



VILLAGE OF CHITTENANGO

222 Genesee Street
Chittenango, New York

Minutes

May 20, 2026

Special Meeting of Village Board of Trustees to Adopt Home Rule Request Legislation

Meeting Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

At 9:00AM the meeting was called to order. Present were Trustee Melinda Kopp, Trustee Dana Kent, Trustee Ed Gratien, Mayor Lou Cianfrocco, Village Administrator Robert Freunschdt and Village Clerk Karen Hawkins. Trustee Russell Wehner was absent.

New Business – Consideration of Home Rule Request Resolution supporting New York State Legislation Authorizing the Provisional Appointment and Civil Service Examination Eligibility of Christopher Walser for the Position of Village Police Officer

Mayor Cianfrocco provided Christopher Walser's qualifications and explained that currently Mr. Walser is a part time Police Officer with the Chittenango Village Police Department. He is 46 years old and therefore not eligible to take the civil service examination. New York State Civil Service Law provides that an individual must be at least 20 years of age and no more than 43 years of age to take the written examination for Police Officer. The purpose of the Home Rule Request is to obtain approval from the New York State Legislature to waive the age issue allowing Officer Walser to take the civil service examination in order to be eligible for a full time Police Officer position in the Village Police Department. In order to expedite this process the Mayor has arranged for someone from Senator Griffo's Office to pick up the adopted Home Rule Request Resolution and the completed Legislative Home Rule Request forms and drive them to Albany. (Time is of the essence because the Legislative Session ends June 4th and will not resume until January). Walser will still need to pass the test to get on the eligibles list, but he has guaranteed the Village 3 years of employment.

Trustee Kent made a motion to adopt the Home Rule Request Resolution. Trustee Gratien seconded the motion. A roll call was taken with three Trustees and the Mayor voting in the affirmative. Trustee Wehner was absent for the voting. The Home Rule Request Resolution was adopted by majority vote.

Adjournment

At 9:12AM Trustee Kopp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Gratien seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
Special meeting adjourned at 9:13AM



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Other Business

Following the special meeting, Mr. Freunscht provided the Board with an update regarding the NY Forward Grant. People will be getting a letter providing next steps in the process. The priority now is to get the Rec Center started since the State has advised it will probably be a year before any contract will be received for the municipal projects. The other two projects will be put on hold for now. Mr. Freunscht advised that 10-20% of money allotted for the Rec Center can be used to hire an administrative consultant and for a design consultant. Projects need to employ 30% women owned and/or minority owned businesses.

There is a \$315,000 small projects fund. A consultant will be needed for that, too. Previous applicants that did not make the cut will be allowed to reapply. A small projects committee will be established to choose the small projects.

New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) can assist with housing and not for profit projects. Empire State Development can assist with for profit projects. These entities may help move projects along more quickly than the State.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hawkins
Village Clerk