

**SPECIAL 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 FEBRUARY 18, 2026 at 12:30 P.M.**

Town Supervisor Messa called the meeting to order at 12:31 P.M. and the roll was taken with the following Town Officials and Department Heads being present during the progress of the meeting. Supervisor Messa then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilman Vincent Pristera
Councilman John Latini
Councilman David M. Reynolds
Councilman / Deputy Town Supervisor David Tehan
Supervisor James Messa

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS/EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Town Attorney, Herb Cully
Town Clerk, Michele Moran
Police Chief, Ronald Fontaine
Finance Dept., Christina Lacy
Supervisor's Confidential Secretary, Christine Martin

ABSENT: Assessor Darlene Abbatecola
 Codes Officer George Farley

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

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE
(RESOLUTION NO. 75 OF 2026)**

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

- I. **RESOLVED**, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby accept and approve the appointment of Maria McNiel as Alternate to the ZBA - 1 year term effective Jan 1, 2026 - Dec 31,

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

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

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

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APPROVAL OF CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

Christina Lacy, Finance Director states that the Town is being subject to late fees on credit cards due to the current voucher approval process. She requests the ability to get approval on credit card purchases prior to Board meetings should payment date fall between meetings. She would like to get Department Head authorization for the charges, then email the Board members the voucher and supporting documents for review and approval so she can submit payment on time in order to avoid incurring late charges.

(RESOLUTION NO. 76 OF 2026)

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

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve and authorize the Finance Director should email credit card purchase documentation to all Board members seeking review and approval prior to paying credit card invoices in a manner in which they will not incur late charges.

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

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

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly **ADOPTED**.

FOIL APPEAL – JER 2025-635

A formal administrative appeal regarding the denial of access to records requested under FOIL Request JER-2025-635 was received via email by the Town Clerk on February 17, 2026 at 3:30 AM EST. Chief Fontaine was present for discussion and to answer all questions the Board had in regards to the availability and subsequent release and/or denial of requested records.

(RESOLUTION NO. 77 OF 2026)

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board, after formal review, does deny FOIL appeal titled JER 2025-635 filed by David Dohanyos from Crime Noir Media, Investigative Documentary Division. The Town Clerk is directed to submit a formal denial response with detailed reasons to Mr. Dohanyos within 10 days of receipt of said appeal. The Town Clerk shall also submit a copy of this appeal and response to the Committee on Open Government.

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

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

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made by Councilman Latini seconded Councilman Tehan, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 P.M.

(RESOLUTION NO. 78 OF 2026)

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

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

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly ***ADOPTED***.

Next Meeting: Regularly Scheduled March 4, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Moran
Town Clerk
2/19/26