Town of Yates February Board Meeting
8 S. Main St., Lyndonville, NY 14098
February 12, 2026, 7:00PM

Present:	Jim Simon, Supervisor		
	Susan Hrovat, Councilman		
	Steve Vann, Councilman		
	William Jurinich, Councilman		
	Michele Harling, Town Clerk		
Excused:	Harold Suhr, Councilman		
	Trisha Laszewski, Town Assessor		
	David Reese, Code Enforcement Officer		
	Roger Wolfe, Highway Superintendent		
Others:	Paul Lauricella	Justin Edwards	Steve Snell
	Bob Mack	Bonnie Mack	

Supervisor Simon called the February Board Meeting to order at 7:03PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERVISOR REMARKS

No remarks.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Paul Lauricella, Town of Yates, commented on Resolution No. 35 and Resolution No. 37. There was some lack of transparency on these. They weren't discussed at all at the workshop meeting. I'd like to know on the resolution to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the lowest and most comparable Town insurance carrier contract, what's the deductible on this plan? Is it for all of the employees or for certain employees? I'd like an answer before you vote on it. The resolution to approve a one-time longevity bonus for the Town Highway Superintendent, why is there no amount here? The public should know what you're going to give the guy. I'm just curious why you would be giving a one-time longevity bonus. One Council Person said the other day they only vote for things of value to the taxpayer. How is giving taxpayer money away to an elected official beneficial to the taxpayers?

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2/26

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2026 Organizational and Regular Board Meeting as presented to each Board Member.

Offered by Councilman Vann, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Jurinich

3 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstain (Hrovat) 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2/26

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER YEAR-END MEETING

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2025 Year-End as presented to each Board Member.

Offered by Councilman _____, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman _____

_____ Ayes _____ Nays

Motion: TABLED

RESOLUTION NO. 35-2/26

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE LOWEST AND MOST COMPARABLE TOWN INSURANCE CARRIER CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Town has two brokers seeking multiple bids for insurance carriers for the Town's insurance, and

WHEREAS, the bids will not be available for review until the end of February when the current town insurance policy expires and before our March town board meeting, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the contract of the least expensive bid that is the most comparable to the coverages of the current policy.

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Jurinich

Supervisor Simon said for Paul's benefit, the way it reads is the Town has two brokers seeking multiple bids from insurance carriers for the Town's insurance. The insurance is for all people, equipment and buildings. The bids will not be available. The current policy expires at the end of February. The resolution allows me to sign the least expensive bid that is the most comparable to the coverage of the current policy, which includes the deductibles and all of that stuff. Three of us; Roger, Steve, and Shelly, and myself, are on the emails to the brokers. We're hoping to get those bids next week or hopefully no later than the week after. That review will take place, and I will sign the least expensive one that has the best comparable coverage.

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 36-2/26

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK REGARDING FOIL REQUESTS OF EMPLOYEE RECORDS

WHEREAS, according to NYS Laws of 2024, Chapter 302 (dated September 4, 2024), the Town is required to adopt a policy to notify town employees when the town responds to a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request concerning their disciplinary records, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Yates Employee Handbook will be revised to include the following:

> "When the Town receives a request under the New York State Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") for an employee's disciplinary records, the Town will make reasonable efforts to notify the affected current or former employee.
>
> Notification may be provided by email, mail, or other reasonable means. The Town's response to a FOIL request shall not be delayed or conditioned upon providing such notice or upon an employee's receipt of the notice.
> This policy is intended solely to provide notice and does not create any right to object to or prevent disclosure of records required to be released under FOIL.
>
> The Town Clerk or designated Records Access Officer shall administer this policy."

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Jurinich

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 37-2/26

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ONE-TIME LONGEVITY BONUS FOR TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

WHEREAS, the Town's Highway Superintendent, Roger Wolfe, will have served the Town of Yates for 49 years as of April 1, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Roger Wolfe's service to the Town has been selfless, superb, and highly effective, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has the authority to award employees who provide superior, long-term service to the Town with a longevity bonus, be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board approves a one-time payment of $4,900 ($100 for each year of service) to Roger Wolfe, effective April 1, 2026.

