

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, MAY 6, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.

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

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS/EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

- Town Attorney, Herb Cully
- Town Clerk, Michele Moran
- Deputy Clerk, Susan Keller
- Highway Superintendent, Richard Sherman
- Police Chief, Ronald Fontaine
- Supervisor Confidential Secretary, Christine Martin
- NH Library Director, Anne DuRoss
- Assessor, Darlene Abbatecola
- Codes Officer George Farley
- Highway Secretary, Shannon Guernsey
- Members of the media: Alexis Manor, Rome Daily Sentinel

Absent: Finance/Personnel – Christina Lacy
Parks – John Randall

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAMATION – RALPH & LOIS HUMPHREY

Supervisor Messa welcomed residents Ralph and Lois Humphrey and presented them with a Town Proclamation recognizing their longstanding community service and honored the occasion of their upcoming 72nd wedding anniversary. Family and friends were present for the recognition.

PROCLAMATION – NEW HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Supervisor Messa presented a proclamation to the New Hartford Public Library in recognition of its recent 50th anniversary celebration and its continued contributions to the community. Library Director Anne DuRoss accepted the proclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption; seconded by Councilman Reynolds:

(RESOLUTION NO. 142 OF 2026)

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby accept and approve as submitted the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting held April 1, 2026, and does further waive their reading.

Upon roll call: Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Dwyer – Oxford Road addressed the Board regarding the cybersecurity upgrade approved at the April meeting. He expressed concern that no independent review was conducted prior to approval and suggested that such decisions be tabled for 30 days when appropriate. He also recommended exploring advertising opportunities in the Town newsletter to offset printing costs. The Board thanked him for his comments.

Shane Carney – 9 Clinton Street addressed the Board regarding drainage concerns related to an upcoming project, part of the nature trail behind McCraith Beverages, near his property. Highway Superintendent Sherman reported that Town engineers and DEC had reviewed the plans and incorporated measures to prevent erosion. Sherman will meet with Mr. Carney and neighboring residents to review the full plan set. Supervisor Messa requested follow-up with the Town's engineer after Mr. Carney's attorney raised additional concerns.

Cicily Talerico, 38 Cascade Drive addressed the Board regarding construction impacts in her neighborhood. The Board acknowledged her comments.

Jennifer Bowman, 33 Cascade Drive addressed the Board regarding drainage issues, clogged culverts, roadway washouts, and past flooding affecting her property and daycare business. Highway Superintendent Sherman reported that crews had recently cleaned the roadway and would continue ditching and pipe clearing. Additional work is scheduled in the coming days, and he will walk the site with a Zoning Board member. Shoulder restoration similar to recent work on Snowden Hill Road is planned.

Ms. Bowman also requested a stop sign at the bottom of Valley View Road. Superintendent Sherman and Police Chief Fontaine reported that the County and City of Utica do not support a stop sign due to safety concerns. A flashing yellow warning light may be a viable alternative, and Sherman will discuss options with the County Commissioner. Visibility improvements will also be evaluated.

PRESENTATIONS

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Zoning Board Chairman, Randy Bogar addressed the Board regarding attendance expectations for ZBA members, the use of alternates, and the payment structure for meetings. He noted challenges when members miss meetings and applicants face delays. The Board discussed the 2024 local law establishing attendance requirements, including the provision allowing removal of members missing two or more meetings. The Board emphasized the need for timely notice to alternates and the importance of maintaining full boards for applicant fairness. Chairman Bogar requested that the Board consider restoring the prior compensation model in which members were paid regardless of meeting cancellations. After this presentation, Resident John D'Amore suggested the Board consider increasing the number of Board members by paying the alternates for being at every meeting. The Board will review the matter.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

(RESOLUTION NO. 143 OF 2026)

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Motion was offered by Councilman Latini and seconded by Councilman Reynolds to approve the vouchers as audited. Upon roll call:

Councilman Pristera	–	Aye
Councilman Latini	–	Aye
Councilman Reynolds	–	Aye
Councilman Tehan	–	Aye (abstain from Adirondack Bank voucher(s))
Supervisor Messa	–	Aye

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

MATTERS SUBMITTED BY TOWN SUPERVISOR

RESILIENT WATERSHED GRANT (RWG) – PRESENTATION AND RESOLUTION

Supervisor Messa introduced Kristin Campbell, Chief Planner with the Oneida County Planning Department, who joined the Board to discuss the Resilient Watershed Grant (RWG) opportunity. Supervisor Messa, Ms. Campbell, and Highway Superintendent Sherman recently met to review the Town's eligibility and project scope. Ms. Campbell explained that the RWG program provides up to \$10 million per application, with municipalities permitted to submit two applications, each containing up to three distinct projects. The Town of New Hartford has three qualifying projects identified through prior engineering studies and watershed assessments:

1. Sauquoit Creek bank stabilization and floodplain restoration along Kellogg Road north toward the Utica city line, including N Street and Washington Mills.
2. Bleachery Avenue floodplain restoration, including spillway removal and bridge upsizing.
3. Washington Mills Athletic Park floodplain restoration, including remaining bench and recovery work not yet completed.

Ms. Campbell noted that these projects benefit not only New Hartford but the entire Sauquoit Creek Basin downstream. The total estimated cost of the combined projects is approximately \$9–10 million, with a 10% local match requirement, which may be offset in part by in-kind services.

Supervisor Messa emphasized the importance of participating in the basin-wide effort and noted that the Town is once again a fully paid and active member of the Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission. Ms. Campbell confirmed she will assist the Town in preparing and submitting the RWG applications.

Following discussion, Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption; seconded by Councilman Pristera:

(RESOLUTION NO. 144 OF 2026)

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR RESILIENT WATERSHED GRANT (RWG)

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby authorize the Town of New Hartford to submit applications to the Resilient Watershed Grant (RWG) program for the following projects:

1. Sauquoit Creek bank stabilization and floodplain restoration (Kellogg Road corridor)
2. Bleachery Avenue floodplain restoration and spillway/bridge improvements
3. Washington Mills Athletic Park floodplain restoration and bench recovery work

and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to prepare, submit, and administer the RWG applications, including coordination with the Oneida County Planning Department and the Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission.

Upon roll call: Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

TERM LIMITS DISCUSSION

The Board continued discussion on the proposed local law establishing term limits for Town Supervisor and Town Council positions. After extensive discussion, the Board reached consensus to amend the draft local law to allow three consecutive terms for both Town Supervisor and Town Council members.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption; seconded by Councilman Pristera:

(RESOLUTION NO. 145 OF 2026)

TERM LIMITS – AMENDED Introductory 3 of 2026

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve the amendments to the proposed local law (Introductory 3 of 2026) establishing term limits for Town Supervisor and Town Council positions, modifying Sections 3A and 3B to allow three (3) consecutive terms for each office, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Board does hereby move the amended local law forward to public hearing.

Upon roll call: Councilman Pristera – Aye
Councilman Reynolds – Aye
Councilman Tehan – Nay
Councilman Latini – Aye
Supervisor Messa – Nay

The Resolution was carried and duly adopted with a 3-2 vote.

Councilman Latini then introduced the following Resolution for adoption; seconded by Councilman Tehan:

(RESOLUTION NO. 146 OF 2026)
TERM LIMITS – PUBLIC HEARING SET

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law establishing term limits for Town Supervisor and Town Council positions on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

Upon roll call: Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

PARKS & RECREATION / HIGHWAY PROJECT UPDATES

Supervisor Messa presented photographs and updates highlighting recent progress in Town parks and facilities. He recognized Highway Superintendent Sherman, Chris Moran, John Randall and crew members for their extensive work over the past month.

Sherrillbrook Park

Installation of the new playground equipment has been completed. Additional work included backfilling, grading, electrical improvements, and demolition of the Birch Pavilion to improve visibility and safety. A dividing wall was constructed between the two large pavilions to provide privacy for simultaneous events. New mulch and fencing will be installed prior to opening.

Washington Mills Athletic Park

Paving work has been completed. Dugout roofs are being installed, and landscaping is scheduled for completion by the end of the week. The Board discussed resurfacing the parking lot and converting the former playground area into green space with picnic tables and split-rail fencing.

Chadwicks / Donovan Park

A damaged fence was repaired promptly following a resident report. Additional repairs to the splash pad and improvements to the park entrance sign are planned.

Stormwater Projects

Emergency repairs were completed at properties on Second More Road East due to a rotted drainage pipe obstructed by tree roots. New piping was installed, and pavement restoration will occur once asphalt becomes available. Additional drainage improvements were completed at Sherrillbrook Park to address hillside runoff.

FINANCE – BONADIO MONTHLY REVIEW SUMMARY

Supervisor Messa reported that the Town continues to hold weekly Teams meetings with Controller Leanne Wells to review ongoing financial progress. The Board received Bonadio's written update in their packets and via email.

It was noted that the 2026 BAN renewal was processed successfully, with significant assistance from Councilman Tehan, Christina Lacy, Controller Wells, and the Clerk's Office. Supervisor Messa reported that the Town realized an estimated \$92,000 in interest savings due to improved rates.

Councilman Tehan highlighted that Edmunds financial software has now been fully updated, and all 36 Town bank accounts have been reconciled and incorporated into the general ledger through March 31, 2026. This represents a major corrective step, as the bank accounts had not been part of the general ledger since the early 2020s.

The Board noted that the Town is currently undergoing three audits: the 2024 financial statement audit, the 2025 audit scheduled to begin later this year, and the ongoing Office of State Comptroller audit. Supervisor Messa emphasized that completing three audits within a 9 to 12 month period is a significant accomplishment and will bring the Town fully current.

TOWN HALL FRONT ENTRANCE – EMERGENCY REPAIRS (DOOR & AWNING)

Supervisor Messa reported that remediation work in the Assessor's Office has been completed and the Town is awaiting delivery of the replacement front entrance door. Highway Superintendent Sherman confirmed the door is on order.

The Board reviewed a proposal from BB Construction for installation of a permanent metal awning to protect the new door and concrete landing. The awning is recommended to prevent future deterioration and mold issues. The proposal totals \$22,700, with an additional \$2,818 for architectural drawings, if required.

Supervisor Messa noted that funds are available for the project.

Motion by Councilman Latini, seconded by Councilman Pristera, to approve the BB Construction proposal for the awning installation.

(RESOLUTION NO. 147 OF 2026) BEEBE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does authorize Supervisor Messa to execute proposal No. 11154 for the Municipal Building Canopy.

Upon roll call: Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The Resolution was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION – FIREWORKS & COMMUNITY EVENT

Supervisor Messa reported that 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. The Town will receive commemorative banners from the County at no cost. Supervisor Messa proposed holding a community fireworks event at the Town Park on Sunday, July 5, the only available date.

Supervisor Messa has consulted with the New Hartford Police and Fire Chiefs, both of whom support the event and have no safety concerns. Additional planning includes:

- Food trucks and vendors (no vendor fees required under existing Town policy)
- Off-site parking with shuttle service using New Hartford Central School buses
- Coordination with the County's America 250 Commission
- Review of the fireworks contract by the Town Attorney

The Town Attorney noted concerns with the current contract language (the word gross) and recommended tabling approval until revisions are completed.

Motion by Councilman Reynolds, seconded by Councilman Latini, to table the fireworks contract pending legal review.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Supervisor Messa presented budget transfer requests for salary expenses, fireworks celebration, canopy project and grant writing expenses.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Tehan.

(RESOLUTION NO. 148 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to increase funding for A12200-10 - Supervisor Salary from A90600-80 -Hospital, Medical Insurance for \$10,903.83.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Tehan introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

(RESOLUTION NO. 149 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to increase funding for B80100-13 – Zoning/Codes Office Assistant from B80100-19 – Codes Supervisor for \$21,618.00.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 150 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to increase funding for A71100-44 -Parks-Fireworks from A70200-40 – Parks & Rec. Admin. Contractual for \$7,500.00.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 151 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to increase funding for A71100-44 -Parks-Fireworks from A70100-40 – Parks Contractual for \$7,500.00.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Tehan.

(RESOLUTION NO. 152 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to increase funding for A16200-40 – Buildings Contractual from A13150-14 – Comptroller – Bookkeeper for \$22,822.31.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Pristera.

(RESOLUTION NO. 153 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to increase funding for B80200-40 - Planning Contractual from A99010-93 – Transfer to Hwy Part Town for \$15,000.00.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

SEASONAL EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENTS – PARKS & RECREATION

The following temporary, seasonal employees were appointed to Laborer at \$18/hr., effective immediately: Caleb Massoud, Nicholas Massoud, Ethan Pope, Roman Gall, Nathan Button, Nicholas Perrotta.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 154 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Caleb Massoud as Laborer at \$18/hr., effective immediately.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Abstain Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 155 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Nicholas Massoud as Laborer at \$18/hr., effective immediately.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Abstain Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Pristera introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 156 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Ethan Pope as Laborer at \$18/hr., effective immediately.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Pristera.

(RESOLUTION NO. 157 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Rowan Gall as Laborer at \$18/hr., effective immediately.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Pristera introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Tehan.

(RESOLUTION NO. 158 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Nathan Button as Laborer at \$18/hr., effective immediately.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Tehan introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 159 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Nicholas Perrotta as Laborer at \$18/hr., effective immediately.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

IT SERVICE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – RFP REVIEW

The Town received three proposals for IT service and maintenance:

MA Polce – \$1,980/month

Total Solutions – \$1,625/month

Upper 90 Solutions – \$1,350/month

Following discussion, Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution; seconded by Councilman Latini:

(RESOLUTION NO. 160 OF 2026)

RESOLVED that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby award the IT service maintenance agreement to Upper 90 Solutions at a monthly cost of \$1,350.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS – TOWN NEWSLETTER

Supervisor Messa reported overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the Town's new newsletter. Residents described it as professional and informative. Supervisor Messa thanked Christine Martin and all department heads for their contributions.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Moran presented the monthly report:

Total receipts: \$18,712.57 Local share remitted to the Town: \$18,467.00 NYS Ag & Markets (dog licenses): \$104.00 NYS Dept. of Health (marriage licenses): \$22.50

The Clerk reported a new state requirement mandating an optional donation line on dog license renewal forms. The Town is working with BAS to update its forms and coordinate with contracted municipalities.

Public Hearing – Andover A “No Truck Traffic” Signage

Motion by Councilman Reynolds; seconded by Councilman Latini to reschedule the public hearing to June 3, 2026.

Roll call: All Ayes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brittany Cosentino Promotion to Senior Office Specialist II pending Civil Service approval. Rate will increase from \$23.34/hr to \$26.09/hr. Brittney will also be cross trained to assist in Finance Department as needed.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 161 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to promote Brittany Cosentino to Senior Office Specialist, pending civil service approval with a rate increase to \$26.09/hr.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Budget Transfer

Motion by Councilman Latini to transfer \$5,000 from BP 3120.113 to BP 3120.112 seconded by Councilman Pristera.

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve the transfer of \$5,000 from BP 3120.113 to BP 3120.112.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Abstain Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Promotion – Eric Cappelli

Chief Fontaine requested the promotion of Eric Cappelli to Sergeant, pending civil service approval.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 162 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to promote Eric Cappelli to Sergeant, pending civil service approval.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Animal Shelter – Part-Time Position

Motion by Councilman Reynolds; seconded by Councilman Latini to authorize advertising for a part-time shelter assistant at \$20/hour.

(RESOLUTION NO. 163 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby authorize advertisement for a Part-Time Animal Shelter assistant at the rate of \$20/hr.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

NEW YORK STATE DISCOVERY REFORM GRANT

Chief Fontaine reported that the Town has once again qualified to receive funding through the **New York State Discovery Reform Grant**, administered through the Oneida County District Attorney's Office. The grant provides pass-through funding to local police agencies to offset technology and labor costs associated with the 2020 Discovery Reform requirements.

The Town has been awarded **\$30,000** in this round, with the possibility of an additional round later in the year. Documentation requiring the Town Supervisor's signature was received late in the day and forwarded to the Town Attorney for review.

The Town Attorney is currently reviewing the agreement.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - VACANT POSITION

Chief Fontaine advised the Board of this desire to fill a position vacated by David Ciacoto with the lateral transfer hire of Ryan Fleury, effective pending civil service approval. This would be full time with benefits and salary would be per current PBA Contract.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

(RESOLUTION NO. 164 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Ryan Fleury, effective pending civil service approval. Position is full time with benefits and salary would be per current PBA Contract.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Chief Fontaine advised the Board that during a clean out of the Department's evidence locker, a Sig Sauer P227 handgun was located. This equipment was the department issued handgun belonging to Officer Joseph D. Corr who was killed in the line of Duty. Chief Fontaine gave the Board an overview of the acceptable means of disposing of said weapon and requested that the weapon, with a potential value of \$150, be deemed surplus. He further requested that this surplus equipment be gifted to the brother-in-law of Officer Corr who is licensed to take possession of the weapon.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 165 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to surplus the Sig Sauer P227 weapon previously assigned to Officer Joseph D. Corr and to gift the item to Officer Corr's family member.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

PUBLIC SAFETY – STOP SIGN AND GUARDRAIL REQUEST

The Police Chief reported a resident request for a guardrail on Graffenburg Road. Oneida County DPW will evaluate the location.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

VACANT POSITION(S)

Highway Superintendent, Richard Sherman requested the Board approve 1 new hire and 2 reaffirmation hires to the position of MEO. All will be Full-Time, permanent, with benefits and a starting rate of \$22/hr. Effective date of hire(s) is as soon as available. Candidates are: Zachary Neale (new hire), Jason Zangrilli (reaffirm) and Michael Cummings (reaffirm)

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

(RESOLUTION NO. 166 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to hire Zachary Neale, to the position of MEO effective pending civil service approval. Position is full time, permanent with benefits at a starting rate of \$22/hr..

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 167 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to reaffirm the hire of Jason Zangrilli, to the position of MEO effective immediately. Position is full time, permanent with benefits at a starting rate of \$22/hr..

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Pristera.

(RESOLUTION NO. 168 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to reaffirm the hire of Michael Cummings, to the position of MEO effective immediately. Position is full time, permanent with benefits at a starting rate of \$22/hr..

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

CONTINUATION OF SEASONAL HELP

Highway Superintendent Richard Sherman requested the Board affirm the continuation of Summer Seasonal employees Daniel Achen and Robert McCain. Both employees were brought on in the winter to assist with snow removal and are now being extended into the Summer season as full time, no benefits, effective immediately.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 169 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to continue seasonal employment for Daniel Achen. Position is full time, seasonal with no benefits.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Reynolds introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 170 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to continue seasonal employment for Robert McCain. Position is full time, seasonal with no benefits.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

SUMMER SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Sherman reported that the Town typically hires two college students and three to four high school seniors for summer seasonal work. The full list was not included in the meeting packet, and several budget transfers are required before additional hires can be approved.

Supervisor Messa and Board discussed the current balance in the seasonal labor budget line. The account began the year with \$30,000 and currently has \$5,307.37 remaining, with approximately 82% expended four months into the fiscal year. The Board confirmed that funding is available for the two seasonal employees already approved earlier in the meeting, but additional hires will require budget adjustments.

The Board agreed to review and discuss at a special meeting.

SCHEDULING OF SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Board discussed the need for a special meeting to address:

- Budget transfers for summer seasonal hires
- Final approval of the fireworks contract for the America 250 celebration
- Review of the Discovery Reform Grant agreement

After reviewing availability, the Board agreed to schedule the meeting for:

Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 12:00 P.M.

Councilman Tehan introduced the following motion; seconded by Councilman Pristera:

Motion to schedule a Special Town Board Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 12:00 P.M.

Upon roll call: Councilman Tehan – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

ANNE DUROSS - NH LIBRARY

Library Director DuRoss provided updates on recent programs and events. Supervisor Messa commended the library's work and acknowledged the 50th anniversary celebration week.

COUNCILMAN REYNOLDS

Councilman Reynolds reported 20 inspections completed and \$5,651 in fees collected. He also scheduled a meeting with DEC Forestry to evaluate the wooded area behind Sherwood Park.

SENIOR CENTER DISCUSSION

The Board discussed a potential senior center location at the former Presbyterian Home campus. The activity room is available for \$200 per day, with \$5 hot meals prepared on-site. Supervisor Messa recused himself due to employment with the organization. The Town Attorney and Councilman Reynolds will continue reviewing the proposal.

FINANCE – CANNABIS AND BED TAX REVENUE

Supervisor Messa reported that cannabis tax revenue for Q4 2025 totaled approximately \$11,000–\$12,000. Dedicated revenue lines will be added to the Town's financial statements.

COUNCILMAN TEHAN

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION - Chipotle Mexican Grill

Councilman Tehan made a motion for adoption; seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 171 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford does hereby approve to accept the Liquor License application from Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION – Tully's Good Times – New Hartford

Councilman Tehan made a motion for adoption; seconded by Councilman Latini.

(RESOLUTION NO. 172 OF 2026)

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford does hereby approve to approve the Liquor License application and waive the 30 day waiting period from Tully's Good Times – New Hartford.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye

The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

CANNABIS LICENSE RENEWAL – OCTOBER BASICS LLC

Motion by Councilman Latini; seconded by Councilman Reynolds

(RESOLUTION NO. 173 OF 2026)

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Hartford does hereby approve to approve the cannabis License Renewal application from October Basics, LLC.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

HARTFORD LUXURY APARTMENTS – STATUS UPDATE

Councilman Tehan reported ongoing concerns regarding missing engineering review documentation for the Hartford Luxury Apartments project. The Town will continue to follow up with the Planning Board and engineering firms.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – REAPPOINTMENTS

Councilman Tehan presented 2 names for reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Lenora Murad and Dan McNamara. Their appointments expire on June 8, 2026 and there are no other applicants for the seats.

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 174 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby accept and approve the re-appointment of Lenora Murad as a member to the ZBA - 5 year term effective June 8, 2026 – June 8, 2031.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

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

(RESOLUTION NO. 175 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby accept and approve the re-appointment of Dan McNamara as a member to the ZBA - 5 year term effective June 8, 2026 – June 8, 2031.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan – Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

COUNCILMAN PRISTERA

Stop sign at Danbury Circle and Chestnut Road. The Town Attorney will prepare a draft local law.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Cully reported that the deed for the Town Hall property has been fully executed by the grantor. The property is being donated to the Town, with the Town responsible only for associated attorney fees, recording fees, survey costs, and title insurance.

Councilman Tehan inquired about the appraisal, and Attorney Cully clarified that the appraisal obtained was a preliminary valuation, not a full formal appraisal, but noted that the preliminary valuation was “*phenomenal*.” Councilman Latini further noted that the grantor has expressed potential future interest in purchasing a small corner of the Town’s parking lot for a prospective Crumbl Cookie location. He commented that this was a “*great*” as the Grantor did not ask for anything at this time, and may opt to make an offer later.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Reynolds; seconded by Councilman Latini

(RESOLUTION NO. 176 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby authorize Supervisor Messa to sign the paperwork for the recording of the deed for the donated parcel of land adjacent to Town Hall.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan
– Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Attorney Cully requests executive Session on the following matters: Tax Certioraris for New Hartford Shopping Center, At Home Plaza, Wachs and Utica Mutual. FOILs and Rt 12 Solar. Supervisor Messa added a personnel matter.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Tehan:

(RESOLUTION NO. 177 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to go into Executive Session (9:25pm)
Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan
– Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Councilman Latini introduced the following Resolution for adoption and seconded by Councilman Reynolds:

(RESOLUTION NO. 178 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, the Town of New Hartford Town Board does hereby approve to come out of Executive Session (9:55 pm).

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan
– Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, upon motion of Councilman Latini and second by Councilman Tehan, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

(RESOLUTION NO. 179 OF 2026)

RESOLVED, that the New Hartford Town Board does hereby accept and approve as submitted the approval to adjourn.

Upon roll call: Councilman Reynolds – Aye Councilman Latini – Aye Councilman Pristera – Aye Councilman Tehan
– Aye Supervisor Messa – Aye
The motion was unanimously carried and duly adopted.

Next meeting: June 3, 2026

Respectfully submitted,



Michele Moran
Town Clerk
May 8, 2026

Last updated: June 10, 2026 12:49 Final