



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 29, 2025 - 7:00 PM
(In-Person/Hybrid Meeting)
South Orange Baird Community Center
5 Mead Street - 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Executive Session - 6:15 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting

To access information on how to use Zoom to join the meeting, please click on the following link: <https://southorange.org/800/Zoom-FAQs>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
Mayor Collum called the meeting to order at approximately 6:20 pm:

2. **Roll Call**
Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg - **Absent**
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Councilman Schnall
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator - **Absent**
Mr. Travers, Deputy Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk
Ms. White, Deputy Village Clerk

3. **Meeting Notice Statement**
Village Clerk Davis read the following Statement:

In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the official newspapers of the Village, posted on the Village's website and filed in the Office of the Village Clerk indicating that this meeting is being held in-person and through hybrid communication via Zoom video conferencing. During a remote meeting, participants, including members of the public may be muted by the host. However, there will be an opportunity for them



to participate and speak during the public portion of the meeting where participants will be unmuted at their request. Official action may be taken.

4. Resolution to go into Executive Session

2025-233 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the September 29, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council

A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- General Redevelopment (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter and Contract Negotiations)
- Union Contracts (Attorney Client/Privilege Matter)
- South Orange Performing Arts Center (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilman Schnall moved to approve Resolution #2025-233 to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. Reconvene into Open Session

Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm:

ROLL CALL Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg - **Absent**
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Councilman Schnall
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator – Absent
Mr. Travers, Deputy Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel - **Absent**
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk
Ms. White, Deputy Village Clerk

6. Announcements

Mayor Collum read the following announcements:

A. **South Orange Downtown Farmers Market**

The South Orange Downtown Farmers Market returns for its 34th season and runs every Wednesday through October 29th, rain or



shine, in the Sloan Street Parking Lot (12 Sloan Street) — right in the heart of South Orange Downtown. New Hours for 2025: 1 PM – 6 PM

B. **Open Space Trust Fund Ballot Referendum - Attend a Town Hall Discussion**

South Orange Village is considering a referendum to increase the Open Space Trust Fund tax, currently set at \$0.01/per \$100 of assessed value. This fund supports the preservation and enhancement of parks, playing fields, and open spaces by providing dedicated funding that will aid in the preservation of South Orange's natural beauty, promote environmental stewardship, and improve our parks and playing fields. Join us for a Town Hall discussion on Wednesday, October 8 at 7:30pm, The Baird Community Center Stage & Screen Room, 5 Mead Street.

C. **South Orange Police Department**

The South Orange Police Department PBA Local 12 is once again hosting its Annual Winter Coat Drive to support those in need during the cold months. We can't do it without you! Clean out your closets and make room for the new season! We are collecting new and gently used, clean coats for both adults and children. All donations will go directly to local residents and charities. Donations can be dropped off at Police HQ, 201 South Orange Ave. Deadline is October 13th. Distribution will be October 19th, at 10 AM at the Sloan Street gazebo.

Additional announcements:

- Watershed Literary Event with novelist Alice Elliot Dark and poet Bruce Lowry – Sunday, October 5th, at the Skate House from 3pm – 4:30pm
- Seton Hall University Homecoming event open to residents and starts Friday, October 3rd through Sunday, October 5th
- Community Coalition on Race Annual Fundraiser Gala at Orange Lawn Tennis Club on October 16th. They will be honoring Audrey Rowe former program director and a special tribute to Carol Barry-Austin.
- South Orange Village will present the film Norman/Norman in honor of domestic Violence Awareness Month on Wednesday, October 8th at SOPAC starting at 7:00 pm.

7. **Board of Health**

- A. Councilwoman Lewis-Chang moved to recess the meeting of the South Orange Village Council and convene as the Board of Health, seconded Councilmember Haskins. All members were in favor and none opposed.



Roll Call:

Board Member Brown
Board Member Collum
Board Member Greenberg - Absent
Board Member Haskins
Board Member Jones
Board Member Schnall
Board President Lewis-Chang

Board President Lewis-Chang called the Board of Health meeting to order at approximately 7:25 pm and introduced Ms. Candice Davenport, Health Officer. Ms. Davenport presented and discussed the following monthly report:

