State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of Watson

August 12, 2026

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

The regular meeting was called to order on August 12, 2026 at 6:30pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

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

Minutes

Meeting minutes for July 8, 2026 were submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk for approval.
Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept the minutes.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Public Hearing/ Local Law #3 of 2026

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT
Motion made by Jeff Hoch and seconded by Shawn Freeman to open the public hearing at 6:32PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

No public comments about the temporary moratorium on data centers in the Town of Watson.

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng to close the public hearing at 8:00PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Local Law #3 of 2026

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept Local Law #3 – A Local Law establishing a temporary Moratorium on Data Center Development in the Town of Watson.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Law will be sent to the State for approval.

Privilege of the floor

Mary Misek stated that she has been appointed to the County's Land Bank Committee.

A land bank is a public or community-backed non-profit entity that acquires vacant, abandoned, tax-delinquent, or deteriorated properties and holds them temporarily to return them to productive use.

How Land Banks Work

Acquisition: They often acquire blighted properties through tax foreclosures, donations, or municipal transfers.
Special Powers: Unlike regular buyers, land banks can often clear complex back taxes, extinguish liens, and hold land tax-exempt.
Redistribution: Instead of just selling to the highest bidder, they transfer properties to responsible owners or developers whose plans match local community needs (like affordable housing or green spaces).
Mary will keep the Town Board apprised as to the upcoming changes.

Bill complemented the Highway department on the road improvements completed on the Beech Mill Road.

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.

Proposed Local Law #5 of 2026 – A 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption

The Town Board was given information about a Veterans Exemption. This Exemption would be for 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans: Pursuant to amendments enacted in Part EE of the 2026-2027 New York State Budget, local governments are authorized to provide a full 100% real property tax exemption on the primary residence of qualifying veterans who are considered permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service.
There will be a Public Hearing on September 9, 2026 at 6:35pm. Said hearing will take place at the Town of Watson Municipal Building, 6971 Number Four Rd, County of Lewis, State of NY. Purpose of this public hearing is for a Proposed Local Law #5 of 2026 – A 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption to be discussed.

Town Accountant

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

Proposed Local Law #4 of 2026 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy of the Town of Watson for Fiscal Year 2027

The purpose of this local law is to permit the Town Board to override the tax levy limit on the amount of property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Watson pursuant to the Property Tax Cap Law, and to allow the Town to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by the Property Tax Cap Law. Such override is necessary and in the best interests of the Town.

There will be a Public Hearing on September 9, 2026 at 6:35pm. Said hearing will take place at the Town of Watson Municipal Building, 6971 Number Four Rd, County of Lewis, State of NY. Purpose of this public hearing is for a proposed Local Law #4 of 2026 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy of the Town of Watson for Fiscal Year 2027

Resolution #27 0f 2026 - Increase A2665 – Sale of equipment and A5132.2 – Capital Outlay
A motion was made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to increase budget line A2665 – Sales of equipment – (Overhead Doors) and to increase budget line A5132.2 – Capital Outlay – Town Garage by $7,050.00
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Resolution #29 of 2026 - Budget Transfer/Adjustment of Funds
Motion made by Councilman Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Councilman Shawn Freeman the following resolution for transferring funds from: SW2 8340.43 – Watson Water – Parts/Repair to SW2 8340.45 – Additional Contractual – Computer Programs in the amount of $3,899.00 was proposed.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Supervisor Report
July 2026
Total in Community Bank - $71,719.70
Total in NYCLASS - $2,719,275.49
Petty Cash - $144.50
Total Amount - $2,791,139.69

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

Highway Department
FEMA projects have all been submitted. Engineers will start planning.
Heating/Air Conditioning systems in the highway garage have been completed and are working. All duct work has been completed.
Pads have been poured for the new propane tanks.

Bridge NY
Kotel Rd – will start in Spring of 2027
Bailey Rd – No updated information

Watson Water
Fire hydrants have been painted.
Water storage tank is leaking very minimally. Aquastore has come and evaluated. Waiting to see what options are for fixing.

Town Park

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.

RACOG

Wyatt Phelps was here to give an update.

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.

Petries Corner Church

Estimates have been reviewed for the updates/changes that need to be completed at the Petries Corner Church.
Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Jeff Lyng to accept Hodgecreek estimate.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

New drop box has been installed for anyone dropping off paperwork or payments for the Town Clerk or Justice.

Voucher processing and claims auditing policy was reviewed by the Town Board.
Motion made by Jeff and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to accept the policy and implement tonight.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

Copy of policy filed with the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION No. 28 of 2026 - SUPPORTING THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS BILL OF RIGHTS

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Shawn Freeman to support the Town Bill of Rights.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried.

To read the complete resolution, go to the town website … townofwatsonny.gov

Monthly Bills

August Abstracts 2026
General Fund - #171-194 - $18,219.65
Highway Fund - #74 – 91 - $62,971.87

Water District - None
Watson Water O & M - #47-55, 58-60 - $10,278.26

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

Monthly Reports

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

Motion made by Steve Stogsdill and seconded by Shawn Freeman to accept all reports.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, 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 Jeff Lyng and seconded by Steve Stogsdill to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM.
Ayes: Jeffrey Hoch, Steve Stogsdill, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman
Nyes: None
Motion carried

Michelle Ward

---------- August 12, 2026

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Meeting

September 9, 2026