

Committee of the Whole Meeting
Planning & Zoning
December 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Village Board Room

Attendance

Committee Members:	
Annette LaMore, Mayor	x
Mike Barry, Trustee	x
Todd Crockett, Trustee	x
Peggy Vaughn, Trustee	x
Joel Gesky, Trustee	x
CJ Boudreau, Trustee	x
Annette Zimbelman, Trustee	x
Other Attendees:	
Chris LaRocque, Village Admin	x
Jim Hanley, Super of PW	x
Sheila Martin, Treasurer	
Al Swinford, Chief of Police	x
Bruce Hill, Green Engineering	
Jakob Knox, Marketing Dir	
Allen Pickrel, Village Clerk	x
Melissa Gay, Deputy Clerk	

Attendees: Village Board, BNF Technical Inspectors, Gotion Representatives,

Meeting Notes: Gotion Facility Safety & Compliance Discussion

Attendees: Village Board, BNF Technical Inspectors, Gotion Representatives:

Purpose: Review fire safety compliance, outstanding inspection items, and communication concerns related to Gotion Phase 1 and Phase 2 operations.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Trustee Boudreau

MOTION: A motion by Trustee Barry, Seconded by Trustee Vaughn to approve the minutes from November 12, 2025 meeting.

1. Project Status

Phase 1 – Assembly Facility

- Active temporary occupancy.
- Several open inspection items remain.
- Fire protection systems largely installed and functional.

Phase 2 – Battery Production Facility

- Design documents under joint review.
- Specialized facility requiring engineered fire protection solutions.
- BNF reviewing proposed alternative designs.

2. Key Safety Items Reviewed

A. Industrial Fire Brigade

- Not required by code but previously agreed upon with the fire department.
- Goshen update: • Fire brigade marshal hired ~1 month ago.
- Additional 4 members targeted by end of year.
- Full equipment/training expected by Feb 1.
- Trustees expressed concern about delays and prior commitments.

B. Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

- Required by International Fire Code.
- Multiple revisions since April.
- Latest version approved by BNF on the day of the meeting.
- Fire department had not yet received the updated version; village will forward.

C. Sprinkler Holding Tanks

- Existing tanks required upgrades.
- Early inspections found deficiencies.
- Repairs reportedly completed in July.
- BNF:• Commissioning report submitted was not a valid inspection.
- Tanks were put back into service without final inspection.
- Full inspection requires draining tanks.
- Deadline clarification:• Fire chief cited Jan 18.
- Village administrator confirmed permit deadline is April 25.

D. Bidirectional Amplifier (BDA) System

- Critical for firefighter radio communication.
- Informal test showed radios working.
- Not yet certified; no approved plans on file.
- BNF identifies this as the highest priority life safety item.
- Gotion expects plans submitted “end of day” and testing within 1–2 weeks.

3. BNF Inspector Assessment

- Fire protection systems installed to a high standard.
- Gotion added features to aid firefighting (hose stations, access aisles, vehicle access).
- No immediate danger to the community, with the exception of: • BDA certification, which must be completed before full occupancy.

4. Communication & Process Concerns

Trustees

- Concerned about: • Delayed communication from fire department and village administration.
- Lack of transparency regarding the fire chief’s letter.
- Issuing new permits while older obligations remain incomplete.

Fire Department

- Expressed frustration with: • Slow progress on commitments.
- Limited communication from Gotion

Gotion

- States they have been in contact with both the fire chief and village.
- Acknowledges delays in hiring fire brigade leadership.

5. Public Comments (Themes)

- Safety concerns lithium battery fires.
- Distrust of Gotion and village leadership.
- Questions about evacuation plans and water supply.
- Requests for federal review (CFIUS).
- Concerns about transparency and communication.

6. Action Items & Deadlines

Critical

- BDA certification — expected within 1–2 weeks.
- Fire brigade fully staffed & trained — by Feb 1.
- Sprinkler tank final inspection — before April 25.

Process

- All inspection reports must be forwarded to the fire department.
- Trustees request regular updates and improved transparency.

Motion to adjourn at 7:22 by Trustee Barry – 2nd by Trustee Gesky

6 ayes – 0 nays

Respectfully submitted

Allen Pickrel

Village Clerk

