

**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, MARCH 12, 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 Town Supervisor, Anthony J. Trevisani
Town Attorney, Herbert Cully
Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Jassak-Huther
Highway Superintendent, Richard Sherman
Highway Foreman, Chris Moran
Assistant Director of Personnel, Barbara Schwenzfeier
Codes Officer – George Farley
Police Chief, Ronald Fontaine

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. 71 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve the Board Meeting minutes for the February 12, 2025 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

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

I. PRESENTATIONS - SOLAR LIBERTY did a presentation and the residents spoke – please see below the write up from the Sentinel (**Tabled until April 9, 2025 at 6:00pm**)

NEW HARTFORD — Developers of a proposed solar farm on Roberts Road fielded questions from the community at a New Hartford Town Board meeting on Wednesday, March 12. At the meeting, representatives from Buffalo-based company Solar Liberty presented their proposal for a seven-megawatt solar project at 9444 Roberts Road. The company has applied for a special use permit and must receive approval from the town board before moving on to the planning board.

Presentation

Nathan Rizzo, vice president for Solar Liberty, said the project would encompass 21 acres of land, and consists of nearly 12,000 panels. The panels reach a maximum height of nine feet. “We work with towns to develop a landscaping plan that shields the view of the system, in this instance from Route 8. And then from Roberts Road, it would be heavily concealed already from the existing vegetation,” Rizzo said. “But again, even in that instance, we can add additional vegetation as and where needed.”

Rizzo said that it’s becoming increasingly clear that New York needs to be producing its own electricity.

“Recently, we were going to be hit with 25% tariffs on electricity by Canada; we have to start thinking about future generations,” he said. “This is a clean power plant, it produces no emissions, it’s quiet.”

Resident Q & A Attendees asked about the safety of the project, how it will impact their properties and expressed concerns about the aesthetics. Some voiced opposition to solar farms in general.

Rizzo assured the attendees that the solar farm would be completely safe. The panels are made of silicon, which in its most basic form, is sand, along with glass, aluminum and steel. The panels have a 35-year design life, and once it’s done producing power, it will be removed and recycled, Rizzo said. Solar Liberty will also develop a decommissioning plan with the town.

He said that no herbicides or pesticides would be used and vegetation would be maintained. “We’ve created a habitat for insects to really prosper within this area since we’re not using pesticides. It increases bird life, you’ll actually see more wildlife around the solar system than you previously had,” Rizzo said.

Several residents expressed concern about its impact on their home values.

Rizzo said Solar Liberty hired a home assessor to compile an assessment of solar projects in New York and how they impact home values, which found that the values were not detrimentally affected.

While Rizzo assured attendees that Solar Liberty will do its best to ensure that the project is not visible, they were not convinced.

“You’re down near Route 8. If you turn around, you look up, Roberts Road, Sessions Road, they’re up higher. People built homes back here so they can have a beautiful view across

there, you can see across the whole valley,” one attendee said. “If you’re looking down at these things, you cannot build vegetation high enough to block that out.”
The town board members provided their perspectives on the project; the councilors reiterated the residents’ concerns.

Rizzo said he didn’t realize the project would be subject to such public scrutiny at this point in the process. He’s used to developing an initial plan based on the town board’s concerns, and then presenting it to the public.

“I felt like I was kind of in front of a firing squad without any of the details of what the town board would want to see from this particular project,” Rizzo said.
Town Supervisor Paul Miscione said that this is the process that every project in the town undergoes.

“I think the residents really like it because they get to be really hands-on for the projects,” he said. “Again, we had two [projects] that we got one resident who came and that was it. So we passed it with flying colors because there was no pushback whatsoever. The last one we had was in a residential community that I personally don’t feel was a good idea, and the whole board didn’t because it didn’t match the characteristics of the neighborhood, and that’s why the solar law was put in place.”

The town board agreed to allow Solar Liberty to prepare additional materials to share and present it again at the April 9 meeting for a vote.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. **Debbie Morgan** – Handicap accessibly into the Town Offices – it was discussed the accessibility into the old employee entrance – a sign will be put up to show residents that the accessibility is on the police department side of the building, the main entrance to the Town Hall.
- b. **Lisa Sowich** – Sedgewick Park – ditch in front of property – Highway will revisit the property to see what can do to fix the problem, they did work on it last year but it has had problems again so will revisit and work on fixing it; road is breaking up again; Town engineer will be brought back in to see what can be done
- c. **Cindy Sigbienny** – Blvd. on Chapman Road – road to the sidewalks – eliminate grass – Highway Dept. will look into it – it is the County Road – Supervisor suggested getting residents to sign a petition for the County

III. REPORTS OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

- a. **Sangertown Square Incident** – resident Steve Buck commented what a great job the Town of New Hartford Police Department did during this incident to keep the residents safe and the work they did – Town Board agreed and thanked the Chief
- b. **Tentative Employment**

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 72 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve the tentative appointment of officer Joseph D. Luscomb, effective May 26, 2025.

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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***.

