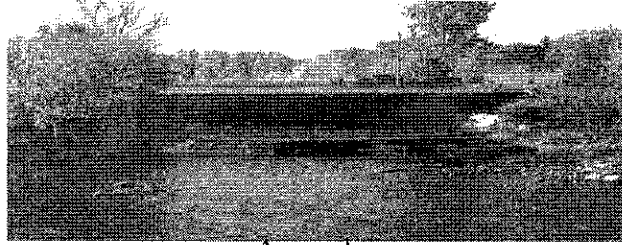


Board of Trustees  
Village of Black River, New York



Agenda

Regular Meeting

February 7, 2022

- Call to order.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of minutes of the 1/3/22 regular meeting
- Public Comment.
- Police Department Report
- Code Enforcement Report & review of related correspondence.
- Clerk-Treasurer's Report.
- Superintendent's Report.

Correspondence Received:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| A) Town of LeRay                         | Re: Library funding      |
| B) Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition | Re: Minutes              |
| C) Barclay Damon                         | Re: Legal Representation |
| D) Christopher Mueller                   | Re: ZBA resignation      |
| E) Gerald Delosh                         | Re: Sheriff              |
| F) Joule                                 | Re: Clean Energy Program |
| G) NYCOM                                 | Re: Annual Dues          |

Correspondence Sent:

New Business:

- A) Approve sidewalk snow removal invoices
- B) Discuss budget time line

Unfinished Business:

- Reports from Standing Committees.
- Reports from Special Meetings.
- Authorize payment of bills; adjournment.

Village of Black River  
Board of Trustees  
January 3, 2022  
Regular Meeting

DRAFT

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

Present:

Mayor Francis Dishaw  
Trustee Gary McCullough  
Trustee Bonnie Proven  
Trustee Randy Lake  
Trustee Decillis  
Code Enforcement Officer James Holland  
Police Chief Steve Wood  
Superintendent Les Williams

Others Present:

See sign in sheet

A motion was made by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee McCullough to approve the minutes of the 12/6/21 meeting. The motion was carried.

Public Comments: Mary Louise Hunt, Sally Ploof Hunter Library was present to discuss a story walk at the Maple St. Park. She stated that story pages would be placed in frames that could be hung on the fence at the park. She stated that the stories would probably be changed twice a month. She asked if the Department of Public Works could help out by hanging the frames.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Lake to approve the use of the fence at Maple St. Park for the story walk. The motion was carried.

Code Enforcement Report: CEO Holland stated that he had issued 50 permits for the year, sent letters for annual safety inspections and that he had spoken with Crown Castle regarding putting more antennas on the cell tower for 5G. CEO Holland stated that the annual code enforcement training will be in March and that he would like to attend.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee McCullough to approve the annual code enforcement training for James Holland. The motion was carried.

Superintendent Williams stated that he had complaints about sidewalks not being cleared after snowfall. CEO Holland stated that 24 hours after a snow fall the superintendent can post notices on the doors of the property owners. If they are not cleared within 24 hours of the posting, the superintendent will have the snow removed and a bill will be generated for approval by the board.

Police Department Report: Police Chief Wood stated that he had done four DWI patrols. Trustee Lake discussed the possibility of hiring a second officer. The board agreed to discuss it at budget time.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report: Clerk-Treasurer Williams stated that the Sonicwall fire wall has been installed and that the cybersecurity policy has been renewed. She stated that the premium has increased from \$1,200 to \$3,300 and that it is increasingly difficult to obtain cybersecurity coverage. Clerk-Treasurer Williams stated that she obtained a quote from Northern Glass for a new vestibule door in the amount of \$4,925 but she is still waiting for the quote for the pass through for the office door.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Williams stated that the NY State Department of Transportation has removed their remaining 70 tons of salt due to the fact that there is no

agreement in place with the village. He stated that the new village truck was hit by the manlift when it came unhooked and will be going to Ames Brothers for repairs. He stated that new plow is now scheduled to be built at the end of January. He stated that meters were read and there were about 50 meters that didn't transmit readings. Superintendent Williams discussed a two-stage blade for plowing that's mounted behind the one way. The blade reduces the amount of snow left behind because it follows the contour of the ground. It should also help reduce the amount of salt used.

A motion was made by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Decillis to adopt the following resolution:

**Resolved**, that Superintendent Williams be authorized to do a change to the truck order to include a two-stage snow blade in an amount not to exceed \$7,000. The motion was put to a vote as follows:

Mayor Dishaw	Yes
Trustee Decillis	Yes
Trustee Proven	Yes
Trustee McCullouch	Yes
Trustee Lake	Yes.

The motion was carried and the resolution duly adopted.

A motion was made by Trustee Decillis, seconded by Trustee Proven to adopt the following resolution:

**Resolved**, that the following abstracts of audited vouchers be approved: interim abstract dated 12/6/21 in the amount of \$62,210.05 (General Fund: \$48,981.00 Water Fund: \$13,229.05) interim abstract dated 12/20/21 in the amount of \$23,478.34 (General Fund: \$14,382.71 Water Fund: \$2,003.72 Sewer Fund: \$7,091.91) and regular monthly abstract in the amount of \$28,919.59 (General Fund: \$11,436.86 Water Fund: \$17,482.73). The motion was put to a vote as follows:

Mayor Dishaw	Yes
Trustee Decillis	Yes
Trustee Proven	Yes
Trustee McCullouch	Yes
Trustee Lake	Yes.

