

**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 8, 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:

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
Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Jassak-Huther

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

I. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 222 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve the Board Meeting minutes for the September 17, 2025 Board Meeting.

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

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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. 223 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve the Board Meeting minutes for the October 3, 2025 Board Meeting.

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

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

Resolutions PASSED with four affirmative votes and duly ***ADOPTED***.

II. PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW 4 of 2025

Local Law No. 4 of 2025

Town of New Hartford, New York

A Local Law to amend the Code of the Town of New Hartford, Chapter 113 thereof entitled “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”, Schedule VII, Section 113-41, stop intersections,

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 113 of the Code of the Town of New Hartford, Section 113-41, is hereby amended to include the following:

Section 113-41. Schedule VII: Stop Intersections.

DIRECTION

<u>STOP SIGN ON</u>	<u>OF TRAVEL AT</u>	<u>INTERSECTION OF</u>
<i>Westminster Rd</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Arlington terrace</i>
<i>Westminster Rd</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Arlington terrace</i>

Section 2. All other provisions of Chapter 113.41 of the Code of the Town of New Hartford, and amendments thereto, are hereby affirmed except to the extent that this Local Law shall modify or amend.

Section 3. This Local Law shall become effective immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 224 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve open the public hearing.

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. 225 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve close the public hearing.

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. 226 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve Local Law 4 of 2025 – stop signs at Westminster Rd./Arlington Terrace.

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***.

III. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic By Way – Jan DeAmicis

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 227 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby support the designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway which includes programs for stewardship and enhancement of the historic scenic byway and guidance to manage future activities along its corridor; and the Town of New Hartford confirms that they will not approve any requests for new off-premise outdoor advertising signs along the designated Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway route.

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***.

Town Attorney Herbert Cully will draw it up for everyone to sign, Town Clerk will seal and notarize.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Chris Hullar (Oneida Street)** – spoke about Chadwicks Revitalization Project and checking on status; Supervisor Miscione let the residents know we have \$500,000 allocated from Oneida Cty., as a grant, bonded for \$500,000 – DRI grant \$10 million (Supervisor Miscione will apply for Nov. 7th) - \$5 million from DOT for sidewalks from Chadwicks area – connect to Washington Mills where McDonalds is – going out to BID for all the sidewalks (DOT waiting for the BID request to come out); costly, looking to do some inhouse; Elm Street to Oxford Rd. for the actual Downtown project, looking to DOT to see if can get Town enough money to get to Washington Mills (McDonalds area) – reason is they want to connect it for the school district to make it walkable; Chris Hullar spoke to Mary Pratt – a sidewalk, drainage ditch, couldn't dig any deeper, still a concern (Rt. 13) – Cty., they put in storm drainage, sidewalk cracked, etc. ; Supervisor Miscione – should be started in the Spring once the grants come through (Chris Hullar stated Mary Pratt promised the fix) – Supervisor Miscione said spoke about it at the last meeting and Town will do in house sooner