IV. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILMEN

a. COUNCILMAN REYNOLDS – will continue to ask for fire inspection reports and monitor; thanked the Town Clerk and Codes department

i. Fire Inspections – money collected in the Town Clerk’s Office for Feb. 12 – March 11th - \$6,136.94 (19 inspections)

ii. Background of Money collected for fire inspections

1. 2020 – 107 Inspections (\$18,803.00)
2. 2021 – 125 Inspections (\$19,612.00)
3. 2022 – 108 Inspections (\$26,747.00)
4. 2023 – 72 Inspections (\$11,211.00)
5. 2024 – 244 Inspections (86,249.09)
6. 2025 TO DATE – 28 Inspections (\$10,051.24)

b. COUNCILMAN LATINI – Buck Construction

- i. Mr. Steve Buck is looking to build storage units on Kellogg Road (old radio station) – has submitted his application and \$5,000 fee to the Clerk’s Office and give to the Councilmen and Codes Department; he will return on April 9th to do a presentation to the Councilmen and public for review and decision of whether to move on to the Planning Board.

c. COUNCILMAN MESSA

- i. Zoning Board Appointment – position was posted in January

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 73 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to appoint Michelle DeTraglia as a permanent member of the Zoning Board (open position).

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

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

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Councilman Tehan	-	Aye
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

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

V. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN SUPERVISOR PAUL A. MISCIONE
a. CUSTOMER CHANGE AUTHORIZATION FORM

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 74 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to remove former employee Jade Giglio from the Town Clerk Adirondack Bank Accounts.

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. VOUCHERS

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 75 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve 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>(Councilman Tehan – Ney on the Police Vehicle SUV and the Mack Truck – Brush)</i>		
<i>Truck – due to BAN)</i>		
Supervisor Miscione	-	Aye

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

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RECORD OF CLAIMS #1	
25-00212-25-00218	
A	\$7,094.95
B	
BP	
DB	\$31,877.96
F	
SF	
SL	
SS	\$1,081.87
TA	\$5,758.69
HEP	
HMA	
HTA	
TOTAL	\$45,813.47

RECORD OF CLAIMS #2	
25-00219 - 25-00244	
A	\$15,257.52
B	\$400.00
BP	\$72,812.95
DB	\$2,876.30
F	
SF	
SL	
SS	\$823.91
TA	\$25,304.18
HEP	
HMA	
HTA	\$24,471.56
TOTAL	\$117,474.86

RECORD OF CLAIMS #3	
25-00220 - 25-00271 & 25-00276	
A	\$44,841.06
B	\$2,559.27
BP	\$8,426.92
DB	\$32,976.14
F	
SF	
SL	\$2,071.03
SS	\$1,244.83
TA	\$28,732.10
HEP	
HMA	\$50.70
HTA	
TOTAL	\$120,902.05

RECORD OF CLAIMS #4	
24-02373 - 24-02376 & 25-00241, 25-00277-25-00391	
A	\$39,026.61
B	\$755.60
BP	\$32,866.99
DA	
DB	\$131,814.31
F	
SF	\$258.26
SL	
SS	\$29,864.55
TA	
HEP	
HMA	\$165,657.38
HTA	\$7,914.89
TOTAL	\$408,158.59

c. CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 76 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to set the Public Hearing for the Cable Television Franchise Renewal Agreement on May 7, 2025 at 6:00pm.

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. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN ATTORNEY HERBERT CULLY

- Matt Schafer – Board decision denying a FOIL – had hearing and Judge Rose affirmed the Town of New Hartford Town Boards action and the Town won the case.
- Notice of Claim from Judge Garramone – was sent to our Insurance carrier

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- c. **Clinton View** – deficiencies were provided to the Town Board; Town Board schedule a hearing; a panel was established several months ago to address these issues;

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 77 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to schedule an administrative review of Clinton View Apartments property for Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 5:00pm in the Town Hall.

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**.

d. **FOIL APPEAL OF PATRICIA ROMANZO**

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 78 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to affirm the actions of the Police Chiefs denial of the appeal (FOIL APPEAL OF PATRICIA ROMANZO).

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**.

- e. **FOIL APPLICATION** – update the application wording; Town Attorney and Town Clerk will work on updating the application

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 79 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to allow Town Attorney Herbert Cully and Police Chief Ronald Fontaine to modify the application for public access to records to include

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the language in the statute to put the public on notice that there may be an additional charge over the 25 cents per copy.

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. NOISE NUISANCE – 30 Chestnut Road, New Hartford, NY – flag pole

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 80 OF 2025)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve create an administrative panel to review the issue and work on resolution.

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 COUNCILMEN

- a. Councilman Tehan** – met with Bonadio with Town Supervisor regarding bank accounts; goal reduce bank accounts – alternative can explore; set up a meeting with Barb and Paul to look at the NBT accounts – payroll to start the interest – Supervisor and Councilman Tehan will work on that

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made by Councilman Latini and seconded Councilman Tehan, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

(RESOLUTION NO. 81 OF 2025)

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

Councilman Messa	-	Aye
Councilman Latini	-	Aye

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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

3/15/2025