

**Comprehensive Plan Work Group**  
Town of North Dansville & Village of Dansville  
14 Clara Barton Street  
Dansville, NY 14437

**Minutes for Monday, February 16, 2026**

**Meeting was called to order** by Nancy Nice at 6:00 pm

|                     |   |         |
|---------------------|---|---------|
| Work Group members: | Chairperson, Nancy Nice (Planning Board)    | Present |
|                     | Co-Chair, Quinn Golden (Community)          | Present |
|                     | Katie Infantino, Secretary (Planning Board) | Absent  |
|                     | Ann Lafford (Community)                     | Present |
|                     | Marcia Miller (Community)                   | Absent  |
|                     | Chuck Infantino (ZBA)                       | Present |
|                     | Susan DeMuth (Community)                    | Present |
|                     | Kathy Button (Village Board)                | Present |
|                     | Jeff Wiedrick (Village Board)               | Present |
|                     | Bob Infantino (Town Board)                  | Absent  |
|                     | David Luce (Town Board)                     | Absent  |
|                     | Jared Bridge (Planning Board)               | Absent  |

**Guests:** Dennis Weidman, Charlie Perkins, unknown guest

**Minutes: A motion was made by** Ann Lafford to accept the January 19, 2026 minutes. **2nd by** Quinn Golden. No discussion. All in favor 7 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN , **motion passed.**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

Police Department - Shannon Griese

- E-Bikes - the department has proposals that they will be taking to the board in March. There are a few things that need to be clarified before they are released to the community.
- E-Bikes:
  - Education - will be the first avenue
  - Enforcement - would be the next avenue.
  - A bicycle lane would require a proper study.
  - The police department has approximately 8 full- time members and 2 part-time members.
  - Recruiting is usually word of mouth.
  - An officer is retiring from SUNY and is looking to come back to the department part-time.
  - The department can sponsor a person for the 2nd half of the academy.
  - A person can pay their way through the academy but the second half they need to have a patch on their shoulder. The patch must be from an entity where they are employed.
  - In the current contract there is a clause that says the department will pay for certain classes at minimum wage.
- Future of Police Department
  - Status quo

- The civil complaints have increased, such as barking dogs, e-bikes, and neighbor issues. They are here to keep the peace
  - Calls to 911 for crimes are declining, but social issues are increasing.
- What would make it easier for police officers to do their jobs in the Village of Dansville?
  - Legal review of all local laws. Making sure there is no gray area.
  - The most difficult law to enforce is the tall grass issue. Can we legally tell someone they need to cut their grass lower than 6".
  - The Village Board does generally support the police department.
  - The village community supports the police department.
- Discovery is done by the officer within 24 hours so the chief can review and it is turned over within 3 days to the District Attorney. They haven't had any issues with it.
- Do you have issues with housing, code enforcement and property maintenance?
  - Sense of pride is lacking in the village
  - There are more tenants rather than owners living in homes.
  - The two hotels we have are not really for overnight guests. DSS puts people in there for temporary housing.
  - Shannon commented on 103 Main Street where the tenants take pride in their home, They have an appropriate season display each month. It really looks nice.
  - The village is dirty right now because of the winter dirt.
  - People are not maintaining their property, for example tarps on roofs, etc.
- Keeping the presence of law enforcement is necessary to keep order in the village.
- Approximately 7300 calls
- of service.
- Police will do property checks and they are all documented.
- Average 200-250 property checks per month.
- How hard is it to take care of the parks?
  - Mischief has gone down.
  - They made an arrest of kids doing donuts in Babcock and running into the wooden railing. The camera system in the park aided in that arrest.
  - The camera system is the 9th officer
  - There are 2 license plate readers in the village. One is on Clara Barton Street and the other is on Lower Franklin Street. It is helpful to this department as well as other agencies who are tracking vehicles.
- How bad are the drugs?
  - There are different varieties now.
  - Marijuana is legal, but it could still be considered a gateway drug.
  - They haven't used Narcan in six months but they used Narcan 3-4 times last year. The need seems to be declining,
- What would you like to see us be sure to recommend in our plan?
  - Updating and verifying that the laws are current. It must be someone that is educated in village law, penal law. Any law that they have to enforce should be reviewed.
- Ann suggested doing a study for bike lanes. Having bike lanes would make drivers more aware. She will look into it.
- An E-bike survey was done by the department and 189 people responded. Only 17 of the respondents owned e-bikes, scooters, etc. Of those people many wanted insurance. The only thing they didn't want to do was wear helmet
- Ann commented that people on the handicapped scooters will often dart out in front of a car or a person and not even look.

- Shannon said the department needs some education on enforcing laws for e-bikes, skateboards, bicycles, etc.
- Sue asked if we should have any language regarding Ring cameras or other doorbell/home security cameras that would be useful to law enforcement. The sheriff's department has a program they tried to model but people were more concerned about the police department trying to keep track of the camera owners. Shannon says there just needs to be more education for that to work. They currently go door-to-door if there is a crime and request to look at the footage of the cameras. Some recording devices are easy to spot and others are hidden.
- Quinn said he saw the county program and tried to participate but it was too difficult to sign-up. If it couldn't all be done online he wasn't interested in participating.
- The department received a grant for \$75,000 for cameras, they didn't realize at the time they could have put in for a million and probably would have received it. They aren't sure what they are going to do once the grant runs out next year. The cameras cost them approximately \$400 per month for the 4 cameras.

#### Fire Department - Joe Snyder/ Jr Firefighter - Bryce Ludlow

- How many people do you have?
  - The department has 38 active members and 12 Jr. Firefighters.
  - Two of their juniors will be moving up to active firefighter this year.
- How costly is training?
  - The state mandates training.
  - Forty years ago the training to be an on the ground firefighter or an interior firefighter was 39 hours. Then you could take more classes as needed.
  - Now the Beginning Firefighter Operations (BFO) is 79 hours.
  - Juniors who are 17 years old can take BFO.
  - Juniors who are 18 can take Interior Firefighter Operations (IFO) which is an additional 80 hours.
  - There is additional training after that if the person would like to take it.
  - In-house they require a member to have 16 hours of training before they can go on the fireground and every year they must have 8 hours of refresher training.
  - In-house training includes drills the department runs or drills they do with surrounding departments.
  - The BFO class will also count toward their 16 in-house hours.
- What would you like to see the village do to help you out?
  - The village takes very good care of the fire department. They appreciate the work done by the fire department.
  - The department appreciates the village board and feels they support them.
  - They also get support from the community.
- How big is the department's area?
  - South on 36 toward Arkport they go as far as County Road 52.
  - They cover part of the backroad 961-F between Arkport and Canaseraga.
  - The whole township of Ossian.
  - Part of the town of South Dansville
  - They only cover Sparta if they have a major motor vehicle accident. The DFD will respond with the ambulance. They also fill in at their fire house and provide mutual aid.
  - West Sparta is the same as Sparta.
- How long do you keep your equipment before you have to turn it over?