- b. **Joe Weibel (Oneida Street)**– Oneida Street (past Oxford right side) road is deteriorating; Highway Dept. will go up through and put hot blacktop and roll it (patch)
- c. **Lisa LaSalle (Bleachery Place)**– spoke up flood in Chadwicks (Bleachery Place), stated the drainage basin that was put in was not the right size; Highway Superintendent Richard Sherman stated we have a large catch basin to put in
- d. **Ronald Merritt (Concord Blvd)**– 1,000 feet of home are four registered sex offenders living in the Pine Crest Motel – three are level three – asking for more police presence, drive behind school bus; Police Chief – they are required to register with the police dept. and investigators follow up (state law); Supervisor Miscione discussed with a resident that there might be an issue with zoning for that motel (can't do long term – 30 day max) – supposed to be a short term motel – violates zoning if longer – asked George Farley to look into the motel (had same issue at the one on New Hartford Street); Ronald Merritt asked for more police presence
- e. **Jean Driskell (Oneida Street)** – pipe under front lawn, creek got filled in, creek drains downhill, dredged out, doesn't solve problem down road, (voice very soft, can't hear well, residents talking as walking out) – debris comes down – spoke with Chris Moran who very successfully put gravel at the end of driveway – needs to be dredged again; Supervisor Miscione asked Rick Sherman about the study that John Dunkle did – shows piping, part of the project working on; Highway Superintendent Richard Sherman – asked for detention pond on top of the hill to hold water back; Supervisor Miscione – project will replace all the drainage underneath the roads and everything to get some real drainage (new drainage, roads, sidewalks); Jean Driskell – asked who wrote the grant, I commend whoever wrote the grant (Supervisor Miscione – I wrote the grant) – I write the grants, just wrote a grant for \$50,000 to do stormwater catch basins, infrastructure is expensive – normal yearly budget you can't afford infrastructure – can only BOND or get grants for it – if don't get help from the state and county, no possible way can do it, have to raise taxes 500% to do the projects that we have done – the county has given us over \$7 million in the past 6/7 years for stormwater projects that we did and completed. There is more to do, its town wide. This will take care of a lot of the issues and aesthetics – grant money and bonding - \$16 million in total grants, it's a big number; Jean thanked Supervisor Miscione very much for his involvement in the Seed and Weed Club, doing a great job (Supervisor Miscione – and thank you for making our parks beautiful)
- f. **Resident spoke from the back (unknown)** – questioned - are you taking all public comments from when starting writing grants until it comes to starting project and adding to the scope of this project – are you using public comments to design this system; Supervisor Miscione – first thing, make sure have the money so we don't do a demonstration and it doesn't get done and everyone asks why it didn't get done – the minute the money is allocated (Herkimer got \$10 million and haven't started the project yet – now they have done their community interaction, done the studies, hopefully next year Herkimer will start their downtown project) – same with Town of New Hartford – Supervisor asked Richard Sherman if this is something we can do (clean), I know you are jammed but is it something that is possible to do; Highway Superintendent Richard

Sherman – I will be honest with everyone here, we have been jammed all year, all spring, summer and fall – use to have 27 employees, down to 19 – people on vacation, paving since May, find infrastructure problems, very tough year – right now leaf trucks are out – got curbside pickup – its nonstop – been a very busy year; Supervisor Miscione – honestly, the Highway guys, they work extremely hard and they do a lot – there are so many services in this Town, it is all on the Highways shoulders – currently working on a lot of projects; Resident (unknown) asked why are we not hiring people then; Supervisor Miscione – hire more people, raise taxes drastically (Councilman Latini – they don't stay) - resident (unknown) – work ethic not like use to be, start prioritize things – homes take under because of flood and got sued; Supervisor Miscione – FEMA did the project and took the homes down (don't remember that Town got sued) – Highway guys out doing a lot of work, if want to hire more guys, which do want to hire more – talking about the Union contract right now and competitive out there – as you hire more people and pay more benefits, it's an expense – we have done a lot of projects – commend the Highway Dept., they do a Hell of a job for this Town.

- g. **Stu Miller (Morgan Lane)** – be careful with development Town approves to stop the flooding; affects others
- h. **Resident Spoke (unknown)** – asked about getting clean out (Chris Moran will take care of residents ditch
- i. **Resident Spoke (unknown)** – asking what study using (going back to – Sauquoit Creek flood basin); Supervisor Miscione – John Dunkle, Town engineer (year or two ago) did a study, walked the properties, determined the areas to put the ponds, (resident said big difference between retention and detention) Supervisor Miscione - I understand the difference between retention and detention ponds – we are also part of the Sauquoit Creek Basin committee, myself and Rick Sherman - they didn't deem it that they were able to allocate monies for the whole project, through the State, through the Federal Government – spoke with engineers, DEC, state representatives, Homeland Security; Resident (unknown) – spoke about loss of property, possibly loss of life if something bad does happen; Supervisor Miscione – back then it was about \$32 million actually – we got denied (for funding) by all of them for that project – the projects we were able to do was because the county had Harpa money and used Harpa money to give to the Town to fund some of the small projects that were done like MiddleSettlement Rd., Roman Rd., different places in the Town so when you say we were working downstream instead of up that is an unfair statement, because it would only be fair to work up top of the hill if we had the money – we tried that, wanted to do something and the County was willing to help us – that is why we did the projects that we did – they were funded through the County and also with in kind services throughout Town – if we didn't do those, we would have done nothing – something is better than nothing – again, we have tried all those avenues and we want to do it, if I can fill out the grants and negotiate with different departments, it would be the first thing on my agenda to do – we all know what we have to do, it's all about funding – all key players were here, governor, etc., helped with what could, the project you are talking about wasn't affordable for any agency – there wasn't money available to do it because if there was, we would have been the first on the list to

