

April 08, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a Public Hearing and its regular meeting of the Board on April 8, 2026.

Present were:	Lisa M. Driscoll,	Supervisor
	Erik Reeve,	Councilmember
	Patrick F. Funk,	Councilmember
	Donna VanSickell,	Councilmember
	Dwayne C. Hill,	Councilmember
Also Present:	Heidi Stevens,	Town Clerk
	Russell Hatch,	Supt. of Highways
	Thomas Giaguzzi,	Deputy Town Clerk
	Laurie Bedford,	Assessor

Others Present:	Rhonda Slicer	
	James Arruifat,	Johnson Culinary Concepts LLC DBA 1897 Tavern on the Hill
	William Johnson,	Johnson Culinary Concepts LLC DBA 1897 Tavern on the Hill
	Henry Browning	
	Thomas Kendall	
	Thomas VanSickell	
	Russell Bedford	
	Liz Page,	Editor of the Mountain Eagle

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Lisa Driscoll. Supervisor Driscoll led the Board and those in attendance to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from March 11, 2026, meeting minutes. There were no questions, comments or concerns.

A motion to accept the minutes from March 11, 2026, was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll opened the Public Hearing for the Local Law Veterans Exemption at 7:01pm. Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns regarding the Veterans Exemption Local Law.

Laurie Bedford asked if the Law was written so the Veterans would need to qualify for all of the required classifications?

Supervisor Driscoll answered that if it states "or" then it could be one or the other.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any other questions or comments regarding the Veterans Tax Exemption Local Law. There were no further comments.

Supervisor Driscoll closed the Public Hearing for the Local Law Veterans Exemption at 7:03pm.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any correspondence.

Heidi Stevens informed the Board that she had looked at the MTC invoices to make sure that the Town Hall was not paying for internet charges. The Town Hall is not paying for internet, and the Highway Garage is on a mesh from the Town Hall. The phone system is the only charge for both the Town Hall and the Highway Garage.

Ms. Stevens also informed the Board that she has emailed Amerigas regarding the 1000-gallon tank that is located behind Town Hall as well as obtaining the original contract. Amerigas has not responded to any of the emails that have been sent. Ms. Stevens told the Board that Russ, Tom and herself have looked through boxes of files and had not found anything that would show the Town purchasing a 1000-gallon propane tank. Russ looked at the date on the tank which is 1990. This makes Russ believe that the tank belongs to Amerigas. He doesn't believe the Town would have purchased a used tank. The tank was installed when MTC installed the generator. Which was in the year 2017-2018.

Patrick F. Funk stated that if Amerigas would like to come take the tank that is fine, but he would like the Town to obtain the original contract which would include a fee for Amerigas to pick up the old propane tank. That charge could be around \$400. If the Town did not have a contract for that, the Town should not have to pay for that. A discussion was had.

Ms. Stevens will continue to try and obtain the original contract from Amerigas. The tank has not been picked up at this point.

Ms. Stevens informed the Board that they have just received the first bill from Sunrise Heating for propane. The price that Sunrise Heating charged the Town is \$2.89 a gallon. The delivery was March 25th. In November of 2025, Amerigas had filled the tank and charged the Town \$4.55 a gallon.

Dwayne C. Hill asked if we got \$.15 off a gallon from Sunrise?

Ms. Stevens answered no. We would have to have paid the bill within a certain time frame to receive that discount. This bill needed to go in front of the Board before payment.

The Board suggested that the Town contact Sunrise to see if they could set up delivery to make sure that we receive the \$.15 off a gallon discount. Ms. Stevens will contact Sunrise Heating to have a conversation with them regarding this. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is Tavern on the Hill Liquor License Request. The Town has received a request for an on-premises liquor license. The applicant is Johnson Culinary Concepts LLC DBA 1897 Tavern on the Hill, located at 163 Taylor Road, Stamford, Ny.