- The truck that is being replaced is 20 years old, that is the average number of years. The ladder truck will probably last longer. Life expectancy of most of their equipment is at least 20 years.
- The grass truck and rescue truck are both well over 20 years old. The grass truck doesn't see much use. The rescue truck is used quite often because it has the second set of rescue tools and the cascade breathing air system to refuel the air bottles at the scene.
- What is the next piece of equipment to replace?
  - The pumper will be replaced in the next year and a half
  - After that the pumper/rescue will be replaced around 2036.
- Where does the funding come for replacing equipment and to support the fire department?
  - Apparatus is purchased by the village because we are a village fire department.
  - They get grants to purchase turn out gear.
  - They get grants to purchase airpacks too. Some grants are through FEMA and they have other sources for grants too.
  - Fund drive donations are often used for fire prevention material for the kids in schools.
  - Some fire prevention money was used for the breathing air compressor.
- Mr. Ludow, how did you become involved?
  - When he moved to Dansville he wanted to start a Jr Firefighter program so he contacted the fire department.
  - He got together with a few other interested students and they started the Jr. Firefighters program.
  - It has been going for 3 years, this year.
- How can we help you get more kids involved?
  - Their recruiting is going well now.
  - They have a good increase in the number of recruits.
  - It's often word of mouth with kids at school.
  - The community events that they participate in also let people see what they do, which then may interest other students.
  - They set up a booth once a year at school
  - They also have a Facebook page that kids will see and become interested in the program. They post training photos and other fun stuff they do.
  - They are very effective in their recruitment.
- What are the problems in relation to structures, code enforcement, etc?
  - Not a lot of problems getting into buildings.
  - The biggest problem right now is the Hammond Place Apartments on William Street. They have set up an appointment with the village code enforcement officer to discuss policies.
  - 95% of the calls there are for people smoking marijuana in the building which sets off the fire alarms. It is getting to be a hassle because once the responders see where they are going, they might decide not to go because they know it will be a false alarm.
  - The chief did talk to the code enforcement officer and they are on the same page. The chief would like to see them set up a no smoking policy in the building which would eliminate the problem. Quinn asked if that wasn't a state law already, the chief said according to the management of the building they can't do anything about it. He will continue discussing with the code enforcement. The management has not been cooperative in the past. He has asked the manager of the buildings to have someone higher up in the corporation to call him, but that hasn't happened.
  - Audience question: Can't you give so many alarms a year and after that it is a fine?  
Answer: The county has a fining procedure but it doesn't do this fire department any

good because the money goes to the county. The other problem is, if it is set off by cooking or smoking it is considered a true alarm because the smoke sets the fire alarm off. Technically it is a true alarm but it isn't an actual fire.

- Code enforcement has talked to the higher ups at the corporation.
- The other tenants are at the point where they don't come out for an alarm. They have the same issue with Faulkner Apartments. One of these days it will be a true emergency.
- What about the 2nd and 3rd floors on Main Street where there are Air B&B's and apartments? Any concerns with those regarding access? Do you get to inspect them?
  - Most of them are in really good condition. Accessibility for any building over one floor is always a little harder and time consuming.
  - Thankfully there are no major issues on Main Street.
- Question from audience: What is the recommended number of bodies to man a truck?
  - There is no recommendation for the minimum.
  - You will need at least 3-4 guys and a minimum of 5 if you're going to a structure fire. Policy says if you're going to fight a fire inside you should have 2 in and 2 out to back them up. You will also need a driver and pump operator.
  - The second truck out doesn't need that many and one man can run the tanker.
  - All the juniors (if they are comfortable) have worn an air pack during drills in a controlled atmosphere, so when they are ready to go to class they can go.
- Suggestion from audience that there be a financial incentive to attract more members. One idea is a reduction on property taxes for being a member of the fire department.
  - The state will now pay a firefighter to go to fire school. They receive \$750 for BFO and IFO is \$1250, for a total of \$2000. The classes do not cost them anything. There is a cost for the training materials but the Livingston County Fire Chiefs Association has contributed toward those materials.
  - NYS Firemen's Association is pushing to get the tax credit raised.
  - If a volunteer firefighter gets hurt on the job, they only get ½ the compensation that a paid firefighter gets. They are both doing the same job, it should be more equitable.
- What will the fire department look like in 20, 30, or 40 years?
  - There's a possibility that fire departments may have to merge.
  - It's possible that Sparta, West Sparta, and Dansville would work as one unit.
  - But who knows, maybe the next generation will be more ambitious.
  - Within the last 3 months there have been 3 active life members step away.
  - Fire fighting has to be in your blood!
  - They have a great nucleus of people in the department. All departments are having this problem. It's also in other social clubs.
  - The junior program is fantastic and a great addition to the department. It will become key to the growth of the department.
  - They had the Explorer Program a few years ago through the scouts. The interest dwindled and the program ended.
  - The Junior Program has more benefits than the Explorer Program.
- Do the Juniors meet on a regular basis?
  - They don't have regular meetings. They are juniors simply because of their age. They do all the same training as the regular firefighters and they go to the same meetings.
  - The Juniors are also restricted on things that they can do. Juniors are not allowed to go to motor vehicle accidents and anything on 390. On fire scenes they are limited to what they can do. The chief says they are a great asset to the fire department.

