

February 11, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held two public hearings and its regular meeting of the Board on February 11, 2026.

Present were:	Lisa M. Driscoll,	Supervisor
	Erik Reeve,	Councilmember
	Patrick F. Funk,	Councilmember
	Donna VanSickell,	Councilmember
	Dwayne C. Hill,	Councilmember
Also Present:	Russell Hatch,	Supt. of Highways
	Heidi Stevens,	Town Clerk
	Thomas Giaguzzi,	Deputy Town Clerk
Others Present:	Laurie Bedford,	Assessor
	Eileen King,	Headwaters President
	Richard Knapp,	Headwaters Director of Operations
	Meg Hungerford,	Headwaters Emergency Medical Services
	Russell Bedford,	
	Liz Page,	Editor of the Mountain Eagle
	Walter Keller,	Planning Board Member

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.

The opening of the Public Hearing for Local Law 001 to amend the Harpersfield Communications Tower and Facilities Law at 7:00pm by Supervisor Driscoll.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions or comments. Supervisor Driscoll explained that the previous law stated that the town was responsible for sending out registered letters to the surrounding landowners for these public hearings, this will change it to the applicant being responsible for sending out the registered letters to the surrounding landowners, which removes the burden from the Town.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if this would apply for subdivisions. Supervisor Driscoll answered no. This is only for the Communications Tower and Facilities.

There were no other questions or comments.

Supervisor closed the Public Hearing for the Local Law to amend the Harpersfield Communications Tower and Facilities Law at 7:02pm.

Supervisor Driscoll opened the Public Hearing for the Local Law 002 to Regulate Mobile Home Parks and Campgrounds in the Town of Harpersfield at 7:02pm.

This has had significant changes. A new Local Law would replace Ordinance No. 001 of 1983. Also bringing this up to code for the Department of Health.

The Town is in the process of going through all the Towns Local Laws and Ordinances and bringing them up to date.

The Planning Board has reviewed this and gave their input to the Towns attorney, which has made the changes recommended by the Town Planning Board.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Walter Keller, member of the Planning Board, for any additional information.

Walter Keller informed the Board that he really liked how the Towns attorney had written the Local Law to replace the Ordinance.

He went on to say when the Planning Board does reviews, the Planning Board asks for Russ, Supt. of Highways, to look at them as well as Laurie, Town Assessor, to review as well. He also suggests that the Code Enforcement Officer look at these reviews as they come to the Town Planning Board. Mr. Keller also would like for the Town as a whole to consider the surrounding Towns when approving a Plan review. There have been instances where the other Towns have suffered from road repairs and other things because of a plan that was approved by one Town and he would like to try and avoid this in the future.

Supervisor Driscoll responded that it would be a much larger conversation on who to write up a Local Law to include how our neighbors are affected. Tonight, we are having the Public Hearing on The Local Law to Regulate Mobile Home Parks and Campgrounds in the Town of Harpersfield. What Walter Keller is asking would be much more involved than the Local Law presented. A discussion was had.

Laurie Bedford asked if the Village of Stamford has a Campground or a Mobile Home Park which is also in the Town of Harpersfield, because The Village of Stamford has zoning and the Town of Harpersfield does not. Would the Campground or the Mobile Home Park have to follow the Villages zoning laws?

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes, she believes so. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were no more questions or comments.

Supervisor Driscoll closed the Public Hearing for the Local Law to Regulate Mobile Home Parks and Campgrounds in the Town of Harpersfield at 7:16pm.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from January 14, 2026, minutes. There were no questions, comments or concerns.

A motion to accept the minutes from January 14, 2026, was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda there is a Headwaters Ambulance update. Supervisor Driscoll has heard that there is a shortage of staff members for Headwaters currently. Supervisor Driscoll would like to hear where they stand today with what she has heard. She would also like to touch base on the closing out of the bank account that the Town has been holding for Headwaters. Before closing this account, she is asking that the Town does an audit with Headwaters.