William Johnson and James Arruifat from Johnson Culinary Concepts LLC DBA Tavern on the Hill are present at the Board meeting. They explained to the Board that they would like to open on the 15th of April. Which is not a lot of notice but would like the Board to accept the license so they can file with the NY State Liquor Authority as soon as possible.

Councilmember Patrick Funk asked where Tavern on the Hill is located.

Mr. Johnson answered the Stamford Golf Course.

A motion to approve the liquor license request was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Payment Schedule for Building.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if Daycare Centers are an annual inspection.

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes.

A discussion was had.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if the Town of Harpersfield has any permits for Campgrounds currently.

Supervisor Driscoll answered no. There are no Campground Permits currently issued by the Town of Harpersfield.

Mr. Reeve asked why the Campground Permit is an annual permit. Will an inspector go out each year? Why would that not be a one-time fee?

Supervisor Driscoll answered that it is because of the nature of the business. A Campground services the public, so each year an inspection needs to be done to make sure that the

Campground is still following all the rules for code and remains safe for the public. A discussion was had.

Councilmember Reeve stated that he was questioning this with concerns that if anything was to happen with an inspection-related issue, is the Town be responsible if the Town had missed something when the inspection is done. A discussion was had

A motion to accept the payment schedule for buildings was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is training for personnel. Supervisor Driscoll asked Tom Giaguzzi to tell the Board what he has done to make the employees aware of the training required for 2026.

Tom explained to the Board that he has put together an excel spreadsheet that contains every training that the Town is requiring for the year 2026. He is trying to make it as clear as possible for the employees to see which training pertains to them. He has made a letter which will go to each employee with explanations on where to find the training. The Town is giving the employees until June 15th to complete the training and provide the Town with proof of completion.

Supervisor Driscoll told the Board that the Town will have two dates in May when the training will be held here if anyone would like to come to the Town for them.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Delaware and Ulster Railroad Board. In January at the Organization meeting Supervisor Driscoll was nominated to represent the Town of Harpersfield for the Delaware and Ulster Railroad Board. These meetings are conflicting with the Delaware County meetings which Ms. Driscoll needs to attend. She has asked Tom if he would like to attend those meetings to represent the Town of Harpersfield. Tom has accepted this duty. The Town would need to make a motion to make this change.

A motion to have Tom Giaguzzi represent the Town of Harpersfield at the meetings for the Delaware and Ulster Railroad was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Resolution for the Local Law for Veterans Exemption.

RESOLUTION NO. 011

RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 003 OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD PROVIDING VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION – 100 PERCENT SERVICE DISABILITY

PURSUANT TO SECTION 458-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a authorizes any New York State County, City, Town Village or School District the authority to establish a real property tax exemption for veterans who have a one hundred percent service-connected disability, as defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law, the Town of Harpersfield (the “Town”) is authorized to adopt such a local law establishing an exemption from the Town portion of real property taxes for veterans who have a one hundred percent service-connected disability, as defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a within the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Board of the provide for such exemption on properties within the Town for veterans who meet these criteria, as a thank you for their service; and

WHEREAS, the local law would provide that qualified property owners may apply to the Town Assessor for a real property tax exemption of the assessed value of such qualified property; and

WHEREAS, the local law would grant one such exemption per household; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board members and Town Attorney have reviewed a proposed draft of the local law which has now been introduced by a member of the Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board accepts the proposed draft Local Law that has been introduced; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the Local Law shall be placed in the Town Clerk’s office and made available for public; and

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Supervisor Driscoll	Aye.
Board Member Funk	Aye.
Board Member Hill	Aye.
Board Member Reeve	Aye.
Board Member VanSickle	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.
TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD

LOCAL LAW NO. 003 FOR THE YEAR 2026

**A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD PROVIDING REAL
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 458-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield, in the County of Delaware, as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a authorizes any New York State County, City, Town Village or School District the authority to establish a real property tax exemption for veterans who have a one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disability, as defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a.

