

**TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, NEW YORK,
HELD AT TOWN HALL, 8635 CLINTON STREET, NEW HARTFORD, NY ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**

Town Supervisor Miscione called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The roll was then taken with the following Town Officials and Department Heads being present during the progress of the meeting.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilman James J. Messa
Councilman John Latini
Councilman David M. Reynolds
Councilman David Tehan
Supervisor Paul A. Miscione

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS/EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Jassak-Huther
Deputy Clerk, Donna Owens
Town Attorney, Herbert Cully
Deputy Town Supervisor, Anthony J. Trevisani
Highway Superintendent, Richard Sherman
Highway Foreman, Chris Moran
Codes Officer – George Farley
Police Chief, Ronald Fontaine
Assessor Darlene Abbatecola

Absent: Assistant Director of Personnel, Barbara Schwenzfeier

Thereafter a quorum was declared present for the transaction of business.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Cindy Sigbienny – Chapman Road – asked the Board – received the Messa campaign brochure last week and on the front, it said \$25 million deficit and 28% raise in taxes – shock to me and wanted to know about it – is it for next year or (Supervisor Miscione – if wait we are going to go over some of the finances and can answer questions in there and got audit in and will go over numbers)

II. POLICE DEPARTMENT

- a. Traffic Complaints – Red Hill Road, Pleasant street, Sylvan way and other road – will check out the issue and set up detail – will get study and Supervisor Miscione asked for the study so can send to Mary Pratt
- b. Personnel Matter – Promotion

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Reynolds and duly seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 244 OF 2025)

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RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to promote officer Mark Moskal to the rank of Sgt. (in Union Contract).

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

(RESOLUTION NO. 245 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to promote officer Adam Sadina to the rank of Investigator.

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

- c. **Seneca Turnpike Complaints** – Chief has taken care of issues and will continue to look into the matter; residents have reported issues and Councilman Reynolds asked residents to please call if issues, don't blow it off; Sherry Andrews – residents spoke and thanked the Chief for immediately response to the issues, watching the streets, etc. – also asked about police following the bus with kids
- d. **Budget Comments** – no extra in there for overtime (can't forecast next year); Supervisor Miscione said will have preliminary budget Nov. 5th and public hearing for people to comment

III. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN SUPERVISOR

a. Document Disposition Election Form for Willowvale Fire Dept.

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Messa.

(RESOLUTION NO. 246 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for Supervisor Miscione to sign the Document Disposition Election Form for Willowvale Fire Department.

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

- b. **2023 Audit** – Supervisor Miscione: 2023 Audit is complete; everyone got copy of the draft – overall fund balances on page 17 is totaled \$19, 213,00.00; fire districts at \$713,932 – general part-town \$699,219 – mitigation fees went up to \$459,437 – debt service \$769,739 – water fund \$90,647 – lighting district \$157,858 – total capital projects is \$1,792,000 (in the positive) – police fund balance \$2,875,468 (Councilman Tehan – just got this just before the meeting and really no time to review it) – we are not approving anything, this is a draft, supervisor gets the draft, reviews it and gives comments back (Councilman Tehan asked it be emailed to the Board) – filed with the state with AUD and 2024 will be done next week; once management comments are handed in by Supervisor Miscione the findings will be part of the package – journal entry issues, reconciliation – same as last one – no new major issues – we are ahead of the game – in house book keeping we have work to do – BOND rating never went down;

Cindy Sibieny spoke again about the Messa campaign brochure – as a tax payer concerned that the taxes would go up 28% and there is a \$25 million deficit for the Town of New Hartford; Supervisor Miscione – we don't have a deficit, we have actually bonded over the last several years but again it was an investment in our roads, our building, different things around the Town (new signs, our police cars) so we invested in assets over the years – stormwater, money that was grants that we had to make up the 20% - that is what that money makes up – it is actually \$21,926,000 as of August of this year – that is where we are right now but again we didn't just do that overnight – two steps: the Town right now BONDED in the last few years we have a total of (Councilman Tehan – let me interrupt, this is the 2023 audit, as of year end 2023 the town had \$19.4 million in debt not deficit – according to these financials – I don't necessarily agree with \$21 million you said? (Supervisor Miscione – we are at \$21,926, right now that is where we are total; Tehan – the notice that went out for the \$6 million BAND that occurred in April of this year told investors that the Town has an obligation of \$24.1 I think million, so how did we go down to.....; Supervisor Miscione – don't forget we pay down BOND interest every year so it is about \$2 million total in interest in

