

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, MARCH 11, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Little Falls was held on March 11, 2025 at the town hall commencing at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present:

Present: Supervisor Dan Casler
Councilman Kirk Schwasnick
Councilman Kevin Sullivan
Councilman Mitch Soules

Absent; Councilman Anthony Viscomi

Others Present: Town Clerk, Sandra Regan; Highway Superintendent, Donald Cotton; Town Attorney, Nicholas Macri; Codes Enforcer, Phil Green; Comprehensive Steering Committee members Marianne Graziadei, Steve Salamone, Bob Brown, Kimberly Pepper and Jordyan Mueller, Comprehensive Plan Project Manager.

-Supervisor Casler called the meeting to order directing the Clerk to call the roll.

RESOLUTION #27

Minute Approval

On motion of Councilman Soules, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes: Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan, Soules

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous month's meetings, as submitted by the clerk, hereby be approved.

-Attorney Macri stated that the Public hearing on Local Law #1-2025 was not held because approval for such has not been received from Herkimer-Oneida Comprehensive Planning Program and that the hearing can be rescheduled for next month. The hearing was scheduled later in the meeting.

-Privilege of the floor was granted to those present.

-Jordyan Mueller, Comprehensive Plan Project Manager, handed out a report on the steering committee's goal to engage residents, where they are and where they're headed along with a preliminary survey report on the survey responses received so far for the board's review and stated she would be emailing the board the open end responses received.

Ms. Mueller reported that they have received 152 responses; that their target number is 300 and they're half way there mainly through digital community engagement. Ms. Mueller stated that she has created multiple channels on line for people to participate, has created a town website specifically for the comprehensive plan and has a Face Book page that will be the suppository of the journey in this process so people have the opportunity to participate. Ms. Graziadei stated that they have also hand distributed several flyers to residents and the response has been good.

Ms. Mueller stated that the data received in the past two weeks indicates a strong interest in the community; that they are doing really well and are in good shape to get something together that's going to be representative of the community, that's what a comprehensive plans is all about.

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Ms. Mueller stated that she is posting three to four times a week and has started a myth busting series that she will be commenting on weekly on a misconception of comprehensive planning with facts to help close the education gap.

Ms. Mueller stated that there's a lot of momentum as far as community involvement right now, and she thinks it's important to keep it going; that the survey closes March 31st and they've talked about holding an additional town hall meeting in May during the town's trash pickup day, which will give them an additional opportunity, if they haven't reached their survey target numbers, to get people to participate; that because of the rate of digital participation she is looking to host an in-person and virtual town hall meeting and offer multiple opportunities for people to participate in ways that is comfortable for them to get the most out of the process.

Ms. Mueller stated once the survey is closed she'll be able to see what the priorities are and they can target on-going engagement efforts; that there's an opportunity through NYS to receive funding for comprehensive planning that opens in May and the minimum ask on this is \$75,000; that the steering committee is beginning conversations about how to strategize around that; that it's a match required grant and there are ways they can come up with that match so money isn't coming out of the town; that the grant would allow them to continue with community engagement, education workshops, and for her to work in partnership with the steering committee to conduct the writing of a draft report.

Ms. Mueller stated she's at about half of her \$5,000 contract and that she is requesting the town board's consideration to commit additional funding to be able to continue ongoing community engagement beyond the initial town hall meeting into the summer via focus groups and additional workshops as well as securing the funding through the state grant; that as can be seen on her resume, she has significant grant experience and has the relationships and partnership going on right now that will support us.

Mr. Salamone stated that the steering committee wouldn't be where they are without Ms. Mueller, that she's a big help.

Supervisor Casler thanked the steering committee and Ms. Mueller for the work they are doing.

-Supervisor Monthly Report:

Supervisor Casler reported:

-That he's met with the City of Little Falls' mayor and municipal leaders to discuss cost saving measures, especially on health care costs and comprehensive planning.

-That a letter was received from the Board of Elections regarding elections dates.

-That a letter was received from Excellus that health insurance rates will increase anywhere from \$57 for single up to \$160 for family and will take effect in May.

-Assessor Report: None

-Codes Enforcer Report:

Codes Enforcer Green reported that a roof fell in on Flint Avenue and that some calls have been received regarding building permits.

-Town Attorney Report: Nothing at this time.

-Town Justice report: None

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-Planning Board Report:

Clerk Regan reported that a guy wants to have a used car sales lot on a lot that's one half of an acre so this matter will have to go before the planning board and the board of appeals; so she's working on setting up a meeting with both of those boards to address this issue.

-Health Office: None

-Dog Control Officer Report-None

-Highway Superintendent Report-Nothing at this time.

-Town Clerk Report:

Clerk Regan reported that the website has been updated and that two public hearings need to be scheduled for Local Law #1 and #2.

RESOLUTION #28

Re-Scheduling of Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law #1-2025, Eight Month Moratorium on Solar Energy Systems and Clerk Authorization to Publish Notice of Such

On motion of Supervisor Casler, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Sullivan	Aye
Councilman Soules	Aye

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board, of the Town of Little Falls, hereby re-schedules a public hearing on proposed Local Law #1-2025, which calls for an eight month moratorium on solar energy systems, allowing the Town Board to analyze and determine potential zoning regulations concerning this use and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board, of the Town of Little Falls, hereby re-schedules said public hearing on said local law to be held on April 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town clerk hereby be authorized to publish notice of said hearing in the Times Telegram at her discretion.

RESOLUTION #29

Acceptance of Proposed Local Law #2-2025, One Year Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems, Scheduling of Public Hearing and Clerk Authorization to Publish Notice of Such

On motion of Councilman Soules, seconded by Councilman Schwasnick, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Sullivan	Aye
Councilman Soules	Aye

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(Resolution #29-Continued)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board, of the Town of Little Falls, hereby accepts proposed Local Law #2-2025, which calls for an one year moratorium on battery energy storage systems, allowing the Town Board to analyze and determine potential regulations concerning this use and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board, of the Town of Little Falls, hereby schedules a public hearing on said local law to be held on April 8, 2025 immediately following the hearing on Local Law #1-2025 scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the town hall and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town clerk hereby be authorized to publish notice of said hearing in the Times Telegram at her discretion.

-Meeting recessed to audit the bills at 7:55 p.m.

-Meeting resumed at 8:10 p.m.

RESOLUTION #30

Payment of General Bills

On motion of Councilman Schwasnick, seconded by Councilman Soules, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes- Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan, Soules

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the General Bills # 29-41 in the amount of \$7,027.13 hereby be paid.

RESOLUTION #31

Payment of Highway Bills

On motion of Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Soules, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan, Soules

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the Highway Bills #36-50, in the amount of \$226,221.35 hereby be paid.

-The next regular meeting will be held on April 8, 2025 at the town hall immediately following the public hearings on Local Law #1 and #2 scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

-Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.-Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Regan, Town Clerk