get it done – only stuff that we did was stuff we were able to get funded and the funding mostly came from the County; Resident – doing something is better than nothing – down the road should talk to FEMA – area on FEMA radar; Supervisor Miscione – only allocate so much money per zone – they were willing to give us \$10/\$11 million towards it and it was a matching but the Town could not afford \$11 million expenditure when we had 100 other things to do – if you look at Royal Brook Lane, had a major flooding issue, with the Middle Settlement Road project, thanks to the County, and the other projects we did along the way there, they don't have the funding anymore – some things did get solved – Chadwicks was the biggest, major project ever in Oneida County – like Whitesboro did the banks, \$5/\$6 million, that is nothing compared to what this project would have cost back then; Resident (unknown) – overbuilding has caused over 50% of flooding – Town Hall – when not here, water was able to seep into the ground; Supervisor Miscione – Town Hall was here before my time, probably most of the Board Members here, we haven't built any subdivisions since I have been here so people who build homes that have a legal permit, and is zoned to build a new home, you can't restrict them to build a new home if it has already been zoned for that – no one is building subdivisions, these have been there for many years, if build a new home you mitigate the water that is on your property, you can't take water and put it on someone else's property – for a single family home there is really no DEC requirements or anything to fall back on – we have one of the best engineers, John Dunkle, he has taught at many schools, #1 one in the entire state, teaching DEC courses to the guys, we found him because he was the best in the State, many people will say that; Resident (Unknown) – many people can say that but if you look at a (different) group, one of the premier engineers for stormwater, out of New Paltz, NY

- j. **Chris Moran (Town Foreman)** – brought up that we did spend over \$1 million on Grange Hill Rd. so there has been work in Chadwicks; Supervisor Miscione – the biggest thing is that the big projects.....Highway Superintendent Richard Sherman – the ponds the resident is talking about, we keep an eye on those ponds, private property, the dam is shot, but we keep an eye on it because it is private property – use three drones to watch. We do watch the area even though it is not ours; Councilman Messa – we put a backhoe by Bleachery when we know a big storm is coming

V. REPORTS OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

- a. **POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF RONALD FONTAINE**
 - i. **School Sports and Supplement Services Agreement**

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 228 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for Supervisor Miscione to sign the Agreement for Sports and or Event Related Supplemental Police Services & High School Campus Recess Detail.

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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***.

ii. New Hartford Animal Shelter Outside Municipality Agreement

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 229 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for Supervisor Miscione to sign the New Hartford Animal Shelter Outside Municipality Agreement.

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***.

- iii. Police Vehicle Claim** – informed Board submitting a claim to the insurance company
- iv. Portable Radio Surplus**

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 230 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for Chief Ronald Fontaine to surplus the portable radios.

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

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye

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Supervisor Miscione - Aye

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

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 231 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for Supervisor Miscione to sign the form to consolidate part-time six (6) positions as full-time positions.

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***.

VI. CODES OFFICE – permission to attend Land Use Training

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 232 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for the Planning Board and Zoning Board members to attend the Land Use Training.

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***.

VII. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN SUPERVISOR

a. Authorize to BID Oneida Street/Kellogg Road Signalization

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 233 OF 2025)

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RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby authorize to go out to BID for Oneida Street/Kellogg Road Signalization.