Meg Hungerford from Headwaters introduced the Board to Richard Knapp from Headwaters Board. Also informing the Board that Liz Page is also on the Headwaters Board. Meg said she thinks that the Town of Harpersfield is getting monthly reports from Headwaters. Lisa Driscoll replied not every month. Meg informed the Board that the goal for Headwaters was to receive the monthly report at their monthly Board meetings. Once they had reviewed the report they would pass them along to the Towns. She will follow up and see why the monthly reports are inconsistent. The reports that are being sent out are primarily financial reports. It would show the number of calls for the month, the revenue that was generated. Headwaters have around 50 billable calls per month that they respond to. The vast majority of the calls are folks that are on Medicare and or Medicaid. That limits the amount of billing revenue that Headwaters brings in. They had recently had a meeting with the head EMT and he said that he is not sure that he has ever seen an area that is as heavy with Medicare and or Medicaid as this area. Meg went on to say that their fiscal year is a bit different than the Towns. They run from April until March. They would like in the near future to schedule a meeting with the 3 Towns to give all the Towns updates to talk about operations, what they see financially and what the future looks like for all the Towns. Hopefully this meeting will take place within the next few months.

Richard Knapp, director of operations for Headwaters, explained to the Board that there have been some changes in staffing. Headwaters has taken some new people in for training. These

people ride along to see how the process goes, such as the equipment of the trucks and the systems that are being used. They need to be cleared before they can go out. They are up to 24 employees now. They have also broadened their horizons with 2 other paramedics that are per diem that work for Life Net. They are attempting to expand to bring better services to the community.

Lisa Driscoll asked if Headwaters is running 1 or 2 ambulances?

Richard answered that right now they have 1 ambulance. The other one is down for repairs.

Lisa Driscoll asked when do they think the 2<sup>nd</sup> one would be repaired?

Eileen King, President of Headwaters, informed the Board that as of today their bid was accepted to purchase another ambulance. That would make them have 3. That would not mean that they would be staffing 3 all the time. They would now have one as a backup if needed.

Meg Hungerford told the Board when they had started, they had purchased an older ambulance which has become more of a headache than anything else. As far as the staffing she wanted to mention that there have been a couple of members who have had some very serious medical issues that were unexpected and this has created a hardship, they are attempting to fill these spots.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if an advanced EMT can give all treatments to a patient if needed.

Richard Knapp answered no. They can only give certain medications and do certain procedures.

Supervisor Driscoll asked who would be able to fully treat a patient with every need.

Richard Knapp answered paramedics.

Supervisor Driscoll asked does the ambulance that is taking the calls have a paramedic?

Richard Knapp answered, "The goal is to always staff the ambulance with a paramedic." "Right now, this is being achieved, a paramedic and an EMT." A discussion was had

Med Hungerford asked what the Town would be looking for as far as an audit.

Supervisor Driscoll explained that she wants to make sure that the Town has everything that the Town would need if they were to get audited. Such as the receipts when they came into the bank account to compare them to what has been sent out. She would like complete closure of the bank account with an explanation of the funds that came in and went out.

Ms. Hungerford agreed and said anything that the Town would need from Headwaters they would provide. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if it would be ok for Liz Page to give the Town of Harpersfield an update on what is going on at Headwaters at the Board meetings since she is on the Headwaters Board. Liz Page agreed.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Veteran cold war tax exemption.

Walter Keller came to the Town Board tonight to ask a few questions regarding this exemption. Walter Keller has come to the Board questioning this exemption twice before. Walter feels strongly about this exemption. He feels that he and several other people are entitled to this exemption. Walter is a Camp Lejuene Marine. The result of this is he developed kidney cancer. He was not in combat, but he served in a rifle company in the fleet Marine Corp. His job was the company radio man. He was given a life span of 5 seconds in a fire fight. He feels that he and several others gave a service to everybody who did not serve. Walt went on to say if the Board agrees to this exemption, it would be 5% or 10% off his property taxes. He feels that the community owes the Veterans for keeping them safe. Weather or not it was peace time. He would like Harpersfield to be considered a Veteran favoring community.

Laurie Bedford, Town Assessor, asked if Walt knew the dates of the Cold War.

Councilmember Patrick Funk answered it is 09/02/1945 – 12/26/1991.

Mr. Keller expressed that rules out all Veterans from Vietnam and the Korean War.

Mr. Funk asked Laurie what the existing exemptions for Veterans are in the Town of Harpersfield.

Laurie said there is Veterans Disability Exemptions which can give about 50% off of the property taxes if they are 100% disabled. There is also the Veterans exemption which is for Veterans who served. That gives 15% off property taxes. There is also a combat exemption.