The motion was carried and the resolution duly adopted.

A motion was made by Trustee McCullouch, seconded by Mayor Dishaw to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Williams  
Clerk-Treasurer

**BLACK RIVER/EVANS MILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MONTHLY REPORT  
January-22**

	B/R	E/M	TOTAL	Dec-21	Nov-21
ARRESTS -	1	0	1	1	1
COMPLAINTS -	19	12	31	34	26
VEHICLE STOPS -	10	21	31	23	18
TICKETS ISSUED -	3	5	8	11	7
ACCIDENT REPORTS -	0	0	0	0	2
PARKING VIOLATIONS -	0	0	0	1	2
MOTORIST ASSISTS -	1	1	2	0	0
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY -	7	4	11	10	8
ESCORTS -	3	0	3	1	0
VEHICLES TOWED -	0	0	0	1	1
PROPERTY CHECKS -	4	7	11	9	14
INCIDENT REPORTS -	11	2	13	8	11
DOMESTIC REPORTS -	0	0	0	0	0
OFFENSE REPORTS -	1	0	1	2	2
FOLLOW UP REPORTS -	2	2	4	2	4
CRIMES REPORTED -	0	0	0	1	1

**DAYS WORKED PER MONTH - 18/31 DAYS**

**GAS USED - 45.3 GALLONS**

**HOURS WORKED - 139 HOURS**

**MILES DRIVEN - 632 MILES**

**EXTRA DETAILS - WPD Officer Funeral, LEA Meeting**

**POLICE CHIEF, STEVEN C WOOD #2701  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
VILLAGE OF BLACK RIVER/EVANS MILLS NY**

*SC WOOD #2701*

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# UTT Report by Date

From 1/1/2022 to 1/31/2022

Date	Officer Name	Badge	Case Number	Section And Offense	Status	Location	Local Code
01/31/2022	WOOD S	01	0321F2VSP8	37522 VISIBILITY DISTORTED BROKEN GLASS	4	S MAIN ST @ US 11 EM	22BR00057
01/30/2022	WOOD S	01	0321F2ST8Z	5112A4 AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION - 2ND DEG	4	SR 3 @ LIMITS WEST	22BR00055
01/30/2022	WOOD S	01	0321F2SSSD	1180D SPEED IN ZONE	4	SR 3 @ LIMITS WEST	22BR00055
01/27/2022	WOOD S	01	0321F2GCRW	37540B INADEQUATE OR NO STOP LAMPS	7	8694 CEMETERY ST EM	22BR00048
01/27/2022	WOOD S	01	0321F2G9VJ	37522 VISIBILITY DISTORTED BROKEN GLASS	7	NOBLE S EM	22BR00047
01/27/2022	WOOD S	01	0321F2G072	4021 NO DISTINCTIVE PLATE/INSECURE/DIRTY	7	LERAY ST @ NOBLE ST	22BR00043
01/12/2022	WOOD S	01	0321F0WQRD	4031 NO REG STICKER IN WINDOW	7	SR 3 @ W REMINGTON ST	22BR00022
01/03/2022	WOOD S	01	0321DZX5X7	37512AB2 SIDEWINGS/SIDEWINDOWS/NON/TRASNPRNT	7	LERAY ST @ HENRY ST EM	22BR00005

## Summary

Query returned 8 records.

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# Village of Black River

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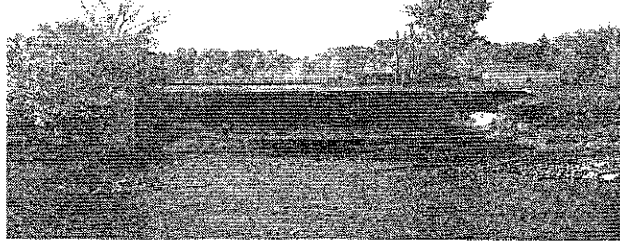
## Memorandum

To: Mayor and Village Board of Trustees  
From: James Holland, Code Enforcement Officer  
CC:

New York State has rewritten 19 NYCRR Part 1203 which governs code enforcement on the local level. This revision will require the Village to revise the local code prior to December 30, 2022. I am still reading the law to understand how the changes will affect the Village. I have included a summary of the changes and a copy of a model local law from NYS Building Standards and Codes. The Department of State recommends that we send all proposed changes to the Village for consideration and advisement. The model code is very similar to our current code but there are some important changes. The board will also have some choices to make as the new law allows the local board to have some more local authority on how we enforce the Uniform Code.



**Department of Code Enforcement  
Village of Black River, New York**



February 3, 2022

Mark Bonner  
261 Franklin St.  
Watertown, NY 13601

Re: 110 Leray St., Black River, NY 13612 Parcel #:75.56-2-27.2

Dear Mr. Bonner,

This letter is in reference to the above referred address and parcel number and a complaint that the Village has received regarding the property. During an inspection of the property the following was found:

1. There are no smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors in the apartment.
2. Wiring into the electrical panel is not installed properly. Needs to be fastened to the plywood. One wire also appears to have a cut in the insulation.
3. There are electrical outlets missing covers throughout the apartment.
4. An electrical outlet in the bedroom has burn marks and the tenant reports the outlet sparks when it is used.
5. There is an open junction of electrical wiring behind the water heater.
6. Water heater is not installed properly. Pressure relief needs pipe to a drain. Electrical wiring to the water heater is not installed per electrical code.
7. The water heater provides an inadequate amount of hot water. Hot water only lasts for a few minutes.
8. The heater in the apartment doesn't provide adequate heat to the apartment. The heater is required by code to maintain 68 degrees to all areas of the apartment. The supplemental heaters have no controls to turn them on.
9. The front door doesn't seal. There are gaps around the entire door.

