LOCAL LAW NUMBER 2 OF 2026 OF THE TOWN OF WATSON

Land Use Officer

BE ITENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WATSON AS FOLLOWS:

1. TITLE: This Local Law shall be titled and known as "A Local Law Establishing the Office of Land Use Officer for the Town of Watson."

2. PURPOSE: The Town of Watson has entered into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the County of Lewis under which the Lewis County Building and Fire Codes Department provides to the Town such services as administration and enforcement of the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code, Town of Watson Zoning Code, Town of Watson Flood Damage Prevention Law, and such other State and Local laws and regulations as may pertain to the use, development and maintenance of real property located within the Town. The Town Board finds that there has been and continues to be certain occurrences within the Town involving the initiation of certain projects such as construction, renovation, development or other land use (hereafter collectively called "Projects" or individually "Project") that may require permits, inspections, certificates, or other steps in order to comply with relevant State and Local laws, rules and regulations. The Town Board further finds that the workload of the County Codes staff is such that they are not made aware of many instances of non-compliance regarding such Projects. Accordingly, the Town Board has concluded that it would be appropriate to establish the office of Town Land Use Officer to periodically patrol the Town, identify and monitor the aforementioned Projects within the Town, work with residents of the Town and the staff of the Lewis County Codes Department to insure compliance with relevant State and Local laws, rules and regulations and to thereby protect the health, welfare and safety of the Town's residents as well as insuring and encouraging orderly and legally compliant development for the overall protection of the community.

3. Establishing the Office of Land Use Officer: The Office of Land Use Officer for the Town of Watson is hereby established.

4. Appointment: The Town Board shall appoint the Land Use Officer. The first such appointment may be made as sole appointment shall be subject to appointment annually for the current year and subject to reappointment each year at the first regular meeting of the year.

5. Duties: The Land Use Officer shall periodically do a general inspection of the Town and monitor activities with regard to Projects such as construction, development or other uses of real property and investigate whether the property owner is compliant with State and Local

laws, rules and regulations regarding permitting, certificates, inspections, reviews and the like. The Land Use Officer may, upon reasonable arrangements with the property owner, enter upon, examine or inspect any land, building, or structure which is subject to State or Local Laws governing the use of real property. The Land Use Officer shall develop a form on which he will record the nature, property location, and owner of each such Project. The form shall also include a check list where a notation of either compliance or non-compliance may be made as to necessary steps, applications or filings required for full compliance with relevant State and Local laws, rules and regulations including but not limited to building permits, zoning permits, design or plan approvals, inspections, zoning or planning board approval, and certificates of occupancy. Copies of the completed form will be filed in the Land Use Officer's office and given to the owner of the property, and the Director of the Lewis County Codes Office. The Land Use Officer shall report his activities for the preceding month to the Town Board for its regular monthly meeting and at such other times as the Board may request.

6. Qualifications of the Office: The Land Use Officer shall be a resident of Lewis County and have, by education, training, practical experience or a combination thereof a working knowledge of relevant building and fire codes, zoning codes, and all other State and Local laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the development or use of land within the Town. The determination of the sufficiency of the appointee's qualifications shall be within the sole discretion of the Town Board.

7. Severance Clause: Should any sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law be declared by a Court, Administrative Body, Tribunal or Body of competent jurisdiction to be void and unenforceable, such determination of voidness shall apply only to the sentence, paragraph section or part so found to be void and unenforceable and the balance of this Local Law shall remain in full force and effect.

8. Effective Date: This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Office of the Secretary of State.

State Filed 07/13/2026