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. Rayhill Memorial Trail BID Award

- i.** Mohawk Valley Materials – Rome \$4,990,229.55
- ii.** Carver Construction – Albany \$7,179,174.00
- iii.** Maple Ridge Organics – Richfield Springs \$9,907,660.00 (called and stated they had a mistake – bid was supposed to be \$6 million not \$9 million)
- iv.** CCI Companies – Canastota \$8,818,620.00
- v.** Jablonski Excavating – Dolgeville \$9,388,000.00

Councilman Reynolds suggested John Dunkle look at the BIDS – stated there was a discrepancy is 2 to 1, in a way they are reading the proposal (John Dunkle already did, he was at the BID opening and reviewed ALL the BIDS); Supervisor Miscione – it is on the companies; Supervisor Miscione and Highway Superintendent Richard Sherman both stated John Dunkle did review and lowest bidder was Mohawk Valley Materials

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 234 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby authorize to award the BID to Mohawk Valley Materials in Rome for \$4,990,229.55 for the Rayhill Memorial Trail Remediation.

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**.

Supervisor Miscione – two years ago - engineer for the project – two years ago the whole trail collapsed in NYM – no trial left – FEMA came in and wants to support doing the project, stabilizing all the banks – borrow money from fund balance, total engineering about \$500,000 to date – 12% match on project -

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\$5.5 million – come up with approx. \$600,000; FEMA – have to BAND for the money for two years and pay the interest for the two years – Supervisor looking into getting a 0% interest BAND – once complete and checks paid out, they will reimburse; start project in 2026

c. VOUCHERS

RECORD OF CLAIMS #1	
25-01430 - 25-01447	
A	\$8,495.64
B	\$38.97
BP	\$219.85
DB	\$72.10
F	
SF	
SL	\$1,411.03
SS	
TA	\$31,115.98
HEP	
HMA	
HTA	\$2,288.02
TOTAL	\$43,641.59

RECORD OF CLAIMS #2	
25-01448 - 25-01463	
A	\$8,400.19
B	
BP	\$76,298.16
DB	\$57,600.05
F	
SF	
SL	
SS	\$1,356.70
TA	\$33,336.92
HEP	
HMA	
HTA	\$1,129.60
TOTAL	\$178,121.62

RECORD OF CLAIMS #3	
25-01468 - 25-01483	
A	\$4,881.14
B	\$146.98
BP	\$4,946.95
DB	\$2,876.30
F	
SF	
SL	
SS	\$8,481.66
TA	\$1,064.36
HEP	
HMA	
HTA	
TOTAL	\$22,397.39

RECORD OF CLAIMS #4	
25-01484 - 25-01505	
A	\$39,443.65
B	\$4,081.62
BP	\$3,821.07
DA	
DB	\$114.38
F	
SF	
SL	\$246.39
SS	\$149.43
TA	\$27,795.60
HEP	
HMA	
HTA	\$142.51
TOTAL	\$75,794.65

RECORD OF CLAIMS #5	
25-01429, 25-1506 - 25-01645	
A	\$63,023.40
B	\$3,232.65
BP	\$89,485.75
DA	
DB	\$50,964.56
F	
SF	
SL	
SS	\$21,650.02
TA-escrow	\$3,435.00
HEP	
HMA	\$638,421.14
HTA	\$8,527.40
TOTAL	\$878,739.92

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 235 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby authorize to pay the vouchers.

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

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	-	Aye
Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
<i>(Abstained on Adirondack Bank Voucher – Tehan)</i>		
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

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

- d. **RED HILL ROAD SPEED REDUCTION** - call from Mary Pratt, concerned residents of the speed – asked if can reduce speed – need a recommendation from Town sent to

County – 45mph – question to lower it – Chief stated he feels 45mph is appropriate – invite Mary Pratt to the next meeting to discuss; Councilman Messa wants to submit a request and if reject they reject; Town Attorney Herbert Cully again suggest have Mary Pratt come in; Supervisor Miscione will call Mary Pratt and come back and discuss

- e. **MERRITT PLACE STOP SIGN** – spoke about it at previous meetings – Public Hearing set for November 5, 2025; Chief will get information to Town Clerk

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 236 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve for a Public Hearing for Local Law 5 of 2025 – stop sign on Merritt Place on November 5, 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***.