These are violations of the Village of Black River and the New York State Uniform Code. You are hereby ordered to take corrective action immediately upon receipt of this letter. Failure on your part to make the repairs and correct the violations within thirty (30) days will result in the Village seeking legal action in your name in a court of competent jurisdiction.

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at the Village Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Holland', written in a cursive style.

James Holland  
Code Enforcement Officer

CC: Mayor and Village Board of Trustees

## Kristin Williams

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**From:** Nathan Toutant <admin@townofleRay.org>  
**Sent:** 5 January, 2022 2:24 PM  
**To:** Kristin Williams  
**Subject:** FW: Town of LeRay - 2022 Adopted Budget Update (Education Law, Section 259(1)(b)(1))  
**Attachments:** DOC010421-010421.pdf

Hi Kristin,

Below is the email I sent to the Evans Mills Public Library and the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library on November 8<sup>th</sup>. I have also included the attachment referenced in the email below.

The email explained the issue of funding, discussion and recommendations for each Library.

I hope this is the information you are looking for. If not let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you!

Nathan Toutant  
Administrative Clerk  
Town of LeRay  
8650 LeRay Street  
Evans Mills, NY 13637  
315-629-1817

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**From:** Nathan Toutant  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 6:27 PM  
**To:** blrlib@ncls.org; evmlib@ncls.org  
**Subject:** Town of LeRay - 2022 Adopted Budget Update (Education Law, Section 259(1)(b)(1))

Dear Friends,

On November 4, 2021, the Town of LeRay Board adopted their 2022 preliminary budget as final. The Board has made the decision not to fund the Evans Mills Public Library and the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library contracts for library services totaling \$6,000. Below you will find additional information on why the decision was made and a recommended legal alternative the library trustees can utilize to seek additional funding from Town of LeRay residents.

**ISSUE:** The Town Board of the Town of LeRay decided not to fund two contracts for library services totaling \$6,000; one each with the Evans Mills Public Library and the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library.

**DISCUSSION:** All residents within the Town of LeRay pay Town, County, and School District Taxes. All residents within the Town currently pay a separate "Library Tax" for library services when paying their school taxes. Also, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators pays each library within Jefferson County, including the aforementioned libraries, tax dollars for providing library services to county residents through the NCLS (see attached Resolution No. 11). These include tax dollars collected from Town of LeRay residents. Thus, the Town Board determined that it would be inappropriate to use residents tax dollars to pay for a service that residents are already paying for through two other taxing mechanisms. As well, any "contract" between the Town of LeRay and any libraries within Jefferson County may not be a legal contract as there could be no "consideration" since Town of LeRay residents already pay for library services through other taxing mechanisms. Indeed, the library trustees have an alternative to seek additional funding from Town of LeRay residents through the Education Law, Section 259(1)(b)(1) by placing a proposition on the November 2022 Election Ballot ([Legislation | NY State Senate \(nysenate.gov\)](#)).



**RECOMMENDATION:** Should the library trustees wish to seek funding from Town of LeRay residents, then they should seek to place a ballot proposition on the November 2022 Election Ballot to seek permanent funding that is beyond the control of the Town Board pursuant to Education Law, Section 259(1)(b)(1). **The Town Board notes that if the trustees act quickly (i.e., before December 31, 2021), then they only need to collect 25 signatures from town residents outside their respective village.**

b. \* (1) Except as provided in subparagraph two of this paragraph, whenever qualified voters of a municipality, in a number equal to at least ten per centum of the total number of votes cast in such municipality for governor at the last gubernatorial election, shall so petition and the library board of trustees shall endorse, the question of establishing or increasing the amount of funding of the annual contribution for the operating budget of a registered public or free association library by such municipality to a sum specified in said petition, shall be voted on at the next general election of such municipality, provided that due public notice of the proposed action shall have been given. Except that for the year two thousand twenty-one, the number of qualified voters of a municipality needed to petition for purposes of this subparagraph shall be at least twenty-five. An increase in library funding provided pursuant to this paragraph shall not apply to a municipal budget adopted prior to the date of such election.

\*\* NB Effective until December 31, 2021\*\*

The following may also be beneficial (although not legal advice). A proposition might be structured jointly or independently as follows:

**Joint Proposition (single proposition covering both libraries):**

“RESOLVED, pursuant to Education Law Section 259(1)(b)(1), shall the sum of \$6,000 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Town of LeRay, which such fund shall be separate and apart from the annual town budget, for the support and maintenance of the Evans Mills Public Library and Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library until thereafter modified by a future vote of the qualified voters of the Town of LeRay. Such funds shall be divided equally between the libraries.”

**Independent Propositions (a separate proposition for each library):**

“RESOLVED, pursuant to Education Law Section 259(1)(b)(1), shall the sum of \$3,000 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Town of LeRay, which such fund shall be separate and apart from the annual town budget, for the support and maintenance of the Evans Mills Public Library until thereafter modified by a future vote of the qualified voters of the Town of LeRay.”

“RESOLVED, pursuant to Education Law Section 259(1)(b)(1), shall the sum of \$3,000 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Town of LeRay, which such fund shall be separate and apart from the annual town budget, for the support and maintenance of the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library until thereafter modified by a future vote of the qualified voters of the Town of LeRay.”

The dollar amounts above were derived from our past contract. That said, each library Board of Trustees can place any amount they desire before the voters.

We hope that you find the information outlined in this email helpful to secure additional funds. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**

**Resolution No.   11**

Authorizing Agreement with the North Country Library System

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas, The North Country Library System is a system approved by the NYS Commissioner of Education and is a corporation chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, and

Whereas, The Board of Legislators appropriated \$171,666 to be utilized by free libraries within Jefferson County during calendar year 2021 under the jurisdiction of the North Country Library System for salaries and books.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That, pursuant to Section 256 of the Education Law, Jefferson County enter into an agreement with the North Country Library System which provides for Jefferson County to pay to said Library System the sum of \$171,666 to be distributed during 2021 to the various free libraries in Jefferson County in accordance with the following distribution schedule:

<u>Library</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Adams	4,607.89
Adams Center	3,071.92
Alexandria Bay	6,064.11
Antwerp	2,756.55
Belleville	1,729.19
Black River	24,085.00
Brownville	5,611.35
Cape Vincent	4,146.77
Carthage	16,307.82
Chaumont	3,262.76
Clayton	6,617.48
Depauville	1,077.26
Dexter	3,740.90
East Hounsfield	1,035.12
Ellisburg	1,729.19
Evans Mills	17,729.10
Henderson	2,030.83
LaFargeville	2,457.17
Mannsville	1,729.19
Philadelphia	2,907.37
Rodman	1,756.07
Sackets Harbor	4,140.50

# JEFFERSON COUNTY STORMWATER COALITION

*Towns of LeRay, Rutland, Watertown  
Villages of Black River, Brownville, Carthage, West Carthage  
City of Watertown  
Jefferson County*

## Minutes

December 13, 2021, 1 pm

Zoom

### 1. Roll Call

Les Williams – Village of Black River

Patrick Crast – Jefferson County SWCD

Michael Montigelli – Jefferson County Legislature

Mark Roberts – Village of Carthage

Jessica Jenack – Town of LeRay

Mike Walrath – Village of Brownville

Patrick Connor – Village of Brownville

Andy Nevin – Jefferson County Planning

Katie Malinowski – Tug Hill Commission

Emily Fell – NYSDEC Great Lakes Program

Absent – City of Watertown, Village of West Carthage, Town of Watertown

### 2. Call to Order – 1:03pm

### 3. Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2021 – Motion to accept by Les Williams, seconded by Jessica Jenack, motion carried.

### 4. Treasurer's Report - final payment from DEC on grant funding- \$64,149. Stormwater Coalition balance is \$163,306.64. As of August, villages of Brownville, Carthage West Carthage, and City of Watertown have paid dues. Motion to accept- Mike Walrath and Les Williams seconded. Motion carried.

### 5. Correspondence/Report of Secretary- John is leaving Rutland planning board and will no longer be a representative.

### 6. Report of Chairman

### 7. Report of Committees

- a. Education/Outreach Committee – Black River Initiative newsletter being developed- includes projects that support good housekeeping and stormwater education and outreach. Black River Watershed conference being planned and members could speak. Jefferson County SWCD maintains website. Website could be updated with new reports, coalition members, and maps in 2022. Tree planting events offer opportunity to speak about benefits of trees for reducing stormwater runoff, and coalition communities could explore becoming a Tree City USA- funding is available.

### 8. New Business

- a. 2022 Dues – There was a suggestion to reduce dues (currently \$1,000). Outfalls need to be monitored. Dues could likely be reduced. Have dropped from \$1500 to \$1000 in past. Mike Montigelli made a motion to set 2022 dues at \$500. Les seconded. Motion carried.
- b. 2022 Jefferson County SWCD proposal – Patrick Crast has just taken over and the district is looking to hire new people. Will maintain website and assist with annual report and monitoring outfalls. Inspections needed this year. SWCD will get in touch with municipalities and inspect outfalls. County outfalls outside of Coalition were not mapped and additional mapping is needed. SWCD can help document and provide guidance on mapping outfalls.
- c. Officers for 2022
  - Patrick Connor - Chair
  - Wayne McIlroy - Vice Chair
  - Randy Vaas - Secretary
  - Town of LeRay/Nathan Toutant - Treasurer

Mike Montigelli suggested nominating the existing slate of officers to continue in their roles. Motion to nominate the existing slate made by Patrick Connor, seconded by Les, and carried.

#### 9. Old Business

- a. CFA Application – Vacuum Truck-
  - WQIP Nonpoint source planning grants announced, but the remaining DEC WQIP awards were not announced yet.
- b. WQIP grant – In-kind documentation – no longer needed with grant close out.

#### 10. Payment of vouchers

#### 11. Comments from the Public

- Pat will have more information regarding the cost and scope of the Soil & Water Conservation District's 2022 services at the March 17<sup>th</sup> mtg
- Emily shared funding opportunities including quick start grant to become a Tree City USA: [nysufc.org/grants/](https://nysufc.org/grants/) , and the Cornell Water Resources Institute Research and Outreach project request for preproposals: [wri.cals.cornell.edu/sites/wri.cals.cornell.edu/files/shared/WRI\\_RFP\\_2022\\_NYS.pdf](https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/sites/wri.cals.cornell.edu/files/shared/WRI_RFP_2022_NYS.pdf)
- When is outfall monitoring typically done- dryer time of year when there shouldn't be any discharges/runoff.
- New census shows population declines (the City of Watertown population declined by 10%) and there was a question about whether this would lead to changes in the urbanized designation? Seems unlikely since the surrounding communities haven't seen population declines.
- 2022 meeting schedule – quarterly- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays- March 17<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 15. Andy made a motion to accept the 2022 meeting calendar as presented, Les seconded, motion carried.
- 

12. Adjournment – Mike made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Les, motion carried, at 1:44pm

**NEXT MEETING March 17, 2022**

**BARCLAY DAMON**<sup>LLP</sup>

Joseph W. Russell  
Partner

January 12, 2022

Village of Black River  
107 Jefferson Place  
Black River, NY 13612

Re: Client Transition

I am pleased to announce that effective February 1, 2022, I will be opening my own law firm called **Joseph W. Russell, P.C.**. My separation from Barclay Damon LLP is amicable and both firms anticipate retaining a strong business relationship and providing continuing sources of referral to each other. My address and contact information will be as follows:

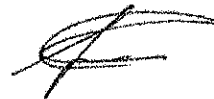
120 Washington Street  
Suite 500  
Watertown, NY 13601  
jrussell@jwrusselllaw.com  
Telephone: (315) 965-1717

Under applicable law, the choice whether to have your files remain under my control at my new firm, stay with Barclay Damon or go to you directly or to another law firm is yours and yours alone. Given that I have been your principal point of contact, I am happy to advise that we have worked out a simple transition plan from Barclay Damon to my new firm. Namely, that I will retain physical control of your physical and electronic files unless you direct otherwise. If you are in agreement that I should retain your files, you need do nothing further.

If, on the other hand, you wish to do something otherwise with your file, please let me know by email, facsimile or regular mail and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

I look forward to working with you in the future at my new firm.

Very truly yours,



Joseph W. Russell

JWR

## Tarra Benson

---

**From:** C. M. <christopher.m.mueller.ny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 11:20 AM  
**To:** Tarra Benson  
**Subject:** Re: Zoning Board Term of Office

Tarra,

First I would like to apologize for the delay in response. No excuses, but between working two other facilities and holiday COVID surge, I have noted that a lot of things have slipped through the cracks the last few month and with they I fully apologize.

I believe at this point I should withdraw and not seek another term at this time. I have not been able to fully partake in duties the last quarter.

Is there anything I can do to help with transition please let me know. I do have the ZBA book and will drop off later this month as that's when the next time I will have a day off.

Thank you

v/r

Christopher M. Mueller

On Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 9:29 AM Tarra Benson <[deputyclerktreasurer@blackriverny.org](mailto:deputyclerktreasurer@blackriverny.org)> wrote:

Good morning,

Your term of office for the Planning Board is set to expire December 31, 2021. Would you be interested in being considered for another term?

If possible, please let us know by tomorrow morning so we can add it to the December 08, 2021 Village Board agenda.

Thank you,

Tarra Benson

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Village of Black River

Gerald W. DeLosh

[geralddelesh@yahoo.com](mailto:geralddelesh@yahoo.com) (315) 778-8736

01/ 17/2022

Village of Black River

107 Jefferson Place

Black River, NY 13612

RE: Sheriff Candidate

Dear Boards Members,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am running for Jefferson County Sheriff.

My goals if elected will be to concentrate on the Opioid Epidemic plaguing our County. I will also work on getting the DARE program back in our schools. A service that teaches our young ones about making the right choices in life and the dangers of substance abuse. I will streamline the Pistol Permit Process. I have had the pleasure of being a part of the investigative measures in the past to obtaining a pistol permit, so I am aware of what needs to happen to speed this process up.

I am looking forward to attending one of your board meetings and take any of your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. DeLosh

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald W. DeLosh', written in a cursive style.



## CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM

### **What are Community Choice Aggregation clean energy programs?**

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a community-based clean energy program. CCA programs that incorporate clean energy help communities make the transition to electricity sourced by renewable energy while also protecting consumers from rate increases and hidden fees. Joule Community Power serves as a program administrator.

### **How Community Choice Aggregation programs work:**

With CCA programs, communities create a large buying group through which residents and small businesses may purchase energy for electricity at low, fixed rates. CCA programs are regulated by the Public Service Commission, which has empowered municipalities to choose a new default energy source for their communities. Communities may choose 100% renewable energy as the default energy source, while still saving on energy costs. The typical utility company remains responsible for delivery, maintenance, and billing.

### **Benefits of CCA renewable energy programs:**

- Clean energy
- Low, fixed rates and the potential to save on energy costs
- Stronger consumer protection
- More energy choices for consumers

### **Joule's clean energy program includes two complementary components:**

- Base Electric Supply – 100% renewable energy. "Standard" energy option also available, largely based on fossil fuels.
- Community Solar - Adds support for more local solar projects. Consumers benefit from guaranteed discount.

### **Community Power cost savings:**

As a point of reference, over the first eleven months of the program, six Rockland Community Power communities have collectively saved over \$1.3 million in energy costs for electricity.

### **Joule's clean energy programs are turnkey programs:**

- Joule does the work for the municipalities, including the public outreach, mailings, regulatory compliance, negotiation with suppliers and vetting of contracts, and ongoing customer service.
- Joule is not paid by either the municipality or the consumer. Joule is paid by the suppliers, amounting to about \$7 per household annually.



