State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

May 13, 2026

Town Officials present:
Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch
Councilpersons present: James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freemen
Councilman absent: Jeff Lyng
Town Clerk: Michelle Ward
HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff
Citizens present: Bill and Judi Houppert, Mary Misek, Bill Hunt, Wyatt Phelps, Jeremiah Ward

The regular meeting was called to order on May 13, 2026 at 6:26pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Meeting was started by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Minutes

Meeting minutes for April 8, 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk for approval.
Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept the minutes.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Privilege of the floor

Question was asked about who's responsibility it is to talk with property owners about their run down or falling/fell down buildings on their property or any other concerns with said property, that are noticed by someone. The answer is that a complaint/concern can be filed with the Lewis County Building Codes Department, 315-376-5377 or EMAIL: benjaminmanning@lewiscounty.ny.gov.

Town Assessor

There has been Town Board and Assessor discussion about a tax re-evaluation.

Resolution #19 – 2026

The re-evaluation of the Town of Watson Tax Assessment Roll for 2027.

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by James Blackwell to authorize the re-evaluation of the Town of Watson Tax Assessment Roll for 2027.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Assessor, Allan Mace, submitted a report for May 2026.
Reminder: He will be sitting with the roll on May 19, 2026 – 9:00AM-1:00PM & May 20, 2026 – 4:00PM-8:00PM here at the Town of Watson.

Town Accountant
April financials were reviewed/discussed with the CPA, Scott Lawrence and the Town Board.

Supervisor Report
April 2026
Total in Community Bank - $164,526.39
Total in NYCLASS - $2,992,863.30
Petty Cash - $144.50
Total Amount - $3,157,534.19

Supervisor report for April 2026 submitted by the CPA office.
Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by James Blackwell to accept Supervisor Report for April 2026.
Ayes: James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch
Motion Carried.

RACOG
Wyatt was here for an update about RACOG. The Village of Black River submitted a letter of interest to join RACOG. It will be discussed at the next meeting. RACOG was asked if there are currently any grants for the Town Park that the Town could apply for. At this time the grants that they have would not be for a town park. The next RACOG meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Castorland Fire Hall.

NEW BUSINESS
Town Supervisor received an email from PARSONS Company as they have been contracted by the NYS DEC to monitor the closed Watson Landfill Site. NYS DEC will pay for the testing costs.
The Town Board states to comply with setting a meeting time for the testing.

Daniel Miller has put forth interest as becoming the new Town of Watson Historian.
Motion was made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by James Blackwell to appoint Daniel Miller as Town of Watson Historian through 2026 at a salary to be determined.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

A concern was voiced from a board member that Miller's Meat Market not be made the site for the Town of Watson's Historical Information. It was suggested that it either the information stay at the Town Office building or go to Petries Corner Church after it has had the suggested changes completed.

Highway Department
Resolution #18 of 2026 – Transfer of Funds – Subject to Permissive Referendum
Transferring of Highway Funds from 962N – Equipment Reserve to increase DA 5130.2 – Machinery – Equipment in the amount of $56,906.79 for the purchase of 2026 New FORD Grey F350 from Van Bortel Ford, INC., **Subject to permissive referendum.**

Public Notice – was published in the Watertown Daily Times on 04/10/2026.

Petitions-No petitions were filed as of May 13, 2026.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to move forward with the transferring of funds from Highway Funds from 962N – Equipment Reserve to increase DA 5130.2 – Machinery – Equipment in the amount of $56,906.79 for the purchase of 2026 New FORD Grey F350 from Van Bortel Ford, INC.,
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Truck – 2023 F350 was put auctioned on ADKAuctions. Bid for $40,000 was submitted.
Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept the $40,000.00 bid was made.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Update on the Bridge NY Kotel Road bridge – It is going out for Bid for the 2026 construction season.
Update on the Bailey Road Bridge – it is at a standstill. Waiting for the State.

Steve was contacted and asked if the Town of Watson had received a "Emergency Salt" delivery in March of 2025. He stated that we had. They then asked if it had gotten paid for by us, and after he spoke to Michelle, there was no bill that was submitted for payment therefore no payment made.

Town Park
Highway department has completed the renovations to the Town Park bathrooms.
They have also installed outlets on every other post under the pavilion.
2 new picnic tables will be constructed soon.

To make a Watson Town Park Reservation: Contact the Town Clerk – 315-376-3866 Ext.3 to check for availability. There is an application that is required to be completed and a deposit Fee of $75.00 to be paid. It is on a first come first serve basis with completed application and paid fee.

Town Justice
JCAP grant monies have arrived. Justice will get with Town Clerk to purchase approved grant items.

Planning Board
Monthly meeting held May 6, 2026 at 6:30PM.
One application was submitted for review.
Next meeting June 3, 2026 at 6:30pm.
Meeting minutes will be posted to the townofwatsonny.gov website.

Zoning Board
Monthly meeting held on April 13, 2026 an applicant, Jeremiah Ward, submitted a letter of interest to the Zoning Board to fill the board seat vacancy. 3 applications were reviewed.
Monthly meeting held May 11, 2026 at 6:30pm. Decision was made in regards to 2 applications. 1 application was resubmitted with amendments.

Next meeting June 8, 2026.
Meeting minutes will be posted to the townofwatsonny.gov website.

Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to appoint Jeremiah Ward to fill the Zoning Board vacancy though 12/31/2028.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Dog Control

Jeff was asked if the Town of Watson Dog Control Officer would be able to assist Law Enforcement officers to provide aid and/or shelter for a dog in certain situations? The contract that the Town had with the LCHS will be reviewed.

Old Business

New website – The Town of Watson new website is active, townofwatsonny.gov, however it is not up to date as of yet. It will be getting updates soon.

Fees- Park Pavilion Usage Fee, Dog License Fee and Late Tax Notice Fee were all discussed but tabled. Income limitation for aged exemption for Seniors was discussed as well, but tabled.

Monthly Bills

May Abstracts 2026
General Fund - #92-122 - $88,755.66
Highway Fund - #39-48 - $7,043.65
Water District - #8-10 - $11,478.43
Watson Water O & M - #25-36 - $10,681.77

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to pay the May 2026 abstracts.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Monthly Reports

Tax Collection Report for April 2026 was submitted by Michelle Ward, Tax Collector.
Town Clerk and Dog Reports for April 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk.
Justice Report for April 2026 was submitted by Don Regetz, Town Justice.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept all reports.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Adjournment

As there was no further business per Town Supervisor, Jeff Hoch, a motion was made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Shawn Freeman

Nyes: None
Motion carried



---------- May 13, 2026
Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Meeting
June 10, 2026