State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

October 14, 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
CPA: Scott Lawrence
County Legislator: Mike Hanno
Citizens present: Jackie Mahoney, Bill and Judi Houppert, Mary Misek, Bill Hunt, Mickey Dietrich

Supervisor Jeff Hoch called the regular meeting to order on October 14, 2026 at 6:30pm.

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

Minutes

Meeting minutes for September 9 and 23, 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk for approval.
Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept the minutes.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Public Hearing- Proposed Preliminary Budget 2027

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to open the Public Hearing at 6:31PM to hear questions/concerns about the proposed budget.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

No questions or concerns voiced from the public during this time.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to close the public hearing at 6:57pm.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Privilege of the floor

Jackie Mahoney – Speaker on behalf of the Lewis County ATV/UTV trail system. She addressed the Town Board asking if they have considered her proposal about opening the Town of Watson Parcel #198.00-01-09.000 (“the desert”) as a link on the Lewis County ATV Trail system. The Town Board decided that they would hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** proposing utilizing portions of the Town of Watson to connect to the Lewis County ATV trail system. This Public Hearing will be at the Town of Watson Municipal Office 6971 Number Four Rd. Lowville on **November 11, 2026 at 6:35PM**. Any

individuals wanting to speak for or against said proposal will be heard. Each individual will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker. You may also address the Board by written communications as well. Send all correspondence to Town of Watson 6971 Number Four Road Lowville, NY 13367 – C/O Town Supervisor – ATV Proposal. All written correspondence will be read at the meeting.
If the Town is to accept said proposal for this ATV trail, The Town Board will be reviewing the County contract and making any revisions that will protect the Town before sending to the Town Lawyer for review.

Town Assessor
Allen Mace submitted a monthly report. He is 89.9% completed collecting data for the re-evaluation.

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

Supervisor Report
September 2026
Total in Community Bank - $68,312.44
Total in NYCLASS - $2,546,142.28
Petty Cash - $144.50
Total Amount - $2,614,599.22

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

Highway Department
York Rakes and Two Oil Furnaces have been sold at auction.

Motion made Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to sell the Tow behind Hydraulic York Rakes for $2,000.00 through AARauctions.com.
Ayes: Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by James Blackwell to sell the Armstrong Oil/Natural Gas Forced Air Furnace (#1) for $110.00 through AARauctions.com.
Ayes: Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch
Motion Carried.

Motion made by James Blackwell and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to sell Armstrong Oil/Natural Gas Forced Air Furnace (#2) for $45.00 through AAARauctions.com.
Ayes: Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch
Motion Carried.

Highway Department will be restarting 8 hour days next week.

RACOG/TUG HILL COMISSIONS completed a road mapping count for the Town of Watson roads requested by the Highway Superintendent.

Nine FEMA projects have been submitted and are awaiting engineering phase.
Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by James Blackwell to hire Barton & Loguidice to do the engineering for these projects.
Ayes: Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Abstain: Jeffrey Hoch
Motion Carried.

Watson Water
Aquastore/Highway Superintendent have a plan to fix the water tank without causing disruption to the water users. The fix will take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

Hydrants have been flushed.

Town Park
The Town Park has had been closed/winterized until spring.

Thank You to all that have used the Town Park Pavilion and donated to the updates that were completed.

Planning Board
Proposing a Data Center Local Law.

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.

County Legislator
Mike Hanno was present and gave the Board an update on Legislative Board meetings.

RACOG

Mickey Dietrich was here and gave an update on the upcoming meetings. Next meeting is October 21, 2026, which will be a dinner meeting.

Old Business

Veterans Tax Exemption – Awaiting further information from the State.
Jackie Mahoney – Trail System – Will be present to the Public Hearing 11/11/26.
Watson Cemetery Bi-Laws - Town Board will be reviewing/updating Cemetery Bi-Laws, Suggested change/revision of not being able to plant any trees around the head stones.
Petries Corner Church - Roof and the front door projects have been completed. The Town will be getting a quote for painting the church next spring/summer.
Dog License Fees – Future discussion to come.

Correspondence

The Town received a Thank You letter from Senator Walczyk in response to the Board completing and sending Resolution #26 to his office.

Monthly Bills

October Abstracts 2026
General Fund - #6-7, 218-250 - $46,911.93
Highway Fund - #109-125 - $145,277.96
EDU - #3 - $26,207.50
Water District - None
Watson Water O & M - #68-77 - $6,103.50

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

Resolution #36 – Budget Transfer

Motion made Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng to transfer $50.00 from SW2 8340.4 - Watson Water Contractual to SW2 3840.47 – Propane.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Monthly Reports

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk, submitted Town Clerk and Dog Reports for September 2026.
Don Regetz, Town Justice, submitted Justice Report for September 2026.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by James Blackwell to accept all reports.
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 Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, James Blackwell
Nyes: None
Motion carried



---------- October 14, 2026

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Meeting

November 11, 2026

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