### **Community solar:**

Community solar adds support for more local, smaller renewable energy projects.

- No rooftop solar
- **Guaranteed savings on monthly electric bill**
- No contracts for consumers
- No second bill (savings on monthly utility bill)
- No credit checks

### **Benefits for communities:**

- Joule supports community sustainability projects through our Giving Back program.
- State funding for sustainability projects is available to communities that adopt CCA with renewable energy and Community Solar through two state climate programs: Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities.

### **Joule's clean energy programs are opt out programs:**

- **No contracts for consumers. No exit fees at any time.**
- Program provides *more* energy choices for consumers.
- Opt out mailing follows outreach and public education by program administrator.
- Replaces state-designated existing default supply through the utility.
- The usual utility company remains responsible for delivery, maintenance, and billing.
- Opt out structure maximizes cost savings by leveraging power of large buying group.

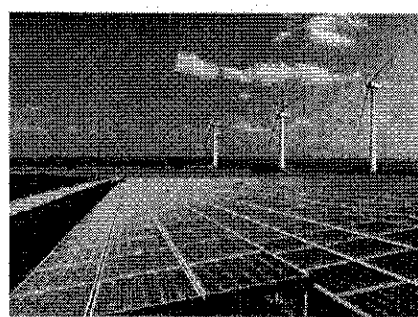
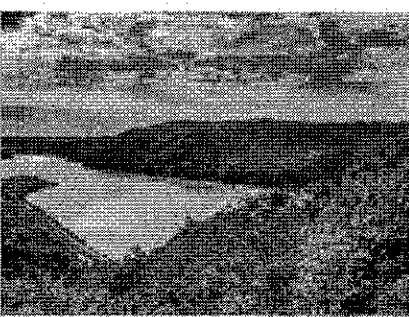
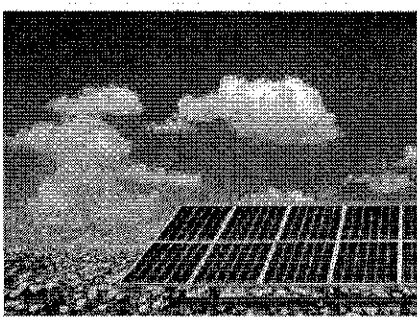
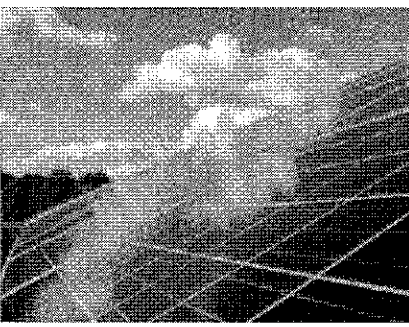
### **Who we are and what we do:**

- Joule is recognized as a pioneer in renewable energy markets throughout the U.S. and Europe. In NYS, Joule represents more than 330,000 households and small businesses across 40 municipalities.
- Joule is helping shift NY State's electricity market from a fossil fuel model to a community-based clean energy model.
- As program administrator, Joule is responsible for: program design and implementation, public outreach and education, competitive bid and contract drafting, review and management, regulatory compliance, and ongoing customer support.

Learn more at [www.JouleCommunityPower.com](http://www.JouleCommunityPower.com).

# **PROGRAM OFFERING**

## **COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION**



 **JOULE**  
COMMUNITY POWER  
*a division of Joule Assets, Inc.*

## COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

### OVERVIEW

There are currently many communities in New York State taking advantage of an innovative opportunity to enable 100% renewable energy for competitive electricity supply rates and community solar savings. Joule Community Power is a program administrator, or manager, for programs such as these. As administrator, Joule also collaborates with local partners who are focused on outreach and engagement within municipalities. Alexia Lamb is a dedicated CCA Sales & Operations Associate who will work with Joule to connect with communities and invite more into these auspicious new programs.

Community Choice programs optimize a statewide initiative called Community Choice Aggregation, which is overseen by the New York State Public Service Commission and promoted by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation climate programs. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a growing movement in the state, transitioning communities further into renewable energy support. CCA in New York began with a program enacted in Westchester in 2016. Today, two thirds of Westchester communities participate in a similar program named Westchester Power. Joule Community Power is the administrator for five other Community Choice Aggregations, serving 700,000 customers in 35 municipalities throughout the state.

Launched the same year that CCA was enabled in New York, NYSEDA's Clean Energy Communities program began encouraging local governments to make energy smart decisions for their residents. In return, incentives such as grants can now be awarded for a range of high-impact clean energy actions.

This program has identified CCA initiation among the priority actions a community can take on climate change. An appropriately implemented CCA program awards communities 1,500 points with an additional 500 available when a community solar element is included. Given that most NYSEDA grants start at 3,000 points, initiation of a comprehensive Community Power program would further propel the municipality towards their goals and access to grants.

In addition, Joule aggregations under the Community Power moniker already comprise an integrated program that includes Community Choice Solar, through which residents and small businesses can support local sources of renewable energy while receiving *guaranteed savings* on their utility bills. Through this dual program, communities can make a measurable difference in reducing their carbon footprint.

There are currently other communities in your region who are considering the benefits of launching their own CCA program. Joule and Alexia Lamb anticipate further aggregating these motivated municipalities to implement a Community Choice program tailored to meet the needs of all.

### BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The benefits of Community Power programs include:

- 100% renewable energy
- Low, fixed rates for electricity
- Stronger consumer protection
- More choice for consumers
- Guaranteed cost savings by subscribing to a local solar farm

## **COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION: YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR CHOICE**

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a collaborative municipal electricity supply program. Municipalities create a large buying group through which residents and small businesses can purchase renewably generated electricity at competitive rates and enjoy the established savings associated with community solar.

Through CCA programs, the Public Service Commission has empowered municipalities to replace the default electric supply for homes and small businesses within the municipal jurisdiction. CCA with renewable energy can help to gradually displace power plants powered largely by fossil fuels with clean energy sources: currently hydropower and wind power, primarily from upstate New York.

The typical utility company remains responsible for energy delivery, billing, and maintenance/repair, making a simple transition for customers. However, through Community Choice programs, municipalities take back control from the State so that they can make a local choice about what's best for their own communities.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

Community Power programs provide 100% renewable energy, sourced within New York State. The program leverages the buying power of the group to offer clean energy at low fixed rates.

In response to climate change, New York State has set ambitious goals to accelerate the transition to cleaner energy and bring about more equitable consumer access to renewables. Community Power programs make it possible for communities to meet the state's clean energy goals for electricity by making renewable energy more affordable.

## **COMPETITIVE RATES**

Community Power programs are able to offer a guaranteed electricity rate that is lower than the average historical price through the utility.

Typically, two rates are offered through Community Power programs. While only one of the rates is offered in each municipality as the default energy source, consumers may choose either rate at any time.

The renewable energy rate offered through the programs is typically 60 to 70 percent of the rate that individual customers could receive for a comparable product if they were shopping for electricity supply on their own. In addition to the rates offered through CCA, a guaranteed discount on electric bills is offered through the Community Choice Solar program. See more on this below.

## **STRONGER CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Community Choice Aggregation programs protect consumers from predatory practices by energy suppliers:

- No contracts for individual consumers
- No exit fees
- Guaranteed rates for the life of the program

- Community Solar discount for up to twenty-five years
- Locally staffed call center and dedicated community coordinator for the life of the program

## **FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES**

Participation in CCA and Community Solar programs is rewarded with points toward funding for communities through two NYS climate programs: Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities.

More information is available at the following links:

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/all-programs/programs/clean-energy-communities>

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>

## **HOW THE COMMUNITY POWER CCA PROGRAMS WORK**

As program administrator, Joule works with participating municipalities and local organizers to identify program priorities and solicit proposals from qualified energy supply companies on behalf of a municipality, their residents and small businesses. The program will only launch when a proposal submitted by a qualified company meets the requirements identified by participating communities in the aggregation.

Community engagement, outreach, education and feedback are a priority throughout the process.

Outreach activities include:

- Information sessions, tabling at local events, presentations to local groups
- Website and social media
- Press releases, articles, interviews, ads, announcements in e-newsletters, fliers and other print materials
- Ongoing program support through call center and group presentations
- Ongoing updates for municipal leaders and the community at large

CCA and Community Choice Solar programs are both “opt-out” programs. Community members can always opt out of either program at any time and at no cost. There are no contracts for customers to sign within the program and no exit fees.

## **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Joule Community Power is the CCA Administrator for many Community Power programs, providing renewable energy throughout the state with corresponding local partnerships like that with Alexia Lamb. Joule does not charge customers nor the municipality for their services. Rather, they collect fees from the competitively selected electricity suppliers and solar developers. As Program Administrator, Joule is responsible for:

- Program design and implementation plan and coordinating associated Public Service Commission approvals

- Energy procurement: draft, review and manage energy supply bids and contracts
- Regulatory approvals, compliance, and reporting
- Interface with utilities, energy suppliers and local energy project developers
- Public outreach and community education on program benefits and consumer choice
- Public website: Maintain, update, and develop customer portal for website and changes in enrollment
- Consumer assistance regarding energy choices through ongoing call center and community coordinator

## COMMUNITY CHOICE SOLAR

Almost 50% of homes are unable to host solar panels. Community solar enables consumers to enjoy the benefits of solar without installing panels on their rooftop, and without any fees. Through the Community Choice Solar program, consumers support the development of one or more local or regional solar projects while benefiting from a guaranteed discount on their electric bill. Current requirements dictate that these solar energy projects be located within the same utility service territory as the customer.

Joule is the **only** CCA Administrator in NYS with State approved plans for Opt-Out Community Solar programs, which allow community solar projects to be integrated into CCA. By combining community electricity supply and community solar, Joule has created a CCA program that saves money for residents, grows the local economy, and helps meet New York State's climate goals. By enrolling residents by default, the program becomes accessible to a broader population.

As is the case with CCA, Opt-Out Community Solar is incentivized through programs such as NYSEDA's Clean Energy Communities and DEC's Climate Smart Communities. Therefore, enacting the program would allow further points towards grants.

To encourage communities along the path towards 100% renewable generation, Joule has also established a Giving Back program as a means of directly investing in participating municipalities through the financing of local sustainability projects. Joule can make these Giving Back donations available by reducing the solar farm developers' customer acquisition costs and redirecting some of those funds to the municipalities. By enrolling all eligible customers as subscribers to local solar farms as part of a municipally endorsed community choice aggregation program, Joule's Community Choice solar program reduces the sales and marketing budgets; instead, funds are channeled toward the advancement of the community's sustainability goal.