- f. **PLEASANT STREET/SYLVAN GLEN SPEED REDUCTION** – multiple complaints; received email; Chief will look into it; Pleasant Street has digital sign – was reduced years ago
- g. **NYS Comptroller Audit Assessment Updates** – all councilmen received an email if they would like to meet with the auditors to discuss they could; Issues seen – mostly housekeeping – things that were cleaned up – risk assessment complete at this time – results will be discussed with Council at their request – thanked Christina Lacy for taking a week off from her other job to work on this; like to see but not a requirement – checks are printed with the Supervisors name on them “the Town Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor should sign each check individually after they are written – the computer should not automatically generate my signature” – even though it is password protected – makes it fool proof no one can go back into the system and change anything; another recommendation the retirement health insurance premiums by retirees, have to keep up to date (payroll to payroll instead of per quarter), sick, comp time, vacation time up to date; payroll – up to date, timely accounts for leave, absentee, retirement, health care (again payroll to payroll); documentation is very useful – for example vacuum cleaners were bought this year, document on the bill where it is located, which department used the vacuum cleaner and what it is being used for; description of all claims and use – example they used – a receipt for a physical therapy office (for approx.. \$1200), actually a program for the Parks that John Randall uses and the guy had the same business so he put it through his square account (the guys business) Randall verified what it was for – if it

was detailed exactly where it was there would not have been any issues; Petty cash – all the receipts we are using for petty cash are not receipts that we need petty cash for, can be put on a credit card or paid by PO – should only be used for emergencies or something that cannot be paid for with a credit card – if can't should be documented on the receipt that couldn't pay with any other funds (was told there are no problems with them); years ago made a resolution to pay the credit card bill without going through the auditing process, said that was a no no – need to call the credit card and make it so the date changes on the credit card statement but it has to go through the voucher system – only one National Grid, Verizon, accounting taxes, the ones on the resolution at the organizational meeting, need to make a resolution to take that off - credit cards need to go through voucher system; bills being paid timely with no interest; bank recs – likes what we have done, improvements that have been made and we are back on track with that; biggest things – when we do bank transfers (in 2023) we did not take the bank transfers that we had and make journal entries – Christina is now doing it; they said everything was good, didn't find any theft or any major issues; Councilman Tehan – retirees health insurance (some are required to pay for it) – tracking needs improvement; Supervisor Miscione – should do payroll to payroll; Councilman Tehan – need to know when paid and need keep up to date; Supervisor Miscione – PFR can be done and send it without the audit being done so that it is filed; Email was sent out that the audit will be completed by 10/20 – good fund balance for 2023

h. BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR NEW HARTFORD LIBRARY

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 237 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve Marie Selvarajah for Library Board of Trustee term starting January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030.

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***.

i. EXECUTIVE SESSION for Contracts (Highway, Parks and Police)

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 238 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to enter into executive session at 8:12pm.

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. 239 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to come out of executive session at 9:23pm.

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**.

j. CONTRACTS

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 240 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve Teamsters Local 294 Highway Department Contract as follows in agreement negotiated for a three-year term starting January 1, 2026 ending December 31, 2028.

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

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
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TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2025

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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. 241 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve Teamsters Local 294 Parks, Town of New Hartford Contract as follows in agreement negotiated for a three-year term starting January 1, 2026 ending December 31, 2028.

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

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

Resolutions PASSED with four (4) affirmative votes and duly **ADOPTED**.

- k. **2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET** – schedule Preliminary Budget Nov. 5th (Public Hearing); Town Attorney Herbet Cully read the laws again to the Board – Preliminary Budget Public Hearing on or before the Thursday following Election Day (has to be in the paper for 10 days)
 - i. Councilman Tehan – questions: spoke that did not receive the budget until Monday; had questions and Supervisor Miscione answered: Supervisor Secretary salary - \$0 – have not used in years - money given to the library budget; Accounting oversight lowered – Bonadio said price was going to go down (paying them \$4,750 a month now, already paid them \$16,000); Bookkeeper/controller – 2026 – Christina salary part-time; Salary 7% increase; Deputy Clerk 2 – part-time (have a Clerk, full-timer, and 2-part timers – that is how it was prior to the Clerk doing fire inspections - Fire Inspections now moved over to Codes (Councilman Reynolds would like to go back) - the clerk was doing fire inspections payments and will no longer, the Codes department will go back to doing fire inspections. Prior had Gail, Mel and 2-part timers then the Clerk took on fire inspections and cash receipts (back to bookkeeper), both those jobs will go back to the departments they belong to; or make the 2 part time position to one full time position (no need for a part timer as its going to Codes to do fire inspections, again Councilman Reynolds made

the recommendations – a Clerk is taking the fire inspections courses – Clerks are now doing Codes jobs and now will go back to Codes Department where should be plus Dory needs the help. Clerk Department is now doing fire inspections and Building Permits; Councilman Reynolds – show zoning enforcement officer assistant (Supervisor Miscione – zoning officer – George, zoning board salary, Codes Enforcement Assistant (new and did not fill in 2025) and per Councilman Reynolds and Supervisor Miscione, we need to fill at some point – Dory said she truly needs the help in the Codes Department – and fire inspection billing can go back to the proper department and take in the building permits; Councilman Reynolds – after inspections are done, calls need to be made to get paid; Councilman Tehan – Zoning Enforcement Officer Assistant salary – Supervisor Miscione/Councilman Reynolds - hasn't changed, never filled it – Councilman Tehan – there is expense in that budget (Supervisor Miscione – Lary got paid half the year and George (George was the assistant then); Supervisor Miscione – the budget now brings the Codes Department back whole with administrative staffing; Supervisor Miscione – those changes were due to input from Dory and Councilman Reynolds; Supervisor Miscione – good things coming – O'Reilly's, two more locations coming on Commercial Drive, apartment complex if Sangertown moves forward; Councilman Messa (sound/voice low) – something about part timers and raise for Deputy 1 – (Supervisor Miscione those are appointed positions – new position will not come in making the same, no raise, back down to the normal salary – new person will not come in making what others already make who have been here); Councilman Tehan - \$18,000 reduction from year over year in Clerk bucket (Supervisor Miscione – correct when taking out part time – taking one part time position out and into the Codes Dept (giving duties back to Codes); Supervisor Miscione – not relevant – the Codes Secretary went from \$65,000 to \$44,000 (legit salary) didn't use \$65,000 last year (never filled position); Supervisor Miscione – at the end of the day, the magic number is \$6,077,306 and anytime during the year you can readjust sales tax and readjust the funds

- ii. Councilman Reynolds – asked about salt; the budget number is ok (unless run into a problem – Rick Sherman); Councilman Tehan – is \$205,000 ok for next year, Yes or NO, you have to know, this is your budget; Rick Sherman – No – you don't know how the weather is going to break, no clue; Councilman Tehan – Again you are \$61,000 over budget to date (Supervisor Miscione asked Rick Sherman – didn't you get winter relief money that the state gives us; Rick – didn't get money); Councilman Reynolds – it is what it is if it's a bad winter you have to put the salt down; Councilman Tehan – increase it and take money out of personal services (Rick - that is payroll - Tehan, I know but take a look at

the actuals; Supervisor Miscione – Dave it doesn't matter we just passed their contract, that reflects the contract we just passed; Tehan – I know but you are not going to go up several hundred thousand; Supervisor Miscione – don't forget we lost guys, we have to hire that is why the payroll is so low – down 7 guys); Supervisor Miscione – bottom number is the key; Councilman Reynolds – Village of NYM – have a contract with them – brine – Chris Moran – that was for salt in the budget, they bought salt from us, they don't use brine anymore

