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

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

Supervisor Simon called the March Town Board Meeting to order at 7:02PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERVISORS REMARKS

No remarks.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Georgette Stokman, Town of Yates, asked the board to explain what Pictometry is.

Supervisor Simon said this has been the topic of the week, so I'll do my best, and Shelly, as a former Assessor, will back me up if I miss something. It's used primarily for Assessment and Code Enforcement. We will be paying $1.40 per parcel, and we have around 1,300 parcels, so each year it's about $2,300, plus or minus, to allow for a very precise flyover of all the properties in the Town. This particular resolution allows us to contribute to that process for the whole County. The County hosts the Pictometry contract and we'll be participating. This authorizes us to tax the residents at a rate that we have control over, which is $1.40 per parcel. If we vote no tonight, then that would leave it to the County to sort out. They also could not allow us to have access to it. The precision that you get is better than Google Maps, which is getting better and better, but it's not as precise. For example, using Google Maps, if you want to see the foundation

of a house, and the distance from the foundation of the house to the property line and the roof overhangs three feet on each side, with Google Maps you don't have that precision mark, but you could get all of that with Pictometry because it's that precise. We were just talking about how there are hunting apps now that when you're walking, or in the woods hunting for deer, it'll tell you you're crossing a property line. Those apps are getting better and better, but they're not to the level of Pictometry. It's used significantly by Assessors for tax parcel lines, and we received a text from Dave Reese for his perspective from Code Enforcement. He said he uses it, and also the Planning Board, especially when there are questions about setbacks and variance requests. It gives you that precision that you can go to court with, literally. So that's something we've been digesting throughout the week. He asked if Shelley had anything to ad.

Michele Harling, Yates Town Clerk, said one nice thing about Pictometry, aside from the fact that you can measure distance, pitch, acreage, etc.. is there are all kinds of layers that you can add like flood zones, and other County layers. When using it, there's a menu on the right-hand side, and you can check the boxes of the layers that you want to add over the pictures. It's an invaluable tool that the Planning and Zoning Boards and Highway Department use, also. When I was the Assessor in Shelby, the Highway would use it a lot. They would use it to measure water lines and distance from mains and different things like that. With Google Maps, you can't do any of that. There will be a flyover with a full set of new images every three years. The images can be rotated north, south, east, or west, or we can look straight down, on parcels. You never lose the old images that they've flown over and taken before. Once in a while, we'll catch images from another Counties flyover. For example, if Monroe County, or Genesee County; a neighboring County pays for flyovers, they'll catch some of our parcels, and those are available to us. The pictures are amazing. It's a great tool. We use it almost every day.

Councilman Vann asked the Supervisor to elaborate on what could happen if we don't support this with the County.

Supervisor Simon said yes, if we don't support the resolution, then the County kind of takes over what will be charged, and it's iffy if they'll give us access. We've already budgeted for it this year. When Tricia prepared her budget, she added Pictometry. When she did that, she wasn't just asking for Pictometry for the Assessor, she realized that it would be used by the Highway, and by Code Enforcement. So, I put it in the budget. We've approved it. But if we weren't to approve this resolution, then we wouldn't be included in the next series of Pictometry flyovers. It could be discontinued, or the County could decide, well, we're still going to do it. They could leverage that tax from the County level to Yates taxpayers, and it would be at their discretion how much to charge based on whatever their math shows. I think this gives us some control over what we're going to end up being charged.

Councilman Jurinich said with the cost of it, if we had to go to court to fight somebody over their property, or they appeal it, with just our attorney fees alone, a couple of those cases a year would make up what we're paying for Pictometry.

Paul Lauriella, Town of Yates, said I'd like to give you a citizen's perspective of it. We're heading into our 250th anniversary this year and the founding fathers wrote the Constitution. I want to read to you the Fourth Amendment. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause supported by oath of affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the person or their things to be seized. You guys take an oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution. With Pictometry, apparently some man in a black robe said that it's legal. But, you know, men in black robes have made a lot of bad decisions for this country. The only thing that this tool is good for is to raise your taxes. What is done with it is, if you add a deck onto your house and you don't get a permit, or you add a window, or you put a little building up behind your house where nobody can see it, Pictometry allows others to see an image of your property. They can see everything that wasn't there before but is there now. Therefore, they can tax you for that. The Assessors before had to go from the road and look at your house and base the assessment on square footage. The Code Enforcement Officers, did it the same way, they had to ask for permission to come onto your property. This gives them access, without asking your permission to view your property, which to me is a clear violation of the Fourth Amendment. I don't care what somebody in a black robe says. You guys take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution; like I said, this is a clear violation. They use it for other stuff too, but it's mainly to get more money out of you. They can look at your house in real time. This thing can zoom in and come in which is what I was told by the Assessor at the County. It can look in your window at a 45-degree angle. It's a tool for bureaucrats to make their job easy. The Constitution doesn't make their life easy, and it's not supposed to. That's all I've got to say about that. Let's see who upholds their oath of office tonight.

Supervisor Simon said that's a fair point, I have to admit, I appreciate the fact that you brought up the Constitution. What would you propose other than voting this down?

Paul Lauricella said you're going to have to pay for it anyways but how much do you believe in this document?

Supervisor Simon replied I think it's a fair point, and you're specifically talking about the resolution. But I would offer a question, if you're willing. What would you propose? How does the Assessor, the Code Enforcement Officer, or the Highway figure all this out?

Paul Lauriella said they come to your house and ask your permission or they do it from the road like they did for years. How did they do it before this technology? Technology doesn't supersede the Constitution.

Councilman Vann said I don't think anybody here wants to pay for this, or wants to do this, but to leave this in the hands of the guy running the County, we already know that that's no good. They're already increasing taxes, and you know he's going to come back and charge the taxpayers of Yates a lot more than the $2,200 so we're handcuffed here. If we say no, they will dictate the amount that we pay.

Steve Colon, Town of Yates, said I just wanted to go on record, everybody seems to forget that there are more than just a few amendments to the Constitution and Bill of Rights, but I'd like to point out and put on record Amendment 9. The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. So we have all kinds of rights. Just because they're not written down doesn't mean we don't have rights. I just want that on record.

Councilman Vann said I think one other important thing here is we don't ask the Code Enforcement Officer to search and see what changes were made without permits. First of all, he doesn't have the time, in his 15-hour work week to sit there and go around and notice if somebody put a window in or didn't put a window in. Obviously that's because of who's on this Board, and it's because of the limited power and time we actually give the guy for this Town. That's why it's very important who's sitting in these chairs when you elect officials; we have to be careful.

Bob DeMallie, Town of Yates asked how much more it would cost the Town to have the Code Enforcement Officer do what this technology does; if he had to go out, or whoever had to go out and do all of the measurements. He wouldn't have enough time to do that. He'd have to hire somebody else to help him.

Supervisor Simon said it would be two-fold, not just how much time; but the cost and then also the access, which is to Paul's point.

Councilman Vann said I would just remind everybody of this; either we buy it at the rate we know- $2,200, or we let the County charge us whatever they feel they should charge us, and I really don't trust them in that regard.

Supervisor Simon said it keeps us in the driver's seat.

Bob DeMallie said my point is that it may be a lot less to pay the $2,200.

Councilman Jurinich said for Dave (CEO); with a new build, instead of him going out and having to check where they put the deck, or checking to see if the house is 25 feet off the property line; he can do it with Pictometry; his time is very limited. I wasn't really for this but I

was talking to a friend of mine, Mike Ryan. Our company used technology to help us lay out foundations on millions of square foot freezers, and it cost half the price of having an engineer come out and do it for us.

Paul Lauricella said when you get a permit, and Dave comes and checks on it, he knows what you're building-you bought a permit; this is to find stuff that they don't know about, so they can tax you for it. That's what it's for.

RESOLUTION NO. 39-3/26

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2026 regular Board Meeting as presented to each Board Member.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 40-3/26

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. 41-3/26

RESOLUTION TO ISSUE JUNKYARD LICENSES

WHEREAS, the Town has received two applications for Junkyard License renewals, and

WHEREAS, the Code Enforcement Officer has inspected these Junkyards, be it

RESOLVED, that a Junkyard license shall be issued to Paul, Sandra, Leonard, Rachel & Vanessa Lauricella, 12469 Roosevelt Highway, Lyndonville, NY, and

RESOLVED, that a Junkyard license shall be issued to Jonas and Ruth Ann Miller, 1859 Murdock Road, Lyndonville, NY.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 42-3/26

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PICTOMETRY FLYOVER

WHEREAS, the last Pictometry, dba Eagleview, flyover was done in 2020 and the County has contacted all 10 Towns to support a new contract for 3 flyovers over a 9-year period with the first flyover tentatively scheduled for fall of 2026, and

WHEREAS, Pictometry, dba Eagleview, has proven to be an invaluable asset to Planners, Assessors, Code Enforcement Officers, Highway Superintendents, Emergency Responders, Economic Development and other municipal functions, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of the Town of Yates does hereby agree to partner with Orleans County to establish a series of flyovers over the next nine years at a cost to the Town not to exceed $1.40 per parcel.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 43-3/26

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

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

RESOLVED to pay bills as follows:

Fund A (General – Townwide)-	$ 33,574.54
Fund B (General – Outside Village)-	$ 1,494.42

Fund DA (Highway – Townwide)-	$ 27,150.29
Fund DB (Highway – Outside Village)-	$ 333.49
Water 4-	$ 64,042.75
Water 2-	$ 250.06
Youth-	$
Fire-	$
TOTAL	$126,845.55

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays

Motion: Carried

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Steve Colon, Town of Yates, said I'd like to bring up data centers. I don't know if anybody's aware, but each data center is going to be an over $3 billion investment. $3.2 billion for the one in Somerset and $3.9 billion for the one in Genesee County. Somerset is going to create 200 new jobs with a cost to create each job at $16 million. For the STAMP Project, it's $3.9 million per job. I'm also concerned about the rolling blackouts and brownouts. I guess the brownouts are the ones where you kind of lose your power, but you don't, if that makes sense. But nobody's addressing blackouts. I think the County is addressing the wastewater problem. I know that noise is going to be another thing. Of course, I support the Indians well, Native Americans.

Georgette Stockman, Town of Yates, said those jobs are the construction jobs, and once the construction jobs go away, I believe they intend to hire like two people, and that that budget is so low that those jobs will probably be minimum wage jobs. There's no gain for employment.

Paul Lauriella, Town of Yates, said at the workshop, you were talking about the cemetery. Steve said something about it would be $300,000 - $400,000 a year to run the cemetery versus it's only taking in $13,000 a year. What are the exact costs?

Supervisor Simon said it's not $300,000, Steve said $30,000 - $40,000. We can get you the exact cost; it's roughly in the neighborhood of $40,000, but don't quote me on that. That would be what the expense is; but what it brings in from charging people for the graves and burials is around $15,000. It's a losing operation. It's money out, and one way to remediate that is to, over the long run, take a portion of the amount that's charged for graves and burials and put it into a fund that allows it to gain interest over time so that after a decade or two, you could start to use the interest from that to pay for the expenses of maintaining the cemetery. That's what we talked about on Monday.

Paul Lauricella said what about the $78,000 that you took out of the cemetery fund and put in the A-account? Couldn't that be put into the NYCLASS account to collect interest?

Supervisor Simon said it is in NYCLASS. The first year we didn't do it, but now it is.

Steve Colon, Town of Yates, said I saw that on Indeed, some Towns ask for summer help. I was wondering; instead of paying $28,000 for the mowing contract, could we get summer help because maybe that would be cheaper. I see other Towns doing that. They pay like $17 an hour. Another thing is maybe we could look into volunteers. Instead of paying $28,000 towards the mowing contract, the money that we save could be put into one of those dividend accounts to take the 15-year speculation down to maybe 10 years.

Paul Lauricella said didn't somebody leave a bunch of money to the cemetery? I heard somebody say at one time that the cemetery was set for the rest of its life.

Supervisor Simon said that's what the $78,000 is.

Bonnie Mack, Town of Yates asked why don't you answer his question?

Supervisor Simon replied I already explained the $78,000 multiple times over the years and Paul knows the answer to the question. He wants to get something on his nice video that he's going to put somewhere.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

Councilman Jurinich said I attended the SCOPE meeting last night and talked to Sue Howard. She's very concerned about her budget and the amount of money she has. We might be losing our DA for traffic court. She says she probably won't be able to handle it by the end of the year.

Councilman Hrovat said another reason to keep our judge here local. If they want to combine courts, it would cost us more money and it's not right. So we're good.

Steve Colon said since the DA was brought up, is there any way the Town might be able to find some grant money. Maybe the County doesn't want to, but maybe the Town Board can make some phone calls or do something to look into trying to get some money for the Town. I don't know how that would work, but we have a DA come here. So money should be able to be funded, maybe over there. Can somebody look into that?

Supervisor Simon said for the funding of a DA?

Steve Colon said you know, some sort of grant or something.

Supervisor Simon said let's talk about it afterwards. I'm not sure I understand what you're asking, but we can talk about it afterwards. It's the same for you, Paul. If you have further

questions, don't hesitate to contact me. My number's on the website. My cell phone is always available. You can meet with me. There are all sorts of opportunities to ask questions, and I've answered your questions multiple times.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilman Hrovat, Whereas there is no new business to be brought before the Board, the meeting be adjourned at 7:25PM.
Seconded by Councilman Vann

4 Ayes 0 Nays

Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Harling
Yates Town Clerk