Mr. Funk stated that the Town already offers 3 Veterans exemptions.

Walter said that maybe it has changed because when he had come before he was under the impression there was not a Veterans exemption that he was eligible for. A discussion was had.

Laurie informed the Board that the Local Law is No.001 of 1985, which explains the alternate Veterans exemptions that the Town of Harpersfield offers. A discussion was had.

Walter asked Supervisor Driscoll if she would ask the County Supervisors if they would look into the exemption in question.

Supervisor Driscoll said she would look into it.

Walter said thank you to the Board for their patients and Bridget would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentines Day.

Patrick Funk read the exemption requirement to the Board, how the exemption reads explains that a Veteran that served during Cold War time is still eligible for the tax exemption of 15%. Walter should be receiving the Veterans exemption already. If he is not, he should get in touch with the Towns Assessor and provide the proper documentation to receive that exemption.

Supervisor Driscoll is going to send the Local Law from 1985 to the Towns Attorney to make sure that the verbiage is correct. Supervisor Driscoll believes that there may be eligible Veterans that are not aware of the exemptions that the Town offers. She suggests that we put these exemptions on the Towns webpage so that the residents are aware that the exemptions are available to them and they would need to apply for them. She would like to first speak to the Attorney to make sure that the Town provides accurate information for the residents. A discussion was had.

Laurie asked if Liz Page put in the Mountain Eagle that all exemption applications are due no later than March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any correspondence. There was no correspondence.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Resolution to accept the Local Law for cell towers.

A motion to accept Resolution No. 007 was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 007**

### **RESOLUTION ISSUING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION UNDER SEQRA AND APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 001 OF 2026**

#### **A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE HARPERSFIELD COMMUNICATIONS TOWER AND FACILITIES LAW**

**WHEREAS**, on June 12, 2024, the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield (“Town Board”) introduced a proposed local law to amend Local Law No. 1 of 2001, known as the Harpersfield Communications Tower and Facilities Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed local law would amend the procedure for serving notice of public hearing on adjacent property owners. The current law requires the Town to give notice in writing by certified mail to all property owners of the land immediately adjacent to the proposed site. The proposed amendment would require the applicant to serve the required notice and to provide proof of service to the Town Planning Board; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing on the proposed local law was duly noticed and held on February 11, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed local law was referred to the Town Planning Board for its review and comment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has considered comments and recommendations received on the proposed local law; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed local law was on file for inspection at the Town Clerk's office prior to the hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has caused to be prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to the mandates for the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617) for the proposed local law and has reviewed Part 1 and Part 2 of the EAF; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 and 3 thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry and took a hard look at them; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that the proposed local law is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the Village.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD:**

1. The Town Board determines that the adoption of the proposed local law will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment.
  
2. The Town Board hereby authorizes filing of the Negative Declaration (attached hereto and made a part hereof), according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617.
  
3. That the proposed local law is hereby adopted as Local Law No. 001 of 2026 and the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file said Local Law with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with State Law.

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

Supervisor Driscoll	Aye
Board Member VanSickell	Aye
Board Member Funk	Aye

Board Member Hill  
Board Member Reeve

Aye  
Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Resolution to accept Local Law 002 of 2026 to Regulate Mobile Home Parks and Campgrounds in the Town of Harpersfield. A motion was made to accept Resolution No. 008 by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

**RESOLUTION NO. 008**

**RESOLUTION ISSUING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION UNDER SEQRA AND APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 002 OF 2026**

**A LOCAL LAW TO REGULATE MOBILE HOME PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS IN THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield (“Town Board”) has introduced a new local law to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 1 of 1983 regulating Mobile Home Parks and Campgrounds in the Town of Harpersfield and replace it with a comprehensive and current law that will ensure the minimum standards are in place to safeguard public health, safety and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed local law updates the Town’s existing regulations applicable to Mobile Homes, Camping Units, including Recreational Vehicles, Mobile Home Parks and Campgrounds within the Town of Harpersfield. While the local law incorporates many provisions of the prior ordinance, new and updated definitions, substantive and procedural requirements are proposed to bring the Town’s legal requirements in accord with the current standards adopted by the New York State Department of Health and set forth in 10 NYCRR, Chapter 1 (New York State Sanitary Code). Specifically, the proposed local law incorporates the current New York State Department of Health regulations for the minimum size and spacing requirements for Mobile Homes Lots and Camping Spaces, requirements for fire safety, refuse disposal, and the provision of necessary utilities. The proposed local law also includes a cross-reference to the Town of Harpersfield Site Plan Review Law and reiterates that a site plan review and approval by the Town of Harpersfield Planning Board is required prior to the issuance of a Mobile Home Park and Campground Permit. The law also changes the permit issuing authority from the Town Clerk to the Town Board and includes a new mandatory referral to the Town Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer and Town Planning Board. In sum, the proposed new local law reflects a comprehensive update of the Town’s existing regulations with the goal of ensuring the minimum standards are in place to safeguard public health, safety and welfare. The requirement to obtain a Mobile Home Park and Campground Permit remains; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing on the proposed local law was duly noticed and held on February 11, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed local law was referred to the Town Planning Board which recommended minor, editorial revisions to the proposed local law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has considered comments and recommendations received on the proposed local law; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed local law was on file for inspection at the Town Clerk's office prior to the hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has caused to be prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to the mandates for the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617) for the proposed local law and has reviewed Part 1 and Part 2 of the EAF; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 and 3 thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry, and took a hard look at them; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that the proposed local law is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the Village.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD:**

1. The Town Board determines that the adoption of the proposed local law will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment.
2. The Town Board hereby authorizes filing of the Negative Declaration (attached hereto and made a part hereof), according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617.
3. The proposed local law is hereby adopted with the revisions recommended by the Town Planning Board, as Local Law No. 002 of 2026, and the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file said Local Law with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with State Law.

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

Supervisor Driscoll	Aye
Board Member VanSickell	Aye
Board Member Funk	Aye

Board Member Hill  
Board Member Reeve

Aye  
Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Justice Audit. The Audit was presented to the Board.

A motion to accept the Justice Audit was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Propane Service and Fuel Change from Amerigas to Sunrise Heating.

The Town has had Amerigas for the Town Hall. The Town has Sunrise for the Post Office. The furnace upstairs in the Town Hall has been broken for a few weeks now. Amerigas does not come and fix furnaces. They only deliver the propane. It was very hard to get a company to come and fix the furnace with them not being the ones delivering the propane to the Town. Russ was able to get Sunrise to come to the Town Hall to fix the furnace.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked how much Amerigas was charging the Town for Propane.

Supervisor Driscoll answered close to 6.99 a gallon.

Supervisor Driscoll called and canceled the contract with Amerigas. Sunrise will be delivering a tank possibly tomorrow. The charge for the tank removal from Amerigas will cost the Town a couple hundred dollars. The Town needs to have a company that will service the equipment. She believes having a local company will provide the Town with better and faster service.

Councilmember Funk didn't believe that Amerigas could charge the Town to remove their tank.

Councilmember Erik Reeve said that they can. It is stated in a contract. It also could potentially cost \$400 for the removal. A discussion was had.

Councilmember Reeve asked what if the Town purchased their own tank.

The Board responded that many problems could come with that. Such as inspections or pressure problems and a company could tell the Town that they will not use that tank. It would be better if the Town went with the supplier's tank so that way the tank is their responsibility not the Towns.

Councilmember Funk would like the Town to ask Amerigas for the original contract. To be sure they can charge the Town the tank removal fee. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll will ask for the contract.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is Building Permit Fee Changes. Code Enforcement Officer Christopher Plante has made up a draft to present to the Board. Town Clerk Heidi Stevens provided the Town with the current permit fees.

Supervisor Driscoll explained that the permit for a site build was a formula based on square feet and pricing. Chris is experiencing the residents having a hard time figuring out the cost of the permits with the formula. Chris would like to simplify the cost without a formula.

