

March 11, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held its regular meeting of the Board on March 11, 2026.

Present were:	Lisa M. Driscoll,	Supervisor
	Erik Reeve,	Councilmember
	Patrick F. Funk,	Councilmember
	Donna VanSickell,	Councilmember
Also Present:	Heidi Stevens,	Town Clerk
	Thomas Giaguzzi,	Deputy Town Clerk
Others Present:	Laurie Bedford,	Assessor
	Henry L Browning	
	Lynn Browning	
	Thomas VanSickell	
	Russ Bedford	
	Liz Page,	Editor of The Mountain Eagle

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm 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 February 11, 2026, minutes. There were no questions, comments or concerns.

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

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any correspondence.

Heidi Stevens answered yes, the Town Board has received a card in the mail. The card was a thank you card from the Wolf Den of Pack 32. The Scouts would like to say thank you to the Town for donating to their bottles and cans drive. Having the bin at the Transfer Station has helped them fund activities and camp for the Scouts. This card was signed by the Scouts and Cubmaster of Pack 32.

Heidi went on with the Town received a letter from MTC that states. Dear Supervisor Driscoll:

This correspondence is to notify the Harpersfield Town Board of pending rate increases for MTC cable (MTC) services effective April 1, 2026. The primary impact of these rate adjustments will be on the cable television (video) service where wholesale programming fees, of which MTC has little control over, continue to far outpace inflation rates. Last year MTC introduced a new streaming video service which offers alternative video entertainment options combined with significant cost savings for our customers. MTC continues to invest in new technologies which meet the needs and expectations of our customers. The importance of reliable, affordable, and high-capacity broadband service in our communities remains a top priority. In 2025 MTC introduced an extremely efficient Mobile service that has given cost savings to our Broadband customers. MTC partnered with a nationwide carrier in offering this mobile service and will continue to work on leveraging this relationship to expand cellular coverage throughout the Central Catskill Region. MTC Cable Plus, is a cost saving offering that has new programming options, integrated video "Apps" and viewable via Wi-Fi connected devices in the home. In 2025, MTC introduced new video packages (as noted above) on the MTC Cable Plus service starting at \$9.95 per month when bundled with broadband service. This service also includes hundreds of FAST channels (Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television) to our MTC cable Plus customers at no additