

January 21, 2025, 6:37 pm. Municipal Building 8 E Main St
Special Meeting Minutes

Present: Mayor William Peeler via Zoom
Trustees Lynn Dumar, Timothy Healey, Bob Klim, Scott Sprague
Clerk Treasurer Christine Kearns

Mayor Peeler Called Meeting to Order at 6:37 pm.

Mayor Peeler read the statement prepared for the consolation funding application.

Statement –

The Village of Fonda is facing an urgent need for a secondary and supplemental water supply to protect public health, sustain economic development, and provide long-term resiliency for our community. Recognizing this crucial demand has ignited a transformative cross-jurisdictional initiative to establish a regional water supply network, uniting decision-makers around a shared goal to develop a stronger, more sustainable system future for clean and reliable drinking water.

Consequently, the Village of Fonda has partnered with leaders from Fulton County and the Montgomery Business Development Center, the Cities of Gloversville and Johnstown in Fulton County, and the Village of Fultonville and the Town of Mohawk in Montgomery County to develop a holistic regional solution. In this collaborative agreement, the City of Gloversville— where adequate excess water capacity is available—has agreed to sell water to Fonda, Fultonville, and the Town of Mohawk through the City of Johnstown’s distribution network.

For the critical pipeline connection to become a reality, additional pipeline infrastructure will need to be constructed to connect service from Johnstown to Fonda, with the Route 30A corridor identified as a key area for this development. It will also expand clean, reliable water access for new users in the Town of Mohawk by adding them to the network. Moreover, significant needs will arise along the entire proposed route to address growing demand and improve system reliability, including new water storage facilities to sustain water demands using future flow at the site.

This transformative project is an unprecedented opportunity to modernize water infrastructure, drive regional economic development, and safeguard water for hundreds of residents and commercial enterprises. Now is the time to invest in that initiative, to not only respond to our existing infrastructure challenges but to set up future growth, inter-municipal cooperation, and climate resilience.

We need grant funding to make this visionary project a reality, build the infrastructure to serve growing communities, reach new customers, and prepare our region for future water supply challenges. If the state and federal funding decision-makers support these crucial first steps, a sustainable water future—one that promotes public health, economic vitality, and regional prosperity for generations to come —is within our reach.

Mayor Peeler discussed the matching requirement of \$20,000, hoping all involved municipalities will share the cost, received letter of support from the Town of Mohawk, Village of Fultonville Mayor Tim Morford was working on theirs.

Resolution #3-2025 A Resolution to Establish a Regional Drinking Water Cooperative and Support Application for New York State Grant Funding for Consolidation

Offered by Mayor Peeler, Seconded by Trustee Sprague

WHEREAS, access to clean and reliable drinking water is essential for the health, safety, and welfare of all residents within the participating municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Fonda, the Village of Fultonville, the Town of Mohawk, the Town of Glen, the City of Johnstown, and the City of Gloversville recognize the need to consolidate and modernize drinking water systems to improve efficiency, reliability, sustainability, and

WHEREAS, the City of Gloversville has the capacity and infrastructure to supply treated drinking water to the aforementioned municipalities, ensuring a consistent and high-quality water source for all participants; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation of water services will significantly reduce the costs associated with operating and maintaining multiple water treatment facilities, including reducing duplication of expensive equipment, chemicals, and operational redundancies; and

WHEREAS, advanced technical labor in water treatment is becoming increasingly scarce, and this consolidation will create efficiencies by requiring less specialized labor at multiple sites, relying instead on staff with basic certifications to maintain the system while centralizing more advanced technical needs at the Gloversville facility; and

WHEREAS, filtration and treatment costs for participating municipalities will be reduced by leveraging the more modern and efficient treatment facilities in Gloversville, allowing participating municipalities to allocate resources toward the maintenance and future improvements of the shared infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, this consolidation will reduce administrative overhead for each participating municipality, streamlining operations, compliance reporting, and regulatory obligations under a single, cooperative framework; and

WHEREAS, the participating municipalities will benefit from increased purchasing power for materials, chemicals, and supplies, leading to further cost reductions; and

WHEREAS, the regional drinking water cooperative will ensure a more resilient and sustainable water supply by sharing infrastructure investments, spreading costs equitably, and improving access to grant funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS, New York State offers grant funding opportunities for the consolidation of municipal services, which will support the establishment and implementation of this regional drinking water cooperative; and

WHEREAS, the participating municipalities are committed to working together through a cooperative agreement, with the Village of Fonda designated as the lead agency responsible for administering the cooperative and overseeing operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. **The Village of Fonda, as the lead agency**, formally supports the creation of a Regional Drinking Water Cooperative, encompassing the Village of Fonda, the Village of Fultonville, the Town of Mohawk, the Town of Glen, the City of Johnstown, and the City of Gloversville.
2. **The participating municipalities agree** that the City of Gloversville will serve as the cooperative's primary supplier of treated drinking water, ensuring compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local water quality standards.

3. **The Village of Fonda will work with** all participating municipalities to draft and execute the necessary agreements to govern the cooperative's operations, cost-sharing mechanisms, and decision-making processes.
4. **The Village of Fonda authorizes** the preparation and submission of an application for New York State Grant Funding for Consolidation to support the development and implementation of the regional drinking water cooperative.
5. **The Village of Fonda and participating municipalities recognize** the cost-saving benefits of this consolidation, including reduced treatment and filtration costs, lower operational expenses, increased efficiency in labor utilization, shared administrative responsibilities, and enhanced purchasing power.
6. **The Village of Fonda commits** to ongoing collaboration with the participating municipalities to achieve the shared goal of providing sustainable and cost-effective drinking water services to the region.
7. **This resolution shall take effect immediately**, and a certified copy shall be forwarded to all participating municipalities and other relevant stakeholders.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Bob Klim, Trustee	X			
Lynn Dumar, Trustee	X			
Scott Sprague, Trustee	X			
Tim Healey, Trustee	X			
Bill Peeler, Mayor	X			

Mayor Peeler updated the board on the summer concert series, posted on Village Park website regarding performers, received a big response, asked for pricing from performers, Skeeter Creek will be performing July 11th, concerts on Friday evenings from June 27th to August 15th. Planning an Oktoberfest for October 24th-26th, looking into mechanical bull, axe throwing, kids jump, horseshoes and corn hole games.

Next meeting(s) Regular Monthly Meeting: Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:30 pm

Adjournment Motion by Mayor Peeler, Seconded by Trustee Dumar with all in favor at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kearns
Clerk Treasurer