State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

June 10, 2026

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

The regular meeting was called to order on June 10, 2026 at 6:29pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

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

Minutes
Meeting minutes for May 13, 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk for approval.
Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jim Blackwell to accept the minutes.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Privilege of the floor
No comments

Town Assessor
Allen submitted his report. He stated that he will be holding a re-evaluation workshop to answer questions or concerns the resident's may have about the up-coming re-evaluation. The dates are August 25, 2026 from 9:00am-11:00am and September 26, 2026 from 10:am-12:00pm. These workshops will be at the Town of Watson Municipal building.

Resolution #20– 2026
A motion made by Councilman Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Councilman Jim Blackwell it was approved to increase the Senior Citizen Income Exemption for the Town of Watson to $30,700 effective with the 2027 Tax Year.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

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

Supervisor Report
May 2026
Total in Community Bank - $112,957.57
Total in NYCLASS - $2,954,122.64

Petty Cash - $144.50
Total Amount - $3,067,224.71

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

Highway Department

Highway department has been paving parts of the Wetmore and McPhilimy roads. CHIPS monies were approved.

BRIDGE NY – Bailey Rd. Bridge - Waiting to see if additional state funding will be available.
Kotel Rd Bridge – Open for BIDS on Tuesday.

HVAC Project – started working in the garage.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Jim Blackwell to put the furnaces into surplus.
Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Jim Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill
Nyes: None
Motion Carried.
They will be put on the ADKAUCTIONS site when ready.

The highway garage building had some siding get blown off it, so it has been replaced.

TREE BIDS

The Town of Watson was seeking bids for Tree trimming and cutting along road sides. Bids should be turned in as an hourly rate with Bucket Truck, Wood Chipper and traffic safety included. Contractors must be able to provide proof of insurance. NYS prevailing wages with certified payroll is a necessity.

BID #1 – Virkler's Tree Service - $345.00
BID #2 – Eager Beaver Tree Service Inc - $240.00

Motion made by Jim Blackwell and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept the bid from Eager Beaver Tree Service, Inc.
Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Jim Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill
Nyes: None
Motion Carried.

Town Park

Picnic tables will be assembled soon. Discussion about what type of material to use around the playground equipment. Possibly use Pea Gravel. Next phase of updates should be getting started soon.

Resolution #21
Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jim Blackwell to increase A7110.41 – Town Park Improvements by $5,000.00 as a grant was awarded to The Town of Watson.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng
Nyes: None
Motion carried

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.

Planning Board
Monthly meeting held on the first Wednesday of each month.
Meeting minutes will be posted to the townofwatsonny.gov website.

Zoning Board
Monthly meeting held on the second Monday of each month.
Meeting minutes will be posted to the townofwatsonny.gov website.

RACOG
Wyatt was here for an update about RACOG. The Village of Black River has now joined RACOG.

OLD BUSINESS
New Website – townofwatsonny.gov – Gradually getting the new site up to date.
Petries Corner Church – Work should be started soon.
Zoning Officer/Land Use Officer – The Town Lawyer – Raymond Mier is looking into specifics about this job.

Late Tax Notice Fee
Resolution #22 of 2026
Motion made by Councilman Jim Blackwell and seconded by Councilman Jeff Lyng to increase the fee for unpaid tax notices to $2.00 per notice.
Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Jim Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill
Nyes: None
Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS
Since Candace Randall has taken on a new position, she will no longer be the backup lawyer for the Town of Watson. It was recommended that the Town get in contact with James Burrows, Watertown NY as her replacement.
A letter will be sent to him.

Town Historian
Town Historian pay will be $300.00/yearly.

Resolution #23 of 2026
Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Jim Blackwell to do a budget transfer of $300.00 from Supervisor Contractual – A1220.4 to Historian Contractual – A7510.4.
Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Jim Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill
Nyes: None
Motion Carried.

Monthly Bills
June Abstracts 2026
General Fund - #123 - 149 - $12,837.54
Highway Fund - #49 – 61 - $167,321.05
Water District - #11 - $76.13
Watson Water O & M - #37-41 - $1,215.59

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by James Blackwell to pay the June 2026 abstracts.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng
Nyes: None
Motion carried

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

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

Adjournment
As there was no further business per Town Supervisor, Jeff Hoch, a motion was made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Michelle Ward

---------- June 10, 2026
Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Meeting
July 8, 2026