

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

November 12, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order on November 12, 2025 at 6:28pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Town Officials present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

Councilpersons present: Jeff Lyng, Vicki Roy, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff

Assessor: Allan Mace

Citizens present: Bill Hunt, Mary Misek, Bill and Judi Houppert, Mike Hanno, Nettie Prusinowski

CPA: Scott Lawrence

Meeting was started by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Public Hearing

Public hearing for Proposed Local Law #6 – Amending and Supplementing the Town of Watson Zoning Law to Establish Regulations for Compressed Air Energy Storage Systems.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Vicki Roy to open the public hearing at 6:30PM.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Matt Rogers was available via Zoom to answer any questions.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng to close the public hearing at 6:50PM.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Local Law #5 – Dangerous Dog

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept Local Law #5 – Dangerous Dog Law

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Local Law #6 - Amending and Supplementing the Town of Watson Zoning Law to Establish Regulations for Compressed Air Energy Storage Systems

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept the negative impact statement declaration of the SEQR.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept Local Law #6 - Amending and Supplementing the Town of Watson Zoning Law to Establish Regulations for Compressed Air Energy Storage Systems.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill

Nays: Vicki Roy – Reason: She feels that the public/residents of the Town should have more say.

Motion Carried

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from October 8, 2025 were submitted for approval.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Vicki Roy to accept the meeting minutes.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Privilege of the floor opened

B.W. Hunt addressed the Town Board with a suggestion about the website. He would like to see the proposed local laws be available for review on the website. He also feels that the Public Hearing/Public Notices would be seen by more residents if it was advertised someplace other than the Watertown Daily Times. It was explained that the reason that the advertisement is placed in the paper is because an affidavit is required, as proof of publication, for those postings and there is currently not another source of advertisements that offer that.

Assessor Report

Allan addressed the town board with a monthly report. He stated what he has been able to complete and what his plans to complete are. He will be utilizing the drone that the County will be providing for all of Lewis County in the spring of 2026. The drone will be viewing all properties within Lewis County for towns to reevaluate.

Public Hearing – Budget 2026

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Vicki Roy to open the public hearing for the Preliminary Budget Review at 7:10PM.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Preliminary Budget was reviewed by the Town Board. The CPA was present to answer any questions that arose.

Public questions that were asked were answered by the Board.

After review and no further public comment public hearing was closed.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to close the public hearing for the Preliminary Budget at 7:42 PM.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Final Budget 2026

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept the Final Budget 2026.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Financials

Scott Lawrence from the CPA office was present to review the financials with the Town Board.

Resolution #39-2025 – Budget Transfer/Adjustment of Funds

Motion made by Councilperson Shawn Freeman and seconded by Councilperson Steve Stogsdill the following resolution for transferring of funds from DA 4960 – Emergency Disaster Revenue (FEMA) to DA 5110.41 – Contractual – Maintenance of Roads (FEMA) to total the amount of \$5,200.00 was proposed.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Resolution #40 of 2025 Budget Transfer/Adjustment of Funds

Motion made by Councilperson Shawn Freeman and seconded by Councilperson Steve Stogsdill the following resolution for transferring of funds from SW2 8340.44 – Watson Water – Highway Payment to SW2 8310.2 – Water Administration – Security to total the amount of \$570.00 was proposed.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Resolution #41 of 2025 Budget Transfer/Adjustment of Funds

Motion made by Councilperson Jeff Lyng and seconded by Councilperson Steve Stogsdill the following resolution for transferring of funds from SW 8340.4 – Transmission & Distribution – Lowville to SW 8320.4 – Water District – Water Bill to total the amount of \$405.00 was proposed.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Supervisors Report

October 2025

Total in Community Bank - \$105,731.26

Total in NYCLASS - \$2,121,050.43

Petty Cash - \$144.50

Total Amount - \$2,226,926.19

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept the Supervisor's Report for October 2025.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng

Nays: None

Motion Carried

RACOG

To see monthly RACOG newsletter go to <http://racog.org>

New Business

There will be an extra Town Board Meeting on December 29, 2025 at 6PM to pay any bills for the year of 2025.

Highway

FEMA projects (7 of them) have been submitted to the State for approval. Most are culverts that will need to be upgraded.

Highway Superintendent will be getting a BID ready for Board approval for replacement of the Highway Garage Doors and Highway Garage Heating replacement/upgrade for the next Board meeting.

Water

A water sample has been sent for evaluation.

Planning Board

Meeting held first Wednesday of each month. Meeting minutes posted to the town website:

www.townofwatsonny.com Quick Links, Departments, Planning Board

Zoning Board

Meeting held the second Monday of each month. Meeting minutes posted to the town website:

www.townofwatsonny.com Quick Links, Departments, Zoning Board

Zoning Advisory Committee

Updating current Town of Watson zoning laws.

Next meeting November 18, 2025 at the Town of Watson Municipal Office located at 6971 Number Four Rd Lowville, NY.

Park

Park has been winterized.

Another grant application has been submitted for park improvements.

Monthly Abstract

Abstracts: November 2025

General Fund – Voucher – 269-299 - \$9,756.96

Highway – Voucher – 137-144 - \$3,356.81

Water District – Voucher – 17-19 - \$14,042.32

Watson Water O & M – Voucher – 76-88 - \$6,805.32

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Vicki Roy to pay November 2025 abstracts.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Monthly Reports

Monthly report for October 2025 for Town Clerk & Dog Fund & Town Park was submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Monthly Justice report for October 2025 was submitted by Donald Regetz, Town Justice.

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept reports.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Executive Session - Personnel

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to go into executive session at 9:18PM to discuss personnel.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Shawn Freeman to come out of executive session at 10:02PM.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Highway Contract

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept proposed Highway Contract for 2026-2028.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Vicki Roy, Steve Stogsdill

Abstain: Shawn Freeman

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Jeff Lyng to adjourn meeting at 10:04PM.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Shawn Freeman, Steve Stogsdill, Vicki Roy, Jeff Lyng

Nays: None

Motion Carried



Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Regular Meeting: December 10, 2025

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

* Local Law will be posted to website after acceptance from the State.