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payments every year; Councilman Tehan – but as of August how did we drop to \$21 million over \$3 million; Supervisor Miscione – it is on the paper, I understand you want to argue about it so again fiscal advisors, give them a call, \$21,926,000 as of August because we paid principle payments and principle payments for 2024 and 2025 brought it to the number you just said to the number I just said – we do pay down every year (Christina \$1.8 million) – when I took over we had \$11 million we wind up at \$25 and we are now at \$21,926,000 right now but if you look at the building we are currently sitting on and you look at that number, it is on the books for \$20 million so we did all the roads, we got a building, all the parks, all the signs, all the stuff that we did and we still have assets that are close to where are debt is – most people have mortgage on their homes, that is what this is – rec center upgrades, children's stuff, etc.; Councilman Latini – I think you did a great job, we have a great building, court room, police dept, you have done a great job (Supervisor Miscione); Supervisor Miscione – looking at our numbers again, you see our fund balance and you see \$19,000,000 we have \$21,000,000 in debt, we are not in bad shape if you do the math – we have \$2.1 in assessments in the Town, if you do the calculations for the assessments in the Town, we are at 14% and going down every year; Councilman Latini asked Cindy Sigbieny -mentioned about tax increase – Cindy – yeah but lets finish this first because is it misleading to put that and alarm residents; Supervisor Miscione –misleading or not misleading, everybody has an understanding of debt, I look at it as not debt, it was an investment in our Town to make it better – don't forget where we were – we were at Butler Hall in the bottom of the basement for our Town, we had a police department that we got cited from the Health Dept. for, we had a trailer outside that our police officers use to change in and we didn't even have female facilities for the female officers – we went from that to this and we made it work and we also put in the school district that again that offset some cost in our building – I think we made good moves, I don't see an issue of where we are – we are making our BOND payments, we are making our principle payments, leaving with fund balance every year and doing it under the 2% CAP – we have been under the 2% CAP for years – paved, REC Center upgrades, parks, we have all done a lot and care about our community – at the end of the day the Town is moving in the right direction, keeping our taxes under 2% so everybody gets their tax cap check and we have nice facilities that our police department should be proud of, our residents can be proud of and not only that, the services we have in our Town, we have the best Highway services around this area – they are amazing (brush pickup, trash pickup, etc.) – everyone can have an opinion but this Board, everyone that was on this Board and people that were here before did a good job – everyone here has an equal vote – need 3 votes to make things happen – we made the Town proud of the things we do. We are on the right track (my opinion). Everyone on this Board cares; Cindy Sigbieny – I am glad that you explained it and clarified that, I just wonder why Jim would put that on the brochure (Supervisor Miscione – its campaign stuff) – I am just giving you real numbers and real facts – all these facts can be looked at by the Board – they can call, it's a phone call away from the auditors – all documents are open to the residents; Cindy Sigbieny – still asking about the 28% increase; Supervisor Miscione – there is no 28% increase, we are under 2% again this year for our budget,

we've been under 2% for the last 7 years and we have never had a 8% increase; Donna Owens – so why is Jim rolling his eyes; Cindy Sigbieny – I am only looking at what was front and center with what I got and all the other residents; Supervisor Miscione – just to finish it, we have never gone over 2% in any given year that we have both been here - that is all I can say (Cindy thanked Paul)

Resident in back – 1.5×3 equals 4.5 so that is an increase in our taxes whether it is under 2% or not, you increase it 1.5 each time my taxes still rise 4.5% (Supervisor Miscione – in a 3 year period) – question – when will the audit be release to the public?; Supervisor Miscione – this week coming – this is a draft and then they will release it – AUD is online already – will be on the Town website

IV. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY COUCILMAN

a. COUNCILMAN MESSA

- i. 7 Bromwich reimbursement for tree, provided a quote and copy of canceled check to Board Members and Town Attorney – confirmed it was our responsibility

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Messa and duly seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 247 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to pay \$900.00 for reimbursement for removal of tree.

