

**VILLAGE OF POMONA
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**

February 23, 2026

7:30 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Ilan Fuchs

Deputy Mayor Mendy Lasker

Trustee Raanan Zidile

Trustee Joel Grunwald

ALSO PRESENT

Village Attorney Brian Nugent

ABSENT

Trustee Marc Greenberg

At 7:34 pm Mayor Ilan Fuchs called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. We have a quorum, so the meeting can start now.

As no residents signed up in advance to address the Board, there was no motion to open the public comment period. .

Pomona Cultural Center

Gde Arsa Artha submitted a report to the Village Board on the Pomona Cultural Center. In the report he wrote about the Winter 2026 Exhibition opened on February 15, 2026, with an opening reception the following Sunday, February 22, 2026, from 3 – 6 pm. Exhibiting artists include Jon H. Davis, digital photography; Eric David Laxman, sculpture; and Edward Walsh, sculpture. The music performance featured Enrique Lopez with a guest performer. The event was open for live attendance and was streamed live via YouTube.

Thank you to Tjok Dalem Arsa Artha for assisting with the production and live streaming. The March Thaw Concert, an evening of winter blues and jazz, is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. featuring Smitty's Strut. Musicians include Michael J. Smith, trumpet; Glafkos Kontemeniotis, keyboards; Marcus McLaurine, bass; and Raul Ruffin, vocals. The event will be streamed live via UOhnit.com. Light refreshments will be served. Tjok Dalem Arsa Artha will assist with the live streaming. The *Shadow Puppet Play* is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 3:00. Puppetry will be performed by Pomona resident, Barbara Pollitt and a guest performer. More details will follow in the next report. The Spring 2026 Exhibition is scheduled to open Sunday, April 12, 2026, with an opening reception the following Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 3 pm – 6 pm. More details to follow in the next report. The Spring Concert is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 7:30 pm. Proposed budget for the event is \$800 for the musicians and \$150 for refreshments, for a total of \$950. Deputy Mayor Lasker made a motion to approve the above, seconded by Trustee Raanan Zidile. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 4-0-1.

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Village Board meeting on 1/26/2026: Mayor Fuchs made a motion to approve the above meeting minutes and was seconded by Trustee Lasker. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 3-0-1-1.

Treasury Report

Trustee Grunwald moved the resolution that the payment of General Funds Claims totaling \$250,934.18 set forth on page 4 in the Monthly Abstract Listing dated January 23 through February 18, 2026 as submitted is hereby approved subject to individual audits by the Board of Trustees. The Payroll(s) of February 6, 2026 as set forth in the payroll in the amount(s) \$10,965.72 is hereby submitted for approval, subject to the individual audits by the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Zidile, upon vote, the motion was carried by all present. 4-0-1

New Business: None

Old Business: Deputy Mayor Lasker noted that Trustee Greenberg received the petition form from Brian Nugent regarding the proposed "No Parking" restriction, but it still needs

to be returned with signatures. Until the petition is submitted, the Board should not vote on the matter. Once received, it can be placed on the agenda for a vote.

He also suggested an additional parking restriction near Brookside and Quaker. Currently, one side of the road is marked “No Parking,” but drivers have begun parking on the opposite side, where there are no homes. This creates a dangerous situation, especially at night, as cars turning from Quaker onto Brookside have limited visibility. For safety reasons, he recommended extending the “No Parking” zone along that section to prevent near-miss accidents.

Trustee period: Trustee Grunwald raised concerns brought to him by several residents regarding ongoing traffic issues near the Camp Hill Road and Route 202 intersection, noting that there was yet another accident there about two weeks ago. He emphasized that the community is increasingly worried about safety in that area.

Deputy Mayor Lasker responded, acknowledging that this location is indeed a “sore subject.” He explained that although funding for the intersection improvements was secured about three years ago, progress has been significantly delayed due to complications at the town level, not the village. The Town of Ramapo decided that, since the intersection was already being redesigned, they also wanted to extend sidewalks all the way to Evergreen—a change that dramatically increased the scope of the project and tripled the amount of engineering work required.

As a result, when the State DOT reviews the plans and issues comments, the revisions are no longer limited to the intersection itself but include the expanded sidewalk project. For example, the state recently requested the CAD file for the Ladentown/202 intersection. That file was held by an outside engineering firm, and retrieving it could have taken months. To avoid further delays, Deputy Mayor Lasker personally contacted the engineer who had previously worked on it, and the file was delivered within a day.

He assured the Board that he continues to push the village engineer regularly—“every two weeks”—to keep the project moving forward. He expressed hope that, with sustained pressure, the improvements will finally advance and noted optimistically that, with three board members up for election next year, he hopes that by then they will be “cutting the ribbon on this beautiful new intersection.”

The Mayor noted that, with February already underway, it is time to begin working on the upcoming budget. He stated that he will start preparing it shortly and invited board members to share any comments, suggestions, or changes they would like to see compared to last year. He encouraged everyone to provide input early in the process. The Mayor also reminded the Board that the previous year’s budget is available for reference on the village’s website, noting that the site is an excellent resource.

Clerk period: No comments

Legal period: Deputy Mayor Lasker provided an update on the ongoing legal matter that has been affecting the Village for the past three years, involving a case on Lower Pomona near Pomona Road concerning the Town of Ramapo. Initially, the Village's insurance carrier assigned an attorney to represent the Village, as required for any legal action. However, the insurer later claimed the matter was not covered and withdrew representation.

Village attorney reviewed the situation, found inconsistencies in the carrier's position, and contacted the previously assigned attorney—who offered a lower rate should the Village need to retain her independently. Subsequently, following a new court decision, village attorney sent a letter asking the insurance carrier to reconsider its denial.

Two weeks ago, the carrier agreed to resume representing the Village, though they continue to assert that they will not cover any damages should the case result in liability. For now, however, the Village is not incurring any legal fees, and representation is being provided at no cost.

Mayor Fuchs made a motion to adjourn the meeting Second by Trustee Lasker motion passes 4-0-1

Minutes respectfully submitted by Moshe Orange, acted as Village Clerk for the meeting