- September National Preparedness Month for NJ residents with disabilities or access and functional needs
- Suicide Prevention Awareness month of September
- South Orange Village Presents Norman/Norman Screening at SOPAC on October 8th at 7 pm
- October 2025 Locations for Vaccines for Children
- North Jersey LGBTQ+ Free Health Fair 2025 on October 11th, 10am -2pm in Maplewood, open to all
- South Orange/Maplewood Community Resource Guide
- Communicable and Infectious Diseases Update
- Nursing Updates
 - Reportable diseases investigated: 6
 - August Total Cases: 3
 - July Total Cases 3
 - Current Cases Open: 3
 - Covid-19 Test Kits Distributed: 91
 - Free Covid-19 Test Kits can be pick up at Village Offices during business hours
 - Health Screenings: 11
 - National Measles Update
 - Zufall Monthly Health visit on September 12th: 15 people were given health education and information on services
 - Make The Right Call
 - Parents who spend 15 minutes Per Day to improve their child health and wellbeing. More information: <https://drugfreenj.org/>
- Environmental Health Update:
 - Restaurant inspections: 10
 - Pre-operation inspections: 2
 - Mobil Food Trucks: 2



- School inspections: 0
- Pool inspections: 1
- Camps: 3
- Complains: 15
- NOVs: 16
- Summonses: 0
- Animal Control updates:
 - Total Calls: July – 26; August - 28
 - Bites: July – 6; August - 5
 - Enforcement: August - 2
 - Transport: July – 1
 - Stray: July – 3 & impounded -1; August – 4 & impounded - 4
 - Rescue Group: August - 2
 - Wildlife: July – 16; August – 18
 - Reminder 2025 Dog & Cat Licenses: \$17 for neutered/spayed; \$20 for non-fixed pets and \$20 late fee after 3/1/2025. For questions, call 973-762-8120 ext. 2006

The full presentation of the Board of Health can be found on the Village's website at: <https://southorange.org/167/Health-and-Animal-Control>

In response to board's questions, Ms. Davenport provided clarification on the procedure for wildlife animals found on private property and advice for parents regarding vaccinations to children under a year old.

There being no further discussion, Board President Lewis-Chang moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Health, seconded by Board member Schnall. Board President Lewis-Chang adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 pm.

Reconvened as Board of Trustees and all members are still present

8. Proclamations

A. CELEBRATING CASA FOR CHILDREN OF ESSEX COUNTY FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Mayor Collum read the proclamation that congratulated the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the children of Essex County on their 40 years of service and commended their continual dedication to serving the most vulnerable children of Essex County.



Ms. Marla Higginbotham Executive Director of CASA for Children of Essex County thanked the Mayor and the Village Council members in helping them to celebrate this milestone.

9. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:
There were no questions or comments from the public.

10. Approval of Minutes

A. The Village Clerk is requesting the Council members' approval of the minutes for the following meeting:

- Regular meeting held on September 8, 2025 (All Council members are eligible to vote)

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 8th, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Absent
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes
Councilman Schnall	Yes

Motion carried.

11. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-234 RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE REGARDING EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT CONTRIBUTIONS
- B. 2025-235 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH VIERSMA COMPANIES TO PURCHASE INFIELD MIX FOR MEADOWLANDS FIELDS AND WATERLANDS FIELDS UNDER THE MORRIS COUNTY CO-OP CONTRACT # 33, CLAY & INFIELD MIX FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,250.00
- C. 2025-236 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS EFFECTUATING SALE OF THE WATER UTILITY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AS MAY BE RELATED TO THE TRANSFER OF ALL ASSETS, RIGHTS, TITLES AND INTERESTS THEREIN
- D. 2025-237 RESOLUTION PROVIDING A CHRONICLE OF MUNICIPAL ACTION RELATED TO THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF THE SOUTH ORANGE



WATER UTILITY AND ENUMERATING AND AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE CLOSING OF THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF THE SYSTEM

- E. 2025-238 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL OF AND AWARDING CONTRACT TO GEO-TECHNICAL ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR TESTING AND INSPECTION SERVICES FOR SOUTH ORANGE LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000
- F. 2025-239 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FALL TREE PLANTING TO CLARKE MOYNIHAN LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION LLC IN THE VILLAGE IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$51,207.00
- G. 2025-240 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FOUNDER PARK PLANTING TO CLARKE MOYNIHAN LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION LLC IN THE VILLAGE IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$65,165.00
- H. 2025-241 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR CROSSROADS PAVING REPRESENTING LINE ITEM ADJUSTMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTALS FOR WEST END ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND WATERMAIN REHABILITATION
- I. 2025-242 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR MONTANA CONSTRUCTION FOR THE EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF THE LENOX PLACE SANITARY SEWER MAIN
- J. 2025-243 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- K. 2025-244 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENTS RESULTING FROM TAX COURT JUDGMENTS
- L. 2025-245 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SIDE BAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AND PBA LOCAL NO. 12A (SOA)
- M. 2025-246 RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE DECISION OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO CHURCH STREET
- N. 2025-247 A RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AUTHORIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING DEBT OBLIGATIONS UTILIZING PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE VILLAGE'S WATER SYSTEM, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE AUTHORIZED OFFICERS OF THE VILLAGE TO DO ALL THINGS DEEMED NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE RETIREMENT OF SUCH OUTSTANDING DEBT OBLIGATIONS



- O. 2025-248 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A LICENSE REGARDING WATER UTILITY DATA COLLECTION EQUIPMENT ON STRUCTURES BELONGING TO SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
- P. 2025-249 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 - FOUNDERS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Councilman Schnall moved to adopt the Resolutions #2025-234 through #2025-249 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Absent
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes
Councilman Schnall	Yes

Motion carried.

