

January 2, 2026

The re-organizational meeting was called to order on January 2, 2026 at 10:00am by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Town Officials present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

Councilpersons present: Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill

Absent: Jeff Lyng

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Appointments

Supervisor - Authority to invest Town Monies

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to authorize the Town Supervisor to invest Town monies.

Ayes: Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch

Motion carried.

Jeffrey Hoch - Budget Officer (1 Year Term)

Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Shawn Freeman to appoint Jeffrey Hoch as the Budget officer for 2026.

Ayes: Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch

Motion carried.

Stephen Skiff, Jr. - Operator of Record - Watson Water Systems (3 Year Term)

Motion made by Jeff Hoch and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to appoint Steve Skiff as operator of record.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Susan Virkler - Deputy Town Clerk

Michelle has appointed Susan Virkler as the deputy clerk.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by James Blackwell to appoint Susan Virkler as Deputy Clerk.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Judith Houppert - Planning Board (5 Year Term)

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Hoch to re-appoint Judith Houppert to the Planning Board.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

James Pawloski - Zoning Board (5 Year Term)

Motion made by Jeff Hoch and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to re-appoint James Pawloski as Zoning Board Chairman.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Michelle Ward - Town Public Health Officer (1 Year Term)

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by James Blackwell to appoint Michelle Ward, LPN as Public Health Officer.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Jeremy Kelly - Dog Control Officer (5 Year Term)

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and James Blackwell to re-appoint Jeremy Kelly as the Dog Control Officer for the Town of Watson.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Erin Murphy – Court Clerk (4 Year Term)

Justice Regetz appoints Erin Murphy as the court clerk.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to re-appoint Erin Murphy as the court clerk for the Town of Watson.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Oaths of Office

Supervisor (1 Year Term) - Jeffrey Hoch @ \$22,880 for 2026 Bi-Weekly

Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3-year Term) - Michelle Ward @ \$26,040 for 2026 Bi-Weekly

Highway Superintendent (3 Year Term) - Stephen Skiff, Jr. @ \$59,000 for 2026 Bi-Weekly

Operator of Record - Watson Water Systems (3 Year Term) - Stephen Skiff, Jr. @ \$1,500 for 2026 Quarterly

Town Board (3 Year Term) - Shawn Freeman @ \$4,680 for 2026 Quarterly

Town Board (3 Year Term) - James Blackwell @ \$4,680 for 2026 Quarterly

Town Justice (4 Year Term) - Donald Regetz @ \$11,752 for 2026 Bi-Weekly

Justice Clerk - Erin Murphy (Corresponds w/Town Justice Term) @ \$17.61/Hr. for 2026

Public Health Officer (1 Year Term) - Michelle Ward @ \$400 for 2026 Quarterly

Deputy Town Clerk (1 Year Term) - Susan Virkler @ \$17.00/Hr. for 2026

Planning Board (5 Year Term) - Judith Houppert @ \$75.00/Meeting for 2026

Zoning Board (5 Year Term) - James Pawloski (Chairman)@ \$100/Meeting for 2026
Budget Officer (1 Year Term) - Jeffrey Hoch @ \$2,080 for 2026 Annually
Water Clerk (Watson Water) - Michelle Ward (Corresponds w/Town Clerk Term) @ \$2,311 for 2026 Quarterly
Water Clerk (Lowville Water) - Michelle Ward (Corresponds w/Town Clerk Term) @ \$2,311 for 2026 Quarterly
Registrar - Michelle Ward - (Corresponds w/ Town Clerk Term) @ \$998 for 2026 Annually
Dog Control Officer - Jeremy Kelly (5 Year Term) \$4,264 for 2026 Bi-Weekly

The above Oaths of Office will be completed within the 30-day time frame.

Designations

Deputy Supervisor - Jeffrey Lyng
Deputy Highway Superintendent - Neil Mahoney
Building Committee - Steve Stogsdill and James Blackwell
Machinery & Equipment Committee - Jeffrey Lyng and Shawn Freeman
Meeting Night - 2nd. Wednesday of the month @ 6:30 P.M.
Town Newspaper(s) - Watertown Daily Times
Town Bank(s) - Community Bank, N.A
Eligible Depository(s) - NYCLASS
Town Attorney(s) - Candace Randall and Ray Meier
Data Collector - Lewis County
Town CPA - North Country Certified Public Accountant
Cemetery Sexton - Edward Chapman \$520 for 2026 Annually
Custodian - Sheryl Virkler \$18.00/Hr. for 2026
Part-Time Highway @ \$23.85/Hr. for 2026
Mileage @ 0.68 /Mile (The 2026 Federal mileage rate) All reimbursement must be an accurate account of mileage, places visited and submitted by voucher for Board approval.
Returned check fee @ \$30 for any returned check that was used to make a payment to the Town.
Water Rate Fee Schedule @ No change at this time
Planning Bd. Fee Schedule @ No change at this time
Zoning Bd. Fee Schedule @ No change at this time

The above designations were discussed.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Freeman to accept the list of designations.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Town Park Pavilion prices were tabled for further discussion.

Town Historian - The Town is looking for a replacement town historian. There was some discussion about putting together a committee for historian purposes as well. All were discussed and tabled.

Authorized Pre-Pays:

Casella
Charter Communications
Cintas
National Grid

Verizon Wireless
Frontier Communications

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill for the clerk to pre-pay for these prior to the monthly board meetings.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Town Board authorizes Supervisor to pay, prior to audit, the amount stipulated in the 2026 budget for the following:

Lowville Vol. Fire Dept. - \$73,575

Croghan Vol. Fire Dept. - \$3,700

Fire Worker's Comp. - \$112

Lewis County Search & Rescue - \$8,073 (quarterly)

Community Bank (Judgements & Claims) - \$8,760 (Final Payment - Oil Spill)

Community Bank - \$41,330 (Final Payment – 4 yr. Plow Truck loan)

Volunteer Transportation - \$1,312

Senior Citizens Club - \$500

Pine Grove Church - \$1,000

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell for the Supervisor to pay the above budgeted annual bills.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried

Abstracts

End of year 2025 abstracts were submitted to the Town Board for approval.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to pay these abstracts.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried

Resolution #1 of 2026

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to make the following resolution for transferring of funds from A 1420.4 – Attorney – Contractual to A 1420.42 – Accounting Fees in the amount of \$3,880.00.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried

Resolution #2 of 2026

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to make the following resolution for transferring of funds from A 6510.4 – Veterans Service Contractual to A 6410.4 – Publicity/Newspaper in the amount of \$165.00.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried

Resolution #3 of 2026

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to make the following resolution for transferring of funds from SW2 8310.4 – Contractual to SW2 8340.46 – Water Treatment/Chlorine in the amount of \$100.00.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried

Resolution #4 of 2026

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to make the following resolution for transferring of funds from SW2 8310.4 – Contractual to SW2 8340.44 – Watson Water – Highway Reimbursement in the amount of \$8.00.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried

Adjourn

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to adjourn meeting at 10:34Am.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, James Blackwell

Nays: None

Motion carried



Town Clerk

January 2, 2025

Next Meeting: January 14, 2026

*To see the full resolution go to townofwatsonny.com, Quick Links, Departments, Town Board, scroll down below Town Meeting Minutes and see Resolutions.