

A Regular Meeting was held January 20, 2026 at Hutchinson Hall, Newark Valley at 7:00 P.M.
The following Board members were present:

Present:

Kathleen Grant, Supervisor
Warren Smith, Councilmember
Joseph Tomazin, Jr. Councilmember
Brett Walter, Councilmember

Absent:

Lucy Johnson, Councilmember

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Joe Tennant, Jim Marzen, Erik Verguson, Becca Rimmel, Gary Stevens, Karen McMullen; Attorney to the Town, Code Enforcement Officer Dan Cheresnowski

Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Grant led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution #15 -2026

**Approval of Board Minutes for December 16th and
December 29th2025 and January 6, 2026**

On a motion offered by Councilmember Tomazin, and seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Town Board approved the Board Minutes for December 16, 2025, December 29, 2025 and January 6, 2026.

Councilmember Smith - AYE
Councilmember Tomazin - AYE
Councilmember Walter - AYE
Supervisor Grant – AYE

Motion Carried

Privilege of Floor

Erik to discuss contract will take to new business.

New Business

Becca Rimmel discussed her concerns about the rails with trails project; and concerns for her farm, she has not seen the grant.

- ❖ Concern for her livestock and the business itself
- ❖ Concern for her chickens because of the avian in the spring, it is spread very easily through shoes and on equipment.

She discussed that the town to consider it and be sure to take appropriate steps. Also, property values. Becca said the development director is coming to her farm to talk with her. She has guardian livestock dogs and was told it would be a recipe for disaster with her dogs. Supervisor Grant discussed that she hoped they would have a public meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the project, also that the railroad owns the infrastructure. Gary said he owns the property. Councilmember Tomazin discussed it will be up to the county and they would have their own attorney, Gary said railroad has the say. Soil and water are also going to Becca's farm. This subject became a very lengthy discussion with things with the IDA owning the rails, and have so many feet on either side but do not know how much. Karen McMullen Attorney to the Town explained to Gary that he needs to look at abstract and he said it goes back to 1850.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Joe Tennant discussed he had a proposal on new truck and didn't want to sign without approval. Total price \$317,397.22 that is with stainless steel body.

Councilmember Tomazin discussed the truck we are waiting on that the cab & chassey are paid for and the body is not yet. Highway Superintendent Joe Tennant said the people who build the bodies can't keep up with demand. Karen had said that they could demand a refund. Highway Superintendent Joe Tennant stated that the State takes precedence over towns. Discussed needing to wait and to pay for the whole truck not part of it.

Erik discussed the contract on their work hours. Current is 7am to 3:30pm and would like to do 6am to 2:30pm. The summer hours are 4 10 hour days 6am to 4:30pm. Highway Superintendent Joe Tennant discussed giving a try for 2 years with what is left in contract. Was decided to discuss at next meeting.

Financial Report

Resolution # 16-2026

Approve December Financial Report

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Tomazin, the Town Board approved the financial report for December.

Councilmember Smith - AYE
Councilmember Tomazin - AYE
Councilmember Walter - AYE
Supervisor Grant – AYE

Motion Carried

Resolution #17-2026

Approve the Town Justice Audit Report

On a motion offered by Councilmember Tomazin, and seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Town Board approved the Town Justice Audit.

Councilmember Smith - AYE
Councilmember Tomazin - AYE
Councilmember Walter - AYE
Supervisor Grant – AYE

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grant briefly discussed that the IDA were meeting with her on the Rail Trail at 11am. Supervisor Grant also discussed ordering the new thermostats. Supervisor Grant briefly discussed that she met with the Historians and they had mentioned wanting internet in the building, also that Neil Clinehens may step down and if that happened, she had someone interested. Was also discussed about holiday closing at the Town as we have worked when all other offices are closed.

Department & Council Reports

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Dan Cheresnowski briefly discussed that the Councilmembers should look at the fees we charge for permits, such a nickel or dime a square foot.

Dog Control

No Report

Council Members & Committees

Planning Board

Jim Marzen discussed that they have not met since late summer, they will be meeting in February. He is looking for feedback on the last proposal and what else the Councilmembers would like looked into. Supervisor Grant had mentioned how much cold draft is coming in the windows.

Old Business

Supervisor Grant briefly discussed that she wants to get an appointment to meet with Brandon Clark.

Solar Farm

The PILOT has not been signed by the County.

Councilmember Tomazin spoke with Marsha Kiechle and is asking for support from the town for July 4th for the 250th year and the Army Navy Band is in the works to come play at the Bement Billings.

General Bills

Resolution # 18-2026

General Bills

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Walter, the Town Board authorizes the payment of General Bills A1 to A19, inclusive in the amount of \$13,823.00.

Councilmember Smith - AYE

Councilmember Tomazin - AYE

Councilmember Walter - AYE

Supervisor Grant – AYE

Motion Carried

Highway Bills

Resolution #19 -2026

Highway Bills

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Tomazin, the Town Board authorizes the payment of Highway Bill Vouchers H1 to H8, inclusive in the amount of \$23,790.43.

Councilmember Smith - AYE
Councilmember Tomazin - AYE
Councilmember Walter - AYE
Supervisor Grant – AYE
Motion Carried

Executive Session

Supervisor Grant discussed that this was for a personnel issue.

Resolution #20-2026

Enter Executive Session at 8:27pm

On a motion offered by Councilmember Tomazin, and seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Town Board approved to enter the executive session at 8:27pm.

Councilmember Smith - AYE
Councilmember Tomazin - AYE
Councilmember Walter - AYE
Supervisor Grant – AYE
Motion Carried

Resolution #21-2026

Close Executive Session at 8:53pm

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Walter, the Town Board approved to exit the executive session at 8:53pm

Councilmember Smith - AYE
Councilmember Tomazin - AYE
Councilmember Walter - AYE
Supervisor Grant – AYE
Motion Carried

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

The next Scheduled Meeting is scheduled for February 3, at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L Corson
Town Clerk