- iii. Councilman Tehan – Animal Control – shelter – (cannot hear) – waiting for state; part-time ACO, contractual; Central Printing (Supervisor Miscione stated its for IT support, mailings internal, software agreements, paychecks software (list of them) – you see them when the vouchers come through; Rec maintenance worker – Tyler Moran because he is now full-time was part-time (is full-time but was part-time) he is in the Union Contract that was just passed (was Erin last year, she was part-time; Sauquoit Creek Basin Membership don't see expense – Supervisor Miscione – used in the past - you read the budget, its tight; we have been doing the grants in house (Tehan thinks should join); Splash Pad – Supervisor Miscione said the whole package to repair it is \$400,000 – every year repairing little by little – lines, head, concrete, etc. if want to keep it going, right now wasting water, bought heads for it and parts, next year need fix tubes and two heads;
- iv. Library – Councilman Messa proposed reducing all the Councilman salary down by \$6,000 EACH = \$24,000 to allocate to the library to underpaid employees; Councilman Reynolds – up to \$62,000; Supervisor Miscione – going to have to look at the numbers, even giving them \$475,000 now they will need to be at \$600,000 in the next two years; Councilman Reynolds – there is a diminishing return if you look at it and getting harder and harder to fund it; Councilman Messa – (spoke quietly) – something about fundraising and the \$24,000 from the Councilman will help, each giving up \$6,000; Councilman Reynolds – I support the library but there are other ways to hit that number;
- v. Councilman Tehan – workers COMP - \$13,000 to \$56,000 – Supervisor Miscione – can't speak about it but that is the right number; Town Attorney Herbert Cully – can't discuss it; Medical – Supervisor Miscione HRA's will be short; Sales Tax – waiting on 3rd quarter check – Supervisor Miscione – would not put more, conservative number; Tehan – school district property reimbursement – Supervisor Miscione the lease negotiated with the school district; Councilman Tehan – Hospital and Medical – Supervisor Miscione – Codes employees will hit \$125,000 this year; Councilman Tehan – Cable Franchise Fees went down – Safety Inspection fees – Special Use went up – Restaurant inspections new ledger; BAN – can't ban for contractual (Police – very quiet); Crossing

guards went down - down to two; real property tax (Supervisor Miscione – police department, general whole town is down 15%); St. Lukes patrol; Highway guys leaving – down guys – Highway part time Supervisor Miscione – the number is part of the contract - Councilman Tehan feels will not reach that number, thinking the likelihood of filling 7 positions by Jan. 1 – Supervisor Miscione – number reflects 5 positions now with money amount in there – Councilman Tehan again feels will not hit that number – Councilman Latini – hope hit that number, we need guys big time – Rick says guys out and few more leaving – Chris Moran says have 19 guys and 3 mechanics; salaries, elected officials – registrar/vital statistics \$15,000 and change in 2025 (Supervisor Miscione it is still there but it is not an elected position, whoever is Town Board in January appoints the registrar – you can't put it in the elected officials spot until it is appointed – Jade use to be the registrar, Mel was, Cheryl was as well but had to do a Public Hearing to be registrar – it is an appointment of the Town Board – dollar amount has been the same for 5 years

- vi. Councilman Messa – if we approve this as is, the salaries are locked in – sorry to beat a dead horse – reduce the salaries of councilman by \$8,000 for library – trying to get to \$24,000; Town Attorney Herbert Cully – so you are suggesting an amendment reducing the salaries of the board members to \$10,000; Councilman Messa – allocating \$24,000 to the library; Town Attorney Herbert Cully – need consensus from the Board; Councilman Messa - will need another \$14,000 to get to the number for the library; Councilman Reynolds – not addressing the bigger issue – sat with Anne for multiple years – there is an issue of diminishing return – we either need to fund this properly or work to find a better way to fund it. Doing this is nothing, it is just a stop gap – their salaries are ridiculous, but doing it this way does nothing to solve the problem. I am not in favor of that, not to lose the money or gain the money – makes no sense to address the issue; Councilman Messa – NO, I totally disagree with you; Supervisor Miscione – I can solve this issue, if Jim is ok with it because I don't really care cause because the federal government taxes till I am dead, if me and Jim are the only ones running for Supervisor, lets just take the \$18,500 and give the library that and make the Supervisor position a volunteer thing. I am ok with it, I don't really care, I don't need the money. I think it would be a great thing; Councilman Reynolds – not addressing the issue – fund balance or sales tax – we need to be looking at – it says the Town of New Hartford – it is not the Town of New Hartford – we fund it but it is not a department in the Town – that is the reality – need to work with the school – school library system; Supervisor Miscione – go over fund balance situation – perfectly in line for 2023 and 2024 to have 3 months full of expenditures – don't want to touch fund balance down the road because taking from principle

