State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

July 8, 2026

Town Officials present:
Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch
Councilpersons present: James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Town Clerk: Michelle Ward
HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff - Absent
Citizens present: Bill and Judi Houppert, Mary Misek, Bill Hunt, Mickey Dietrich

The regular meeting was called to order on July 8, 2026 at 6:33pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

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

Minutes

Meeting minutes for June 10, 2026 & June 22, 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk for approval.
Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Jim Blackwell to accept the minutes.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Public Hearing/ Local Law #2 of 2026

Local Law #2 of 2026 – A Local Law establishing the office of land use officer for the Town of Watson.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to open the public hearing at 6:35PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

No comments from the public in regards to the land use officer.

Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to close the public hearing at 7:45PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Local Law #2 of 2026

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by James Blackwell to accept Local Law #2 - A Local Law establishing the office of land use officer for the Town of Watson.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Law will be sent to the State for approval.

Privilege of the floor

Citizen stated their concern about the progress that the Zoning Advisory Committee has been making with their meetings. Some discussion amongst the board. Statement was made that the Town Board will have the final decision to accept or refuse what the ZAC submits as a completed project.

Town Assessor

Allen Mace submitted his monthly report. Town Board reviewed with no questions. He will be holding a re-evaluation workshop to answer questions or concerns the resident's may have about the up-coming re-evaluation on August 25, 2026 from 9:00am-11:00am and September 26, 2026 from 10:00am-12:00pm at the Town of Watson office.

Town Accountant

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

Supervisor Report

June 2026
Total in Community Bank - $123,845.09
Total in NYCLASS - $2,766,393.87
Petty Cash - $144.50
Total Amount - $2,890,383.46

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

Highway Department

Bridge NY
Kotel Rd: Bids were opened and bid was accepted.
Bailey Rd: No new updates.

Truck
TW22 Truck issue: Ongoing dispute with Allegiance Trucks (Stadium) in Watertown. They claim they are working to reduce the bill – status remains uncertain.

Roads
Olmstead Rd & River Rd – Cracks filled and roads sealed.

Building
Electrical work for the project has been completed.
Air conditioning/Heating units are installed and operational on the voting side of the building.
Heating units have been installed and plumbing has been completed.
A concrete slab will be poured for two 1,000-gallon propane tanks.

Town Park

Slabs of concrete will be poured for four the new park benches to sit on around the park.
Two other benches will be installed using sauna tubes in the playground area once impact material is added.
A price quote for impact material will be prepared for next year's budget.
A new picnic table has been completed and added to the pavilion.
Public signage was discussed amongst the Town Board.

Resolution #25– 2026

A motion was made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to reallocate $5,000.00 (a grant that was deposited in November of 2025) from General Fund Balance – 917 Unassigned Fund Balance to Town Park Improvements – 7110.41 increasing budget line.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
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.

Watson Water

July is the annual testing period covering all required tests except routine daily and monthly ones.
Chlorine has been ordered for the year.
Water department will be painting hydrants. They are starting to fade and want to keep them as rust free as possible.

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

Mickey Dietrich was here to give an update.

Town Justice

A motion was made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to transfer funds from A3089 – State Aid – Other (JCAP grant money) to increase budget line A1110.4 – Town Justice Contractual in the amount of $828.92.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussion about Data Centers and Flock Camera Systems. There will be a Public Hearing for a proposed Local Law #3 of 2026, "A local law to establish a 12-month moratorium on Data Center Development within the Town of Watson. It will be on August 12, 2026 at 6971 Number Four Road Lowville at 6:35PM.

Monthly Bills

July Abstracts 2026
General Fund - #5, 150-170 - $45,584.50
Highway Fund - #62-73 - $68,107.45
Water District - #12 - $89.18
Watson Water O & M - #42-46 - $2,865.05

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

Monthly Reports

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

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

Adjournment

As there was no further business per Town Supervisor, Jeff Hoch, a motion was made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by James Blackwell to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, James Blackwell, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Michelle Ward

---------- July 8, 2026

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Meeting

August 12, 2026