling interviews. The Village will continue reviewing applications and coordinate interviews when ready.

During the personnel discussion, Board members expressed appreciation for Robert Flint's service and noted his improved performance and professionalism. The Board discussed documenting his eligibility for future reemployment in his personnel file should an appropriate opportunity become available.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer

Village of Black River
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
October 26, 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 Corey Decillis
Superintendent Eric Nier
Clerk-Treasurer Abigail Simpson

Excused:
Trustee Randy Lake

Purpose of Meeting
The Board convened in special session to discuss interviews for a Department of Public Works position and determine whether to proceed with hiring or continue interviewing applicants.

DPW Candidate Review
The Board reviewed the candidates interviewed for the position. Members expressed a favorable impression of Zeb Stevens and considered him a good fit. Curtis Williams was also viewed favorably as a potential worker, with possible consideration for a laborer position. Joseph Slabchuck was discussed as another candidate. One applicant did not appear for their interview.

A motion was made by Trustee Daily, seconded by Mayor Leonard to hire Zeb Stevens as a laborer at a rate of $22.00 per hour. All in favor.

New Business
A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Daily to adjust Resident, Richard Mack, 2026 tax bill to remove all penalties/interest. All in favor.

Adjournment
A motion was made by Mayor Leonard, seconded by Trustee Decillis to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Simpson
Clerk-Treasurer