and will deteriorate that to fund something – I see Jim Messa is talking about reducing the BOARD salaries, if he is ok with it, I am ok with it, I say give them the \$18,500 from the supervisor job and let them have that for right now – short term until figure out a better solution, why not (Councilman Messa it is already down \$18,000) Supervisor Miscione – what is the difference, I am ok with it; Councilman Tehan – I am against it - I don't think that is the answer either; Supervisor Miscione – it is the answer for this year; Councilman Tehan – no one is here to get rich on this table; Supervisor Miscione – it is the same if you take it out of fund balance; Councilman Tehan – it is a stipend at best for a heavy load; Supervisor Miscione – I don't care, I donate more than my salary, I don't care about it – if take it out of fund balance it is even worse because now you are digging an even bigger hole. Fund balance is supposed to be used for emergencies or put into infrastructure. Bad move; Councilman Reynolds – even sales tax, that is not fair either because we don't know where we are going to be going forward (Town Attorney Herbert Cully – I agree; Councilman Latini – Exactly; Supervisor Miscione – 100%) – we need to find a way to fund the library; Supervisor Miscione – I don't mind doing it if Jim don't mind doing it, I really don't care – it doesn't matter for me personally. If you guys want to do that we can, if you don't then we don't. I went through this budget; Chief and I banged our heads together for two weeks. I don't know where you are going to find \$24,000 and if you do you are just stealing from one to give to another and then you are going to go backwards to say you have to move it. Last years budget, same thing, we hired three officers all in one year and I said it last year during the budget we lost Harpar funds for \$400,000 and we are losing mitigation fees for \$265,000 and you increase salaries and you increase three positions for almost \$300,000. We are over \$1 million this year in police alone and if we try to dissect even more, it is only going to get us next year. You can't make this budget any cheaper. You have to get rid of another service or something to give to another person. That number is the max we can put in there and still everyone gets their sales tax check back. If we go over that people will be outraged and I am not for that at all. I'd rather give up my salary than have 22,000 residents unhappy that they are not going to get their check. 0% tax increase in general whole town – police department is close to 1% - Fire Districts go up 3% every year – sewer district went up .3359% - again, under the cap, general whole town at 0 – if you up general whole town you will put the number over the cap – we said that last year in the budget and that is why I voted against it last year because we over extended the police and that is why we are tight again this year and we are going to be tight next year. I'd love to give every department and every library, parks and everything all the money in the world and be the

best it could be in New Hartford but at some point, that is where we are. The only thing like I said that I can give up is my salary which I don't care about so if I gave that \$18,500 up and make the library whole, I don't have a problem with that

- vii. Councilman Reynolds – the other thing that we have discussed is in kind services – library needs a roof (Anne said got the NYS Construction grant) – and the bathrooms – carpet issues (Town will work on it); Tehan – proposed number \$462,000 – will get them how far – Anne – haven't worked that number yet, haven't gotten that far – it will not get us to where we want with the number Paul said we would get in our first meeting, wish could get employees to \$22 an hour and Anne says no; Councilman Reynolds – we need to fund it properly – you are looking at the school end if it (Anne – yes, looking into it) – conversations need to have (Anne – wheels in motion but if the voters say No again) Councilman Reynolds – presentation last year was lacking (Anne it was horrific); Supervisor Miscione – the only thing we can take that will not affect anyone in this building is the salary I have – give her at least \$10,000 from my salary (Jim, I don't think you care, what is the difference) – make it \$8,500 (Councilman Messa – contradicts what Reynolds is saying); Supervisor Miscione – then don't do nothing (Councilman Reynolds – its still a band aide) – it has always been a band aide; Supervisor Miscione – then what are we going to do? Library can't fundraise, can't BOND, etc. It is on us as a Town. It is not going to happen – the budget will not pass for the school for an additional tax. Long term we need to come up with a plan for the library – what that is, it is a tough one – only way can make that is to raise the taxes to fund that.
- viii. Councilman Messa – tree; Supervisor Miscione – can we get a copy of the cancelled check before we move forward; Messa – split tree on 7 Bromwich (Rick Sherman – doesn't know if the tree is in the Town right away); Town Attorney Herbert Cully – need to confirm if it is the town right away

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 242 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to adopt the 2026 Tentative Budget as the 2026 Preliminary Budget and schedule the Public Hearing for November 5, 2025.

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

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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 Messa, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33pm.

(RESOLUTION NO. 243 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

11/3/2025