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#### BUILDING PERMIT FEE

##### SINGLE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS (NEW CONSTRUCTION) AND MODULAR HOMES:

- A. SITE BUILT HOMES/PER FAMILY UNIT – UNDER 2,000 SQ FT \$350.00
- B. SITE BUILT HOMES/PER FAMILY UNIT – 2,000 - 3,000 SQ FT \$450.00
- C. SITE BUILT HOMES/PER FAMILY UNIT – 3,000 - 5,000 SQ FT \$550.00
- D. SITE BUILT HOMES/PER FAMILY UNIT – OVER 5,000 SQ FT \$750.00

##### MANUFACTURED/MOBILE HOMES (NEW AND USED):

- A. SINGLE WIDE MOBILE HOMES – SLAB or FOUNDATION \$200.00
  - B. DOUBLE WIDE MOBILE HOMES – ONE FAMILY – SLAB or FOUNDATION \$300.00
- NON-COMMERCIAL GARAGES AND STORAGE SHEDS OVER 144 SQ FT, INCLUDING POLE BARNs AND SHEDS FOR RESIDENTIAL STORAGE ONLY (UNATTACHED FROM RESIDENCE): \$150.00

##### NEW CONSTRUCTION:

COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS; INDUSTRIAL, PUBLIC ASSEMBLY, INSTITUTIONAL, MULTIPLE RESIDENCES AND ALL ADDITIONS TO ANY OF THE FOREGOING;

COMMERCIAL STORAGE \$100.00 + \$0.50 PER SQ FT

ADDITIONS TO ONE-AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS, PORCHES AND DECKs:

\$75 - ADDITIONAL \$10 PER \$1,000 OF CONSTRUCTION COST

ALTERATIONS AND CONVERSIONS OF USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES FOR

COMMERCIAL, MERCANTILE, ASSEMBLY, INDUSTRIAL, BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL

STORAGE, INSTITUTIONAL, MULTIPLE RESIDENCES AND SINGLE-FAMILY

RESIDENCES: \$75 - ADDITIONAL \$10 PER \$1,000 OF CONSTRUCTION COST

WELLS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS: NON APPLICABLE ON DWELLING PERMITS

A. INSTALLATION OF A WELL \$75.00

B. INSTALLATION OF A SEPTIC SYSTEM \$75.00

INSTALLATION OF CHIMNEYS, FLUES, GAS VENTS FOR SOLID FUEL BURNING

DEVICES INCLUDING FIREPLACES, WOOD STOVES AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY  
SOURCES INCLUDING, GEOTHERMAL AND OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACES:  
\$75.00

RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANELS \$250.00

DEMOLITION PERMITS: \$100.00

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY OR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE:

INCLUDED IN PERMIT PRICE

PERMIT RENEWAL: \$40.00

DAY CARE CENTER INSPECTIONS: \$10.00

POOLS: \$50.00

CELL TOWER PERMIT:

A. RESIDENTIAL \$2500.00

B. COMMERCIAL \$6,000.00

WIND TURBINE PERMIT:

A. RESIDENTIAL \$2500.00

B. COMMERCIAL \$6,000.00

COMMERCIAL SOLAR PROJECT: \$6000.00 + 1% OF COST OF CONSTRUCTION PER  
ACRE COVERED

BUILDING PERMIT FEES WILL BE DOUBLED IF THE PROJECT IS STARTED  
BEFORE A PERMIT IS ISSUED.

Councilmember Erik Reeve said that it looks like the fees are going up a lot.

Town Clerk Heidi Stevens explained that the proposed fees include everything in one permit rather than the residents having to come in and get a separate permit for the same site build. For example, a single wide mobile home with the slab or foundation and a certificate of occupancy would just be the one permit now. Before, the resident or contractor would have to

come in and get 3 different permits for that site build. Chris is trying to simplify the permit process.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk asked if the closing out of the project would be included in the fee. He also would like to see a lower the price of the residential wind turbine permit.

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes. That was the other problem that the Town had, the Town was charging separately for the certificate of occupancy. A lot of residents were unaware of or never came back for the final inspection to obtain the certificate of occupancy. With combining the fees in the beginning of the process the Town hopes to avoid this in the future.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she would like to draft a letter with Chris for the open permits that are here at the Town. The Town needs to get these closed out with the certificate of occupancies or certificate of compliances. The Town will charge no fee to close these permits out. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Veterans 100% disability law. The Board has been presented with Resolution No. 009 of the year 2026. A Resolution scheduling a public hearing on a local law of the town of Harpersfield providing veterans tax exemption-100 percent service disability pursuant to section 458-A of the real property tax law.