In addition to these opportunities, the opt-out Community Solar Program supports:

- The development of local renewable energy generation
- Guaranteed savings on entire electric bill
- No rooftop panels required
- No maintenance costs
- No contract for customers
- No sign-up or cancellation fees
- No credit screens
- Simplified billing: Most community solar programs charge through a separate bill, in addition to the

utility bill. Through this program, customers have the convenience of paying only the utility bill, which includes the community solar discount.

- Vetted community solar program. As administrator of the program, Joule meticulously oversees the details of each program in order to protect consumers and maximize benefits.

As the CCA Program Administrator, Joule works to select a community solar provider on behalf of each community. Residents and small businesses are then automatically allocated a share of a solar farm that feeds clean solar energy into the local utility grid. Bill credits (derived from NYS incentives for clean energy generation) are then applied to participants' electricity bills for the energy produced by their share of the solar farm.

## **NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE**

In order to participate, the community would first approve a CCA local law (template and examples can be provided). This does not commit the community to implementation, but rather it authorizes the municipality to determine default energy offerings. Next, the community would need to choose Joule as the CCA Program Administrator. Similarly, this does not commit them; it simply authorizes Joule to collect data and present contract options. Note: The community does not pay Joule for any services.

After that, the timeline would be as follows:

### *Initial 60-day education campaign*

- Community education meetings and events (including virtually when appropriate)
- Regular coverage in local media
- Social media platform management
- Materials for municipal website

### *30-day opt-out period*

- All eligible customers receive letter in mail alerting them of the program
- Customers can contact the Joule staffed call center for questions, concerns, and/or assistance with opting out if need be

### *Continual education and program support:*

- Call center for help throughout the launch process and beyond
- Additional education meetings and events (including virtually when appropriate)
- Updates on program success over time

Support from municipality is vital throughout the process, as there are many steps to carry out. Some dedication and time are required to address matters such as service agreement approval and approval of education materials for the general public. Though some municipal coordination and collaboration is necessary, the bulk of the work will be carried out by Joule's dedicated teams to make everything as seamless as possible and to minimize the level of effort required by municipal staff.

## **ABOUT JOULE COMMUNITY POWER**

Joule is a privately-owned corporation specializing in market representation as well as products and services in the areas of clean energy, efficiency, and demand management. Joule partners with municipalities to develop community-scale clean energy solutions, empowering communities to achieve aggressive clean energy and energy reduction targets. Joule Assets and its principals have been recognized as pioneers in demand-side and renewable markets throughout the U.S. and Europe. Furthermore, they sit on several New York State working groups convened by the Public Service Commission.

Joule is a consistent leader in the development and advancement of community energy policy, and an experienced CCA Administrator in New York State. Joule's Public Service Commission-approved Implementation Plan and Data Protection Plan is the only such plan to include the integration of local clean energy resources and a direct procurement of 100% New York State renewable energy default supply option for CCA customers.

Joule's expertise is in designing and implementing inventive new policy and clean energy solutions. Joule principals pioneered Westchester Power, the first CCA program in New York State. Joule currently administers five community aggregates. To date, Joule has also generated more than \$150,000 in funds for local community sustainability projects and COVID-19 relief efforts.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Alexia Lamb  
a.lamb@joulecommunitypower.com  
(585) 866-2500 ext. 102

Victor Pierre Melendez  
victor@joulecommunitypower.com  
(845) 321-6475  
<https://www.joulecommunitypower.com/>





# New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials

119 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210 • Ph (518) 463-1185 • Fx (518) 463-1190  
Toll free number for NYCOM members 1-800-446-9266  
www.nycom.org • @NYMayors

January 28, 2022

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### Executive Director

**Peter A. Baynes**

TO: Mayors of Villages with a June 1 Fiscal Year  
FROM: Peter A. Baynes, NYCOM Executive Director  
RE: NYCOM Annual Membership Dues Statement

To assist in the preparation of your upcoming budget, enclosed you will find a statement containing your municipality's dues amount for NYCOM membership. Please note, an actual invoice will be forwarded to you one month prior to the commencement of your fiscal year. **For the twelfth consecutive year, there will be no increase in NYCOM dues, as we clearly recognize the fiscal challenges facing our municipal governments.**

As we continue our efforts to help our members rebuild and recover from what is clearly an unprecedented time, NYCOM is working even harder to provide the services you need. We are committed to making the resources we provide more accessible, adaptable and valuable to you and your municipality.

• **Legislative Advocacy:** Representing your interests in Albany and Washington is a key mission of NYCOM. This past year we achieved significant success at both the federal and state levels, securing \$5.6 billion in new funding from the American Recovery Plan Act for New York's cities and villages, as well as a \$164 million increase in the state transportation dollars that will flow to our members. We are now working to build on this momentum as we seek to maximize your aid and minimize the level of state intrusion into the local governance of your community.

• **Legal and Technical Assistance:** Our experienced staff of attorneys and programmatic experts are available to assist you and your administration with the challenges you face. We regularly produce a variety of publications with practical advice on the administration of municipal government. Also, NYCOM's website is a readily accessible source of information on the topics of greatest interest to our members.

• **Municipal Training:** Due to limits on congregate gatherings over the past two years, NYCOM is now more equipped than ever to offer a variety of remotely accessible training opportunities, including live and recorded webinars. However, we are also back to holding in-person events where you will not only have the opportunity to attend classes, but also to network with other municipal officials and learn about products and services from our vendors.

We look forward to continuing to serve you and your village.

cc: Fiscal Officer