Pursuant to Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law, it is the desire of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield to provide for such exemption on properties within the Town of Harpersfield for veterans who meet the criteria for their valued service to our community.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY

The primary residence owned by a veteran who resides in the Town of Harpersfield who has a one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disability shall be exempt from taxation of the assessed value of such property for Town purposes, if such enrolled member meets the following criteria as set forth under Section 458-a of the New York State Real Property Tax Law:

- (a) Was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions;
 - (b) Has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' service law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service;
- or**
- (c) Is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veteran's service law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service; and
 - (d) Is considered to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service;
 - (e) Is rated one hundred percent (100%) disabled by the United States Department of Veterans affairs;

(f) Has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans affairs as individually unemployable; and

(g) Who is eligible for pecuniary assistance from the United States government, or has received pecuniary assistance from the United States government and has applied such assistance toward the acquisition or modification of a suitable housing unit with special features or movable facilities made necessary by the nature of the veterans' disability and the necessary law therefor shall be fully exempt from taxation and special district charges, assessments and special ad valorem levies, provided that such veteran meets all other requirements of this section

SECTION 3. APPLICATION

Applications for such exemption shall be filed with the Town Tax Assessor on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any items the Councilmembers would like to address with the Board.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk stated that he has had some residents come up to him saying that they are seeing a lot of vehicles using the Transfer Station without a sticker on their vehicles and the attendants are not enforcing it.

Supervisor Driscoll will speak with Luis regarding this. She informed the Board that the attendants are getting yelled at by the residents when they try and enforce the matter.

Dwayne C. Hill asked if the attendants could take down the license plate number and have Heidi look into it when this happens.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that there is nothing Heidi can do with a license plate number. What the Town can do is have one of the attendants stand at the gate and turn vehicles around before they enter the Transfer Station if they do not have a sticker on their vehicle. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is Highway Supt. Russ Hatch.

Russ informed the Board that the Backhoe that the Town is trying to purchase for the Transfer Station is from the Town of Middletown. Russ has been working with the Highway

Superintendent, which is a pretty good friend of his. There has been some work done on the rearend of the backhoe which cost about \$18,000, all new brakes and seals. The Backhoe is the same size as the Transfer Station had, which a heavy backhoe is what is needed to move the loaded boxes around. The price for the backhoe is \$30,000. We have to put this purchase out to bid.

Patrick Funk asked if the Town would be purchasing this from another municipality.

Russ answered that the Middletown Superintendent had already made a deal with United Equipment. Which means the Town of Harpersfield will be purchasing the backhoe from United Equipment rather than another municipality. He was unable to get to them before they had already made the deal with United Equipment. That's why the Town would need to put the purchase out to bid.

Erik Reeve asked what kind of warranty would be included in this purchase.

Russ answered that he would say 30 days. He will find out more information on that.

Supervisor Driscoll told the Board that we have the backhoe now. United Equipment has let the Town test the backhoe.

Mr. Reeve asked how many hours there are on the backhoe.

Russ answered the hour meter does not work so he is unsure. It is reading 46,000 and he knows that is incorrect.

Mr. Reeve asked if the Town could do an oil sample on the backhoe.

Russ answered that the machine is 2006-2009, it is an older machine.

Mr. Reeve stated an oil sample could show that there is metal fragments in the oil which could show the bearings are going bad and that the machine is getting tired.

Mr. Funk asked if Middletown bought the backhoe new.

Russ answered yes.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she had spoken with the supervisors from both Kortright and Stamford to let them know that the Town was looking to purchase the backhoe. They were fine with the purchase.

Russ told the Board that the backhoe will go out to bid for the next Board meeting in May.

Supervisor Driscoll has presented the Board with a quote for cameras at the Highway Garage. The quote is \$4,842.98. This quote is under \$5,000 which means that the Town is not required to get more quotes. Getting these new cameras would get them on the same system that the

Town Hall and the Transfer Station are using. They would be able to be viewed off site from a cell phone or computer.