Offered by Councilman Vann, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Hrovat

3 Ayes 1 Nay (Jurinich) 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 38-2/26

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

WHEREAS, the bills have been reviewed by the Town Board, be it

RESOLVED to pay the bills as follows:

Fund A (General – Townwide)-	$ 34,301.61
Fund B (General – Outside Village)-	$ 1,965.39
Fund DA (Highway – Townwide)-	$ 38,061.20
Fund DB (Highway – Outside Village)-	$ 720.38
Water 4-	$ 20,101.41
Water 2-	$ 250.06
Youth-	$
Fire-	$218,150.00
TOTAL	$313,550.05

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Vann

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Paul Lauricella, Town of Yates, said I'd like to address the bizarre and unprofessional conduct of the Town Supervisor at the end of the last meeting. I was sitting here and there was no mention of the longevity bonus, but I did overhear him say something about it at the end of the meeting. When I went to ask a Councilman about it, he got upset and said, why is your camera running, turn off your camera, which is a violation of the Open Meetings Law. He then proceeded to get up and question me about what I'm doing with these videos and said you know what, you pissed me off, which is being angry with malice towards citizens. He had no right to do that. This is not the first time that the Supervisor has done this. He's done this 3 or 4 times to me over the last year or so. At one meeting, it was so bad that he upset my wife and threw her out of here. She's afraid to come to meetings now. These are some real anger problems. He's allowed Councilmen

to say rotten stuff to people who are sitting here asking questions and he doesn't stop them from doing it. This is a problem. I would ask for your resignation, but I know you wouldn't do it. I think your Deputy would be worse for the entire Town if she ever got on the Board in your position so I'm not going to ask for that. The law states in New York that you're generally not required to turn off your camera immediately after a Town Board meeting formally adjourns, provided you are in a public space and not interfering with the orderly exit of officials or closing of the room. This is based on New York State Open Meetings Law and Committee on Open Government advisory opinions. Public Portion Protection: The Open Meeting Law ensures that any meetings open to the public may be photographed, recorded or broadcast. Reasonable Rules: A public body may adopt reasonable rules to ensure recording equipment does not interfere with the proceedings, such as requiring equipment to be set up in a special location. Adjournment: While the rules apply to the public portion of meetings, once the meeting adjourns, you are typically still in a public building. Unless the officials are moving to a private executive session, which is not open to the public, they generally have no expectation of privacy in their actions or conversations immediately following the meeting. Limitations: the primary restriction is that their recording must not be disruptive or unreasonably obtrusive. Important distinctions: Executive session: If the board adjourns and moves to a private executive session to discuss personnel or litigation, you must turn off the camera and leave the room. This is not a public meeting. Disruption: If you are blocking egress, keeping staff from closing the building or disrupting the cleanup, officials may ask you to stop filming which is considered a reasonable restriction. You violated my First Amendment rights. You harassed me. I just want this on the record. It's been done many times.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

Bob Mack, Town of Yates, asked if there was an update on Short-Term Rentals.

Supervisor Simon said no movement yet. There was some discussion on Monday, but nothing yet.

Bonnie Mack, Town of Yates, asked if the Board was going to postpone it until the seasonal people come back.

Supervisor Simon replied that it’s still postponed for now. No guarantee it'll be until people come back or not. We haven’t made a resolution.

Bob Mack said it would probably be a fair thing to get the voice of the people, wouldn't you say?

Supervisor Simon said we've done that before, so we're not holding off for that. We're trying to come to a consensus.

Bonnie Mack said so we have to come to every single meeting to see what you're going to do, because you don't want to postpone it until the seasonal residents come back?

Supervisor Simon said that’s up to you.

Bonnie Mack said I want to come if you're going to make a vote, but if you're going to postpone it, I don't want to sit here and take up space either over stuff that I really don't care about. I feel you run the town well, because I live here, but on this one, I don't.

Supervisor Simon said the best I can tell you is to keep an eye on the workshop agenda until the Town Board agenda goes out. For the Town Board meeting, it usually goes out the day prior. Sometimes it's a little bit earlier, sometimes a little bit later. Keep an eye on that, then you'll know if it's on the agenda or not, especially for a vote. It's not this month. I don't know if it will make it next month. We'll just keep working on it.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilman Jurinich, Whereas there is no new business to be brought before the Board, the meeting is adjourned at 7:16PM.
Seconded by Councilman Vann

Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Suhr)

Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele L. Harling
Yates Town Clerk