12. Approval of Bills

- A. Councilman Schnall, Chair of the Finance and Capital Projects Committee, presents the Bills List audited by the Village Treasurer, dated September 29, 2025. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2025-250 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$3,894,401.00

Councilman Schnall moved to adopt the Bills List Resolution #2025-250, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Absent
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes
Councilman Schnall	Yes

Motion carried.

13. Village Mayor Report



Mayor Collum discussed the following:

- At the last Board of Education meeting, the board discussed Helmet safety and reminded parents that helmets are required by law for anyone under the age of 18 years old. This is aimed to improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Ongoing discussion with NJ Transit and the private developer to develop the site near the train station. The discussion includes conversation on Phase 3 of the River Green.
- Attended the recent Conference of Mayor where they discussed the concerns of the rising health insurance for municipal employees. The Village is exploring alternative health insurance options to reduce the burden on taxpayers but has not had any success yet. Discussion are ongoing.
- Mayor Collum along with Councilman Haskins will be meeting at the end of the week with PSE&G to address the poor lighting around town. Improvement to the lighting are key concerns for safety.
- Meridia, developers of 4th and Valley project building has leased up pretty quickly and they are now looking into the north side beginning with community discussion. More information will be provided as it develops.
- Lastly, Mayor Collum and the Council Members were excited to debut the new, hybrid capable meeting room. She thanked all those involved in getting the meeting room set up including Mr. Travers, Recreation Department and the IT tech staff.

14. Village Administrator Report

There was no report.

15. Village Attorney Report

There was no report.

16. Council Members Reports

- A. Councilman Brown - There was no report
- B. Councilmember Greenberg - Absent
- C. Councilmember Haskins - There was no report
- D. Councilwoman Jones discussed the following announcements:
 - New restaurant on Irvington Avenue called House of Wings opened on Friday, September 9th. They had a great turnout and the wings were a hit. The restaurant is open until 2am
 - SOMA Two Towns For All Ages introduced the Age Advantage Discount Card for ages 62 and over for use at local business. For more information on how to receive the card, sign up on



the website at:

<https://www.somatwotownsforallages.org/age-advantage-discount-card>

- Historic Preservation Commission sent out letters to over 400 residents in the Montrose Park District related to the updated Historic Preservation Ordinance where residents can self-designate their properties as historic. The deadline to self-designate is October 15th.

E. Councilmember Lewis-Chang - There was no report

F. Councilman Schnall - There was no report

17. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

1. Ms. Haig resident of South Orange announced the South Orange Symphony will perform the Beethoven's Fifth Symphony live at South Orange Middle School on October 26th at 3pm conducted by Nate White a talented local conductor and bass player. This event is family friendly and the Symphony is proud to be in the residence at the Middle School. Ms. Haig also announced the Microforest Planting in Princeton near Corey Park on Saturday from 10 am to 4pm. There will be around 900 trees and shrubs planted in this one day. Mayor Collum thanked Ms. Haig for her announcement.
2. Mr. Rudansky resident of South Orange expressed concerns that the benches near the Sloan Street Gazebo has been removed and wanted to know why this happened. Mr. Travers will follow up with DPW. Councilmember Haskins believed DPW are currently taken inventory of the benches and working on reinstalling.
3. Ms. Canning resident of South Orange expressed appreciation for Ms. Davenport's Health Report and asked if the information could be more widely shared. She was concerned with parents who may not be connected to the school system and wanted to ensure everyone in the community is aware of the resources. Council Member Lewis-Chang mentioned the health report is posted on the Village website as well as on the Maplewood health department website but will confirm with Ms. Davenport that all information is current. Also, she will speak with the Community Coalition on Race to see how they can help with distributing information.

18. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

19. Adjournment



There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 pm.

***These minutes are a summary and the actual statements can be found on the video located on the Village's website at the following link:**
<https://southorangenjwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2933/media>

ATTEST:

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

A blue ink signature of Ojetti E. Davis, written in a cursive style.

Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk

A blue ink signature of Sheena C. Collum, written in a cursive style.

Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor