

State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

March 12, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order on March 12, 2025 at 6:30pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Town Officials present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

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

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff

Citizens present: Bill Hunt, Mary Misek, Bill and Judi Houppert, Mike Hanno, James Pawlowski, Debi Pierce

CPA: Scott Lawrence

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

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from February 12, 2025 were submitted for approval.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept meeting minutes.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Financials

Financials were discussed with the board and CPA-Scott Lawrence.

Resolution # 14 – 2025 – Budget Transfer

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Jeff Lyng to transfer \$40,000.00 from A 599 N to A 9901.1.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Resolution #15 – 2025 – Budget Transfer

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Jeff Lyng to transfer \$20,000.00 from A 1990.4 to A 9901.1.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Resolution #16 – 2025 – Budget Transfer

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Jeff Lyng to transfer \$60,000.00 from DA 5031 to DA 5142.13 for \$57,181.56 & DA 9030.82 for \$2,818.44.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Supervisors Report

February 2025

Total in Community Bank - \$208,110.88

Total in NYCLASS - \$2,750,911.76

Petty Cash - \$144.50

Total Amount - \$2,959,167.14

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Vicki Roy to accept the Supervisor's Report for February 2025.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

RACOG

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

New Business

The Town Board received a proposed Local Law for a Temporary Moratorium on Utility-Scale Energy Storage System Applications within the Town of Watson.

A Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law #2-2025:

The Town Board of the Town of Watson will be holding a Public Hearing on **Tuesday March 25, 2025 at 6:00PM** at the Town of Watson Municipal Office located at 6971 Number Four Road Lowville, NY. The hearing will be to discuss Local Law #2-2025, A Local Law to impose a Temporary Moratorium on Utility-Scale Energy Storage System Applications within the Town of Watson. The purpose of this moratorium is to provide the Town with sufficient time to thoroughly review, clarify, amend, and update its regulations for Utility Scale Energy Storage System. It is the intent of the Town Board to utilize this moratorium period to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive examination of the potential risks associated with USESS.
2. Review and update the Town's Zoning Law (Local Law 1 of 1997) and other applicable land use regulations.
3. Ensure that any future development of USESS is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
4. Adopt any additional regulations necessary to promote and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the Town and its citizens.

This and any other Town business will be discussed.

The Town received a Thank You from Singing Waters Senior Citizens Club and Volunteer Transportation for their donation.

Highway

Steve submitted another section of the FEMA paperwork. The Town is waiting for reimbursement for this.

The Highway Culvert Project information that is located on the Kotel Road, through Bridge NY, is posted to the Town website. The project plans, bridge plans and a comments page are available there.

The F-350 box has become available and will be picked up and installed.

Steve gave the board a lighting replacement propose cost for the lights that are not included in the upcoming garage replacement project.

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

James Pawloski – ZBA Chairperson stated that they had 4 applications submitted for this past meeting. One applicant rescinded their application. The other three were discussed.

A cell phone will be purchased for the Zoning Board chairperson as a contact for applicants to access.

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

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

Water

Town of Lowville is discussing their available options for extending their municipal water lines.

Steve received new water testing regulations from the State.

The water withdrawal report and quality water report will be getting completed.

Old Business

DASNY Grant: More paperwork has been submitted by Jeff.

Public Comments

Outside bulletin board needs to be updated.

Town website does not currently include all Local Laws that were put into place prior to the website being made.

Citizen stated that he does not feel that the Zoning Board minutes include enough pertinent information about the applications meetings.

The State of Emergency is still posted to the website.

Citizen stated that he would like to know if the interest that is accumulated from NYCLASS could offset the credit card convenience fee that is added to a transaction when a card is used. It was explained to him that the fee is does not go to the Town at all. It is charged to the customer from the credit card company, it has nothing to do with the Town.

The clerk will work on the bulletin board, website laws and removing the state of emergency.

Zoning Board will be contacted on adding information to their minutes.

Monthly Abstract

Abstracts: March 2025

General Fund – Voucher – 68-95 - \$8,395.00

Highway – Voucher – 23-35 -\$70,252.45

Water District – Voucher – 6 - \$22.99

Watson Water O & M – Voucher – 19-26 - \$2,110.26

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to pay March 2025 abstracts.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Monthly Reports

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

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

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept reports.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Local Law #1-2025 – Telecommunication Town Law of the Town of Watson

Local Law #1 – 2025 – Telecommunication Tower Law of the Town of Watson has been accepted by the State and will be posted to the Town website.

Adjourn

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Vicki Roy to adjourn meeting at 8:30 PM.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried



Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Regular Meeting: April 9, 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.