Mr. Funk asked if you must view them from the Highway Garage right now.

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes. You can only view them from Russ's office.

Russ added that the cameras in use now are from the original supplier. To have them serviced or when the Town had issues, the original supplier would charge the Town \$500 just to have the supplier come to look at the cameras.

Supervisor Driscoll added that was because they had to travel so far to get here.

A motion was made to have the new cameras installed at the Highway Garage was made by Patrick. F Funk. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

Russ informed the Board that there will be a change in the 284 agreements for paving the roads. This agreement was made in January. He has been looking at the roads and has come to realize that some of them are not as bad as others. He will continue to look at the roads and possibly change the roads that will be oiled and stoned this year.

Russ updated the Board on the Gun House Culvert Grant. The Grant that the Town had received from DEC is \$500,000. The Town will need to contribute 25% of that. The Town is going to write another grant with Soil and Water DEP to try and recover the 25% that we would have to pay to DEC. In hopes that the Town would not need to come up with any money for the Culvert Project. The Town will find out in October if the Grant is received. Paperwork will be submitted in July to be reviewed in September. A discussion was had.

The Town Clerk report was issued for the month of March to the Board. The amount that the Town received was \$609.00

The Tax Collector report was issued to the Board the amount issued to the Town for the collection of bank interest for the month of March was \$94.73. The amount the Town received in penalty charges was \$2,487.67.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the update from Headwaters.

Liz Page told the Board that Headwaters had the meeting with the Towns. Headwaters are now operating 2 ambulances. The personnel are getting better. Headwaters is getting people certified.

Supervisor Driscoll went on to say the \$200,000 that Headwaters needs to generate is not an issue right now. Headwaters are discussing doing transports. Doing transports brings the full dollar amount to Headwaters where 911 calls only bring a fraction of the dollar amount.

Headwaters is in the process of figuring out where they could do transports because of the need for a CON.

Councilmember Funk asked if medical transport was more of an ambulance medical transport.

Liz answered it would be a transport from hospital to hospital. So, if a patient is critical and needs to go to a different hospital for treatment.

Mr. Funk said so it would be more advanced than a circle of life transport.

Liz answered yes. A discussion was had.

Mr. Funk asked if they were to do a transport would an EMT be needed.

Liz answered yes, an EMT or paramedic would need to be present. The patient would require full care.

Mr. Funk asked if Headwaters would only do this if there was an extra paramedic.

Liz answered yes. The plan would be only to do a transport when an extra crew is available and not taking away from the Towns. A discussion was had.

Councilmember Reeve asked about increasing rates or are there caps on that.

Liz answered that the problem is Medicare and Medicaid.

Mr. Reeve asked what about non-Medicare or non-Medicaid for emergency services.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that most of the emergencies are Medicare and Medicaid. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board next on the agenda is the Abstract and Vouchers.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Profits and Losses for March. Retirement needs to be moved from General A. \$9,000 comes out of the budget and needs to be moved to DA, DB and to Transfer Station. Headwaters was paid for the year, the fire departments were also paid. Ms. Driscoll asked if there were any questions.

A motion to pay the bills that have been presented to the Board was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

Mr. Reeve asked with the ambulance how long Headwaters would be able to function with the way things are going right now, without increasing money on tax bills.

Liz answered Headwaters is hoping not to put the cost on the Towns.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that Headwaters is expecting a \$1000 here and there and are not looking to put that cost on the Town.

Liz added that if the State Legislature would make ambulances essential need that would help. A discussion was had.

A Motion to go into an executive session for litigation at 8:05pm was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

A motion to come out of executive session at 8:21pm was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

A motion to accept the Litigation proposal from the Town Attorney on 65384 State Hwy 10, Stamford NY, was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Councilmember Hill asked if the solar panels are up and running.

Supervisor Driscoll answered no. They are still working on this. A discussion was had.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