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

- ii. Kay Circle and Florence Court paying and driveway repairs from milling equipment – will be done Friday/Monday per Rick
- iii. Elm St. striping complaint – Rick will take care of it
- iv. End of Mallory – catch basin filled – will be taken care of

b. COUNCILMAN REYNOLDS

- i. Total number of fire safety inspections for Oct 3 – 7 – 9 inspections totaling \$2,791.20; total to date \$76,951.80; will continue to update, compliment those doing good job

c. COUNCILMAN TEHAN

- i.** Paving update on 2025 spending - \$2,000,000 – Rick gave update – chips reimbursement has to wait state budget \$398,581.32; total BAN and chips was \$2,398,581.32 – paid out to date is \$2,177,048.14 total left to date is \$221,553.18 we still have roads to do – they have been milled waiting for the paver to come back Friday or Monday – working with schedule of the pavers – did 46 roads and have roads Church, Hamilton and off Elm – we added more roads – Whitetail development – Taber – etc. – all roads will be completed this year – will be a little over this year; quality of work is not the same as last (Councilman Tehan – my road, 5 driveways were cut and repatched so had additional seam) – Rick we are on the job with them with the roller
- ii.** Paving repairs: 32 Tamarack (Rick – was taken care of, was done in house) and 24 Fawncrest – that has been taken care of per Rick
- iii.** Credit Card

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Tehan and duly seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 248 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to rescind the pre-approval of credit card payments and require they go through the voucher process along with the other payments that are processed on a monthly basis.

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

- iv.** Employee issue/arrest – Town Attorney Herbert Cully – not entitled to the information at this point pending investigation – district attorney refuses to give
- d.** Supervisor Miscione/Councilman Reynolds – Clerk thanked those who attended Beautiful Gold Star Family ceremony and thank you to Owen Jassak for the monument; Councilman Reynolds – was a beautiful ceremony, very, very well attend by State, County, Local – very nice job; Councilman Latini – very nice job
- e.** Councilman Tehan – circle back – any actions the Town has to take; Supervisor Miscione – first of all we have to go into Executive Session because can't do right now due to labor law – we do have a process in our handbook for that – we have to wait until something comes down and actually is – no different than a personnel issue – have to go through the steps

V. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN SUPERVISOR

a. REC CENTER Seasonal Workers

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

(RESOLUTION NO. 249 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for seasonal worker, \$16 per hour, position vacant, until March (Abigail Achen).

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Tehan.

(RESOLUTION NO. 250 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for seasonal worker, \$16 per hour, position vacant, until March (Haylee Hawkins).

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

(RESOLUTION NO. 251 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for seasonal worker, \$16 per hour, position vacant, until March (Jean Orozco).

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The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

(RESOLUTION NO. 252 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for seasonal worker, \$16 per hour, position vacant, until March (Luca Padmanabhan).

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Messa.

(RESOLUTION NO. 253 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for seasonal worker, \$16 per hour, position vacant, until March (Maya Padmanabhan).

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

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The following Resolution was then introduced for adoption by Councilman Latini and duly seconded by Councilman Tehan.

(RESOLUTION NO. 254 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for seasonal worker, \$16 per hour, position vacant, until March (Bryson Gaiser).

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made by Councilman Latini and seconded Councilman Reynolds, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

(RESOLUTION NO. 255 OF 2025)

The Town Board voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

The Resolutions were unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Jassak-Huther

Town Clerk, RMC

11/23/2025