## Ambulance - Jerry Jackson

- How many people are involved?
  - Fifty-three but not all are active in the schedule. Once you hit 10 years of service you can go light or life active, which means you don't have to be on the schedule you can just run calls. You have to maintain your training every year.
  - The schedule is usually pretty full. 88-90% of the first rig out is covered.
  - They did over 1700 calls last year, which is another record.
  - That didn't mean that an ambulance went out the door every single time. They get called to stand by for mutual aid and once the original ambulance corp secures coverage Dansville will be canceled.
  - Medical alarms for individuals are sometimes canceled for accidental trips. Occasionally the patient will refuse medical care. But most of those are true calls.
  - They covered 97% of the calls last year with 2 ambulances and about 50 members.
  - They have a lot of dedication.
  - They have some really excellent medics.
- What is the difference between a medic and an EMT?
  - A medic is an EMT. The minimum training to run on the ambulance is an EMT.
  - They do have several paramedics. They have several from the county that run with Dansville. They must maintain their basic card. They can not perform ALS with them. They will help out if Livingston County comes on scene.
  - They have people that are drivers only. They take the minimums: CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens, and CPR. The driver is very much part of the group.
  - If there is a cardiac arrest, the driver will do chest compressions.
  - They usually run a 2 person crew, occasionally they might have 3.
  - They have several all female crews.
  - Ten years ago they had around 53 members. At the highest point in the early 2000s they had around 100 crew members.
  - The group of volunteers they have now are very dedicated. They do receive a stipend and that has helped with retention. Prior to the stipend they were running at a low of about 85% coverage. They also didn't have as much county support as they do now.
  - To see how they could retain members, they went to other ambulance groups to see what they were doing.. They found a stipend would help. Funding comes from the village budget.
  - The village owns the service, the ambulances, and the Durango. There is a billing form they collect and that goes off to MEDEX where it is processed through the insurance company.
  - They have had great support from the village board.
  - They are on a 7-year rotation with the ambulances. Every 7 years the oldest one gets replaced.
  - They have found a company that can provide them with a middle of the price range rig. It works very well for them.
  - The chassis starts to show age when it is around 8 years old.
  - It's not really about paying to have it fixed, it's the down time while it's being fixed.
  - They need 2 ambulances available 24/7.
  - The cost comes out of the money that has been set aside and its all billing revenue.
  - They bill all patients whether they have insurance or not. The only sign offs are motor vehicle accidents which go to their insurance company.
- What do things look like in respect to access to building, code enforcement, etc.?

