State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

September 9, 2026

Town Officials present:
Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch
Councilpersons present: Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Town Clerk: Michelle Ward
HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff
Citizens present: Jackie Mahoney, Bill and Judi Houppert, Allan Mace, Mary Misek, Bill Hunt, Mike Hanno, Nettie Prusinowski

Supervisor Jeff Hoch called the regular meeting to order on September 9, 2026 at 6:30pm.

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

Minutes

Meeting minutes for August 12, 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk for approval.
Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept the minutes.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Public Hearing/Proposed Local Law #4 of 2026

Local Law #4 of 2026 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy of the Town of Watson for Fiscal Year 2027.
Motion made by Jeff Hoch and seconded by Jeff Lyng to open the public hearing at 6:32PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to close the public hearing at 7:02PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Local Law #4 of 2026

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by James Blackwell to accept Local Law #4 of 2026 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy of the Town of Watson for Fiscal Year 2027.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None

Motion carried.

Law will be sent to the State for approval.

Public Hearing/ Proposed Local Law #5 of 2026

Local Law #5 of 2026 – A 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption.
Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to open the public hearing at 6:35PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Public Comments: Who decides if someone is disabled? Will the State pay the difference to the Towns?

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by James Blackwell to close the public hearing at 6:40PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Proposed Local Law #5 of 2026

The Town Board has decided to put this Local Law on hold as to needing more clarification on eligibility, required documentation and funding.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motioned Carried.

Resolution #30 of 2026

Jeff Hoch introduced a Resolution **CONCERNING THE EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WHO ARE 100% PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED (RPTL §458-a(11).** Motion made by Jeff Hoch and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept and send said resolution to political persons.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motioned Carried.

Privilege of the floor

Jackie Mahoney – Speaker on behalf of the Lewis County ATV/UTV trail system. She came to the Town Board asking for the Town to consider giving permission to the trail system to utilize "the desert" as part of their trail system. There would be a signed access agreement between the County and the Town. This agreement would set restrictions, rules and regulations about said trail. It would be in place for the summer only – No Snowmobile access. She stated that The Town of Watson would be covered by Lewis County's Insurance, if any instances were to occur. A copy of the insurance policy would be provided to the town.

The comments/concerns from the public were about noise levels, increase traffic, speed limits, road/pedestrian safety and liability, just to name a few concerns.

There will further future discussion about this.

Town Assessor

Allen Mace was present to discuss his monthly report. He stated that he has about 59% of the re-evaluation (for 2027) complete.

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 September 26, 2026 from 10:00am-12:00pm at the Town of Watson office.

Town Accountant

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

Resolution #31 of 2026 – Town Clerk Budget Transfer/Adjustment of Funds

On a motion made by Councilman Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Councilman James Blackwell for transferring funds from A1410.12 – Deputy Clerk Payroll to A1410.2 – Town Clerk Equipment in the amount of $1,000.00 was proposed.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Resolution #32 of 2026 – EDU Interest

On a motion made by Councilman Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Councilman James Blackwell the following resolution for designating funds from SW1 2401 – EDU Account NYClass Interest to SW1 8340.4 – Water Transmission & Distribution in the amount of $20.00 was proposed.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Resolution #33 of 2026 – Highway Garage Improvements

A motion was made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to transfer funds from A8810.4 – Cemeteries Contractual to A5132.2 – Capital Outlay – Town Garage in the amount of $2,500.00 was proposed.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Resolution #34 of 2026 – Newspaper

A motion made by Councilman Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to transfer funds from A8010.4 – Zoning Board Contractual to A6410.4 – Publicity/Newspaper in the amount of $250.00 was proposed.

Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Supervisor Report

August 2026
Total in Community Bank - $78,681.39
Total in NYCLASS - $2,640,385.18
Petty Cash - $144.50
Total Amount - $2,719,211.07

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

Highway Department

FEMA projects are through CRC. Engineering will be next step.
Plow Truck that was ordered in 2025 is tentatively due to arrive in February of 2027.

Highway Superintendent will be contacting RACOG/TUG HILL COMISSIONS to discuss doing a road mapping for the Town of Watson. This would show the roads that are Town or County roads and that are seasonal or minimal maintenance roads.
There has been some discussion about people purchasing properties that are currently on a seasonally maintained road and building a house and making it a permanent residence. This becomes an issue as these roads are not maintained for plowing snow. These roads will be addressed by the Town Board and Highway Department.

Steve gave the Town Board an estimate on a loader to replace the one that the Town currently has. It will be discussed further.

Watson Water

No update from Aquastore about tank.

Town Park

The Town Park has had a paved path put in from the park parking lot to the pavilion and from the pavilion to the bathrooms.

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

Chairperson, Nettie Prusinowski was present and stated that she will be compiling a local law about data centers. Proposing they be allowed within the Town of Watson in the industrial zone only, after said zone is approved by the Planning Board. Law is incomplete at this time.

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.

Petries Corner Church

Hodgecreek contract has been sent and accepted. Work will start soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Board will be reviewing the Petries Corner Church Cemetery Bi-Laws.

Monthly Bills

September Abstracts 2026
General Fund - #195-217 - $48,350.35
Highway Fund - #92 – 108 - $44,597.03
Water District - None
Watson Water O & M - #61-67 - $1,299.95

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

Monthly Reports

Town Clerk and Dog Reports for August 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk.
Justice Report for August 2026 was submitted by Don Regetz, Town Justice.

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

Executive Session

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Jeff Lyng to go into Executive Session for litigation purposes at 8:25PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell

Nyes: None
Motion carried

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to come out of Executive Session at 8:31PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

A motion was made by James Blackwell and seconded by Jeff Lyng for the Town not to take possession of the parcel of land, which was offered to them.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Adjournment
As there was no further business per Town Supervisor, Jeff Hoch, a motion was made by James Blackwell and seconded by Shawn Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Michelle Ward

---------- September 9, 2026
Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Meeting
October 14, 2026

To read the complete resolutions and Local Laws, go to the town website … townofwatsonny.gov