Patrick F. Funk informed the Board that this law has several requirements that need to be met in order to qualify for this exemption. Mr. Funk went on to read the list of requirements. To qualify, a veteran must meet **all** the following criteria:

- Have a qualifying condition under NYS Veterans' Services Law, defined as:
  - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), **or**
  - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), **or**
  - Military Sexual Trauma (MST), **or**
  - Be a discharged LGBT Veteran with an other-than-dishonorable or bad conduct discharge; **and**
- Have a **100% disability rating** with a **Permanent and Total** designation from the VA; **and**
- Have a **Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU)** designation from the VA; **and**
- Qualify for the VA's **specialty adapted housing grant**.

Unless **all** these statutory requirements are met, the veteran is **not eligible** for the total exemption even if the taxing jurisdiction has adopted the local option.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 009 of 2026 scheduling a public hearing on a local lawn of the Town of Harpersfield providing veterans tax exemption – 100 percent service disability pursuant to section 458-A of the real property tax law. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll suggested that the Town Board hold off on Resolution 009 of 2026. It seems that there may be some wrong verbiage presented in the resolution. Supervisor Driscoll will bring the resolution back to the Towns Attorney to have her look it over to make sure that it is correct. The Board agreed. The resolution will be brought to the town Board at the next Board meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the fuel bid. The Town had published the Fuel Bid in the paper, posted on all bulletin boards as well as posted on the Towns website. This was not discussed at the last Board meeting. Supervisor Driscoll would like to discuss this with the attorney, making sure the Town can accept the bid. If the attorney says that the Town needs to publish the bid again then the Town will do so. The Board agreed to accept the bid as long as the Towns Attorney informs them that it is ok to do so.

The Town received one fuel bid from Mirabito.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Russ how much the Town is currently paying for fuel.

Russ answered that it is variable. He doesn't know off the top of his head what it cost the last time they delivered to the Town.

Supervisor Driscoll opened the bid. The fixed price for diesel is 2.6482 per gallon and for kerosene 3.1982 per gallon. The fluctuating price for diesel is 2.9323 per gallon and for kerosene 4.0761 per gallon.

A motion to accept the bid at the fluctuating price was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is Mt. Utsayantha – Tower Road collaboration with Town and Village of Stamford. The road going to the tower needs to be fixed. Highway Supt. Russ Hatch and Supervisor Driscoll had a meeting with the Village of Stamford regarding the road and what kind of work would be required.

Russ informed the Board that the Town of Stamford goes as far as the graveyard, the Village of Stamford maintains the remainder of the road. At the meeting the two Towns and the Village discussed to work together on fixing the road. The village does not have the equipment that the

Town of Harpersfield or the Town of Stamford have to do the work that needs to be done. The road needs work all the way to the Tower.

Councilmember Patrick Funk asked if The Town of Harpersfield owed the Village some hours.

Russ answered yes.

Councilmember asked if we could use this job to give them the hours that the Town owes them.

Russ answered yes.

Russ also told the Board that Mt. Utsayantha is part of the Fire Tower Tour. This Tower is also the only one that is accessible by car. The Village expects a lot of people to visit the Tower; this is the first time that the Tower is part of the Fire Tower Tour.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if it is the whole road that goes to the Tower.

Russ answered yes, it would be the road that goes up all the way to the Tower. The top section of the road that is really bad is where the work would be taking place.

Councilmember Funk asked what exactly is going to be done to the road.

Russ answered that at the meeting ideas were just being given. Russ had suggested maybe put down some road fabric some geo textile, maybe some crushed cobbles then maybe go with some sort of crushed gravel.

Councilmember Patrick Funk asked if the Village was paying for the materials and the Town of Harpersfield would use their equipment and manpower.

Councilmember Reeve asked machinery also.

Russ answered yes. The machinery that the Village has is meant for just around the Village, it is not as big as the Town of Stamford or the Town of Harpersfield.

Councilmember Reeve asked if the Town of Harpersfield and their equipment would be covered under the Villages insurance.

Russ answered that is part of the shared service agreements that we have with the Village and the Town of Stamford.

Russ went on to tell the Board that during the meeting a discussion was had about how narrow the road is and how it is a wonder that nobody has gone off that road as of yet. The discussion of trying to widen the road or make places for people to pass had taken place.

Councilmember Patrick Funk asked if there would be any problems with the property owner if it was privately owned.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that the Village was looking up to see who owns the whole road. The Village is unsure at this time.