- Older houses are not meant for stretchers. Staircases are narrow and there is usually a turn and they are steep.
- They have equipment that they can use to get into smaller spaces to help the patient.
- The current stretchers don't damage things like the old ones did.
- When they get into infrastructure problems they are usually calling the fire department for help. (Lift assist).
- On the code enforcement side, they have seen everything from the hoarder scenario to a very clean house.
- Ambulance personnel are mandated reporters for NYS. The other resource they have is community paramedicine. Anyone can make a report about a patient and their ability to care for themselves to adult protective or child protective services. Anyone who is a resident of Livingston County can have access to this service.
- Five years ago they had 1500 calls. There's about a 15% increase year to year.
- When do you think we would need a third ambulance? How do we forecast? We would have to have a significant increase in calls to need 3 ambulances.
- If we are looking 15 years out we may need a 3rd rig.
- Currently, a 3rd ambulance would not be feasible because they would have to figure out how to fund the stipends. It would be like paying 2 full crews to sit in Dansville waiting for calls.
- The calls are inconsistent enough that a third rig couldn't be justified.
- County EMS is the back up for Dansville. They will cover the third call.
- Mutual aid from other towns can be backup too.
- Dansville has also started doing stand-by for Livingston Country. They will go to Hamptons Corners with the Durango and wait for calls.
- They also do long-distance transfers. They have been to Olean, Oswego, and Sayre. It is a money maker for the ambulance department.
- EMS providers typically hold down two jobs. The burn-out comes from working a full-time job and then taking another EMS job on the side. Injuries and burn-out are common.
- Medicare/medicaid reimbursement does not always cover what the crew is paid. Over 70% of calls are medicare and medicaid.

#### Dansville Ambulance Junior EMS Squad - Becca, Program Coordinator

- The program has a schedule and criteria for its members..
- The current program has 17 members with 3 who are set to graduate from high school and join the ranks as either drivers or EMTs for the Dansville Ambulance Group.
- Over the next 5 years they hope to average 2-3 new EMTs per year. This is based on their current numbers not including everyone they will recruit in the future.
- A student can join when they turn 14. Between the ages 14 and 15 there are educational opportunities and opportunities to help with the public outreach.
- At 16 they are able to ride side. This puts them on ambulances with certain EMTs. The mentors must have been an EMT for more than a year and have expressed an interest in having Juniors ride with them.
- There are certain criteria for the juniors: they are not allowed to go on traumatizing calls and they can't respond to a call for anyone under the age of 21,
- One of their objectives is a focus on mental health so they work with the school guidance counselors. The juniors have to have education on mental health resilience each month.
- There is a response action called CISM that is in place for juniors who accidentally go on a call for something traumatizing.

- Several juniors attended a workshop and excelled at triage practice. Next they will go to Swain to work with the ski patrol.
- In 3 weeks they are going to Wyoming County for an EMS response to a hazmat workshop.
- They pride themselves on the educational opportunities they provide to the juniors. They sponsor them to go to conferences across NYS. Two juniors went to Syracuse for a conference and both won the EMS games they participated in.
- In order to get a sponsorship they have to agree to come back and teach the rest of the juniors what they learned.
- They do a lot of community outreach on Second Saturdays and an event in Arkport.
- Becca's philosophy is "I teach then, you teach". The juniors become the teacher after they have learned a new skill.
- Three of the juniors are CPR instructors.
- They have three new applications for the program. Their goal is 3 recruits when 3 age out.
- They don't actually recruit, it is all word of mouth.
- The program encompasses both Dansville and Way-Coh Schools. They recently received an application from a student in Keshequa.
- Three or four of their current crew came through the junior program.
- BOCES has an EMT program.
- Many of the juniors are children of current members. There are several who belong to both the Junior Firefighter program and the Junior EMS squad.
- When a junior transitions to the regular squad it's helpful because they are already up-to-speed and the transition is much easier.
- The growth of the juniors is remarkable under Becca's new program.
- The junior EMTs have two captains that help run the program.
- One of Becca's objectives is to get these kids into a health related field. She provides them with opportunities to be in many different health related settings, like the ski patrol workshop.
- This program should be sustainable for a very long time and they have been very lucky with all the donations they have been able to get. They will be doing a raffle this summer and all the fundraising money goes toward conference scholarships.

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2026, 6pm in the North Dansville Town Hall Auditorium, 14 Clara Barton Street. Topic for this meeting will be Dansville Central School with Kelly Zimmerman and Amy Churchfield from GCC.

**Motion by** Ann Lafford to adjourn, 2nd by Kathy Button . All in favor 7 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 . Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katie Infantino, Secretary Comprehensive Plan Work Group (CPWG)

