

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

March 11, 2026

Town Officials present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

Councilpersons present: Jeff Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff

Citizens present: Bill and Judi Houppert, Mikey Dietrich

The regular meeting was called to order on March 11, 2026 at 6:30pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

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

Minutes

Meeting minutes for February 11, 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk for approval.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by James Freeman to accept the minutes.

Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Nyes: None

Motion carried.

Privilege of the floor

Question was asked about the town website. Michelle explained that the Town will be getting a new website through Civilly and that not everything has been updated on the old. She will update the meeting minutes.

Town Assessor

Assessor, Allan Mace, submitted a report for March 2026. He reviewed the report with the board and answered any questions. He stated that he and Alex have been completing the permits that are outstanding. He and Alex will also be doing evaluation for reassessment for the Town of Watson to be completed for 2026. He stated that he will be sitting with the roll on May 19, 2026 – 9:00AM-1:00PM & May 20, 2026 – 4:00PM-8:00PM here at the Town of Watson.

Data Collector, Alex Dunn, also submitted a report for review.

Town Accountant

February financials were reviewed/discussed amongst the Town Board.

Resolution #15 of 2026 - Budget Transfer/Adjustment of Funds

On a motion made by Councilman Shawn Freeman and seconded by Councilman Jeff Lyng, the following resolution for transferring funds from A 9030.8 Social Security & Medicare – Employee Benefits to A 9040.8 Workers Compensation – Employee Benefits in the amount of \$140.63 was proposed.

Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Nyes: None

Motion carried.

Supervisor Report

February 2026

Total in Community Bank - \$141,929.64

Total in NYCLASS - \$3,364,628.42

Petty Cash - \$144.50

Total Amount - \$3,506,702.56

Supervisor report for February 2026 submitted by the CPA office.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to accept Supervisor Report for February 2026.

Ayes: Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Nyes: None

Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch

NEW BUSINESS

A DRAFT LOCAL LAW NO. [1] OF 2026 – A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON UTILITY-SCALE ENERGY SYSTEMS (EXCLUDING ACAESS), the Town of Watson wishes to enact a twelve-month (12 m) moratorium on utility-scale energy storage systems(excluding ACAESS) to allow time to develop, review, and update the Town Code was presented to the Town Board.

After Board discussion a motion was made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to move forward with the Local Law #1-2026.

Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Nyes: None

Motion carried.

The draft will be sent to the County Planning Board for review.

A public hearing will be scheduled for April 8 at 6:35pm for any public discussion.

Highway Department

Replacing overhead doors project has started.

Old overhead doors are for sale at AARauctions.com.

There are 8 different doors.

#1- Insulated Overhead Door No. 1; 12ftx16ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled

#2 - Insulated Overhead Door No. 2; 12ftx16ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled

#3 - Insulated Overhead Door No. 3; 12ftx12ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled

#4 - Insulated Overhead Door No. 4; 12ftx12ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled

#5 – Insulated Overhead Door No. 5; 12ftx16ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled.

#6 – Insulated Overhead Door No. 6; 12ftx16ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled.

#7 – Insulated Overhead Door No. 7; 12ftx16ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled.

#8 – Insulated Overhead Door No. 8; 10ftx12ft. Lot includes door, opener, track and springs. Door is uninstalled.

Items are located in Lowville, NY

Auction closes April 7, 2026

Bid notice for heating

Steve discussed with the board about the heating information that he had inquired about. He stated that he feels that propane heating is suggested. A bid notice will be posted in the Watertown Daily Times and linkinglewiscounty.com.

Steve discussed with the town board options about fixing the highway parking lot.

Watson Water

2nd quarter water billing will be completed by the end of March.

Hydrant Flushing will take place April 20-24.

Water withdrawal repost will be completed this month.

Town Justice

JCAP grant has been issued. Town of Watson was awarded a portion of what was requested.

Planning Board

No meeting for February 2026 or March 2026.

Zoning Board

No meeting for February 2026 or March 2026.

Cathy Dosztan has submitted her resignation for the Town of Watson Zoning Board.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept her resignation.

Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Nyes: None

Motion carried.

The Town Board would like to thank her for her years of service to the Zoning Board.

Town Park

Benches have been ordered for the town park. Steve Stogsdill will be getting the materials to replace a couple of the picnic tables under the pavilion.

Monthly Bills

March Abstracts 2026

General Fund - #47-62 - \$19,396.99

Highway Fund - #15-28 - \$57,429.37

Water District - #5-6 - \$174.42

Watson Water O & M - #16-20 - \$1,315.90

Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Shawn Freeman to pay the March 2026 abstracts.

Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill

Nyes: None

Motion carried

Old Business

Michelle looked at the National Grid bills and there are 3 that the town has been charged taxes for. Jeff called and sent to National Grid what paperwork was required.

Monthly Reports

Tax Collection Report for February 2026 was submitted by Michelle Ward, Tax Collector.
Town Clerk and Dog Reports for February 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk.
Justice Report for February 2026 was submitted by Don Regetz, Town Justice.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by James Blackwell to accept all reports.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Adjournment

As there was no further business per Town Supervisor, Jeff Hoch, a motion was made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Shawn Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Jeffrey Lyng, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Michelle Ward

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

March 11, 2026

Next Meeting

April 8, 2026

Town of Watson

Resolution #15 of 2026

Budget Transfer/Adjustment of Funds

On a motion made by Councilman Shawn Freeman,
And seconded by Councilman Jeff Lyng,
The following resolution for transferring funds from:
A 9030.8 Social Security & Medicare – Employee Benefits
To
A 9040.8 Workers Compensation – Employee Benefits
In the amount of \$140.63 was proposed.

Town Board Members voted as such:

Jeffrey Hoch – Aye
Jeffrey Lyng – Aye
James Blackwell – Aye
Shawn Freeman – Aye
Steve Stogsdill – Aye
Ayes-5 Nays – 0

RESOLVED, authorizing the transfer of \$140.63 from A 9030.8 Social Security & Medicare – Employee Benefits to A 9040.8 Workers Compensation – Employee Benefits.

DULY ADOPTED by the Town Board of the Town of Watson at its regular monthly meeting held on March 11, 2026, at which a quorum was present.



Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

March 11, 2026