Russ explained to the Board that the Village has been maintaining the road so it very well may belong to the Village by right of use.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Village is thinking about starting this project in April. A discussion was had.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk stated that he is all for it, but before any work was to commence, he would like assurance that the Town of Harpersfield knows that the Village of Stamford owns the property that the road is on or some sort of assurance that the property owner would not be able to close the road.

The Board is all in favor of helping the Village with the fixing of the road that goes to the Fire Tower.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Transfer Station Backhoe auction.

Russ informed the Board that there is a backhoe at the auction that will be ending next Monday he believes. He is looking at purchasing this for the Transfer Station. Joe and Russ were trying to go and take a look at it; it is located in Orange County. This backhoe is privately owned, normally he would purchase from a municipality. The backhoe is a 2007 with just under 6000 hours. The last he looked at it the bids were at \$10,000.

Russ informed the Board that last the old 550 and the skid steer sold at auction. The 550 brought in \$5,000.00 and the skid steer brought in \$11,900.00. The skid steer that was sold was a 1997.

A motion was made to accept the auction for the 550 and skid steer was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Russ asked if he could make a bid on the 2007 backhoe at auction.

Councilmember Funk answered if Russ thinks that it is worth the money, he is ok with the bid.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if there were any bids on the backhoe right now.

Russ answered yes, it is up to \$10,000.00.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if this was a smaller backhoe than the transfer Station already has.

Russ answered smaller than the 710 but the Transfer Station still needs a backhoe bigger than a 310. The backhoe needs to be able to lift the boxes. The one at auction is bigger than the 310 but smaller than what the Transfer Station currently has.

Councilmember Funk asked if the biggest issue with the backhoe now is the bucket.

Russ answered that it is just shot. It is a 2001. A discussion was had.

A motion was made for Russ to make a bid for the 2007 backhoe by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Russ informed the Board that the State is in a salt shortage. Reason being is that the salt comes here by barge and comes up the Hudson River and the Hudson River is frozen right now. Where the Town was getting their salt from is Egypt. The company that the Town used to get the salt from was in the Finger Lakes. They did not get the states contract this year. The Town has some salt but have been using it sparingly, not knowing if we will get any ice storms. Basically, the roads are being treated with just sand.

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

Dwayne C. Hill has received an email regarding the rising costs of electricity. The email stated that the rising costs have pushed citizens to a breaking point. These increases are forcing families to make impossible choices. The Cincinnatus Town Board took decisive action and passed a Resolution of a formal demand for immediate review of NYSEGs delivery rates and the lack of transparency behind them. This resolution calls on NYS Public Service Commission to investigate these escalating charges require real cost controls and protect rural communities like ours from being unfairly burdened. They are calling on all communities across NY small or large to join this fight.

Supervisor Driscoll agrees with this. She would like to speak with the County. She is unsure of how much authority the resolution holds with NYSEG. She has no problem with the Town getting behind this resolution. First, she would like to talk to the head of the County Supervisor, to ask if this is something that if all the Towns pass would it do anything with NYSEG. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Russ if he would like to touch base on the Truck that Town is interested in purchasing from Cazenovia.

Russ answered that he does not have much information on the truck right now.

The Town Clerks report was issued for the month of January to the Board. The amount that the Town received was \$892.00.

The tax Collector report was issued to the Board. The amount issued to the Town for the collection of property taxes in January was \$1,245,910.22. The amount that the Town received in interest is \$805.20.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Abstract and Vouchers. New York State retirement has been paid in the amount of \$111,000.00. There was also a \$1900.00 plow bill for the month of January. The bond has been paid. The Town purchased more stickers for the Transfer Station. The Town will hold some stickers for Kortright and the Town of Stamford so that we can issue the correct stickers to those residents if they come here for them.

Councilmember Patrick Funk informed the Board and anyone who is following the Olympics, that Eklund Farms is sponsoring USA Luge. Which is very cool.

A motion to pay the bills that have been presented to the Board was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Profits and Losses. As the Board should see there is no tax income, the town has not received the check at this point. The Town should have all of the 2025 money in the only thing that the Town is waiting for is the C.H.I.P.S money for the 550.

A motion to go into executive session at 9:18pm for personnel was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

A motion to come out of executive session at 9:39pm was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

A motion to accept the employee pay increases was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held Wednesday March 11, 2026, at 7:00pm.

