

The regular meeting of the Village of Margaretville Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Hubbell at 5:00pm on February 18, 2025, in the Village Offices, 773 Main St., Margaretville, NY. The following members were in attendance.

John Hubbell	Mayor
Dave Budin	Trustee
Iris Mead	Trustee
Jeffrey Warren	Trustee
Sarah Hubbell	Trustee

Also in attendance:

Diane Galusha
Eleanor Preiss
Carol and Phil O'Beirn
Bob Mansheffer

All unanimous votes are unanimous without the mayor voting unless otherwise noted

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approving last month, January 21, 2025 minutes.

Trustee Budin made a motion to pass, and Trustee Mead seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Hubbell said Hiram Davis was invited; he was coming but he has not arrived. We will move along and if he comes, we will put him in.

Old Business

- a. Senior Tax Exemption -- Trustee Hubbell shared Meg said there is another 13 people who would qualify in the village at 50% that would be \$6,000.00 and the people who qualify now plus the 13 people so it would be \$9.00 per resident max. That's if all 13 people qualify for the 50% tax break. People cannot apply until we pass it.

Trustee Hubbell made the motion to raise the income level for the senior tax exemption to what the assessor made at the January 21st meeting. Trustee Mead seconded.

	<u>Yay</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Trustee Hubbell	X	
Trustee Mead	X	
Trustee Budin	X	
Trustee Warren		X

Trustee Warren wanted it noted in gestation none of the numbers were available as to what level reaches 50% and what level reached the lowest percentage. We do not have that information available to pass a resolution that we just passed.

- b. LFA (Local Flood Analysis) -- Paper with comments sent into LSR after the report were done. Any public comments?

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**SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING AT 4:45pm ON 2/18/25
Proposal for Raising the Income on the Senior Tax Exemption**

At the Village Offices, 773 Main St., Margaretville, NY. The following members were in attendance.

John Hubbell Mayor

Dave Budin Trustee

Iris Mead Trustee

Jeffrey Warren Trustee

Sarah Hubbell Trustee

Also in attendance:

Diane Galusha

Eleanor Preiss

Carol and Phil O'Beirn

Bob Mansheffer

Mayor Hubbell at 4:45pm called the public meeting to order. This meeting is related to increasing the limits for those residents 65 and older who qualified for aid. Any comments or questions?

Trustee Warren stated he wished Meg Balcom, Assessor, was clearer about her presentation. He wanted more research done to provide the board members with some basic information about the residents who are now receiving the benefit are saving between X and Y. He wanted a comparison.

His concerns are:

1. How much of the tax base is being transferred to other property owners.
2. How are the residents who qualify get this information.

He did not want to approve anything until he understood. He would like to have documented evidence.

The mayor asked if there were anymore comments. The board discussed further how to get this info to the public.

Trustee Budin motioned for closing the meeting and Trustee Mead seconded. All in favor.

New Business

- a. 150th Anniversary: Committee – Diane Galusha, Carol O’Beirne and Iris Mead. Diane Galusha asked for the board’s blessing to celebrate the 150th Anniversary this spring. On July 13, there will be a history talk at the Historical Society, on the history of the Village of Margaretville and we would like to do a community celebration with a block party. Iris Mead, Carol O’Beirn and I are putting together a party on Saturday, July 26th. We have a commitment from Sue’s Garage Band, a couple of food trucks, we hope. Get the community together to do a group photo like the one hanging on the wall in the boardroom. Get the businesses together to dress things up like exhibits or whatever they want to do. Trustee Mead: We would like to incorporate a car show closing off the street from the light to the bank. Have dancing in the street from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. A beard contest, the longest beard. Carol O’Beirn: We are going to decorate the town and add banners so it’s clear when you come into the village, there is something going on. We are also seeking donations from some of the businesses. We are going to apply for funding for community events from the Bed Tax Fund that will help with promotion and advertising. Diane Galusha: We would like the village to contribute some funds seeing it’s the village’s anniversary. The mayor stated we are in the process now applying for more than I knew we needed. Carol O’Beirn: John is also going to contact our legislature to ask them to officially recognize this milestone. Diane Galusha: Orson Allaben, MD, was an early settler, State Assemblyman, 1st Postmaster, he named our town after Margaret Lewis-Livingston. John Bernhart is portraying Orson Allaben at the program we are doing on July 13th. Carol O’Beirn: We are looking for volunteers who want to help with the activities.

Trustee Mead made a motion to move the May 20th Village Board Meeting to the Thursday, May 8th in honor of the corporation of the Village. Trustee Hubbell seconded. All in favor.

- b. *Mayor Hubbell made a motion to put out for bids for Rental of Construction Equipment for emergency and non-emergency Work in 2025. We are a little behind. We will open any and all bids at the next March 18th at 4:55pm. Trustee Warren seconded. All in favor.*
- c. Applications for the Use of Pavillion – Fireman Carnival June 29 – July 7th
150th Anniversary - July 26th *Motion was made by Trustee Mead. Trustee Warren seconded. All in favor.*

Other Business

Diane Galusha thanked the mayor for financial support and respectfully requesting another year of support.

Update on Water Leaks: We have had at least two other major leaks since then. It is that time of year and this year is a little worse cause when it warms up, it warms up a lot and then we get cold quickly. In fact, the last one they dug up, they said the water main looked like was twisted like a pretzel, it twisted right around. They got that done just before it started getting cold and we got it covered back up. Everything is as such. If it keeps doing that, we are likely to have several more. A lot of these lines are pushing 100 years old. They are getting brittle. A portion of Main St. is down for this year,

The mayor was asked if there was any thought about making any improvements on the roads. His response was a portion of Main Street, we just don't know how much we are going to be able to do. It depends on the cost of oil, materials, and stuff. Cobleskill Stone Products will be doing it. We priced it out 2 yrs ago it was about \$100,000.

Mayor Hubbell was requested to address the Swart Street parking.

Trustee Mead: "We went through this 3 yrs ago, I agree it's a hazardous course going down Swart St. most every day. No one wants to give up a side."

Trustee Hubbell: "Who is going to enforce it?"

Trustee Mead: "Yes, that is one of the problems, who is going to enforce it."

It was agreed that a letter from the village/mayor should go out.

Adjourn Meeting

The mayor motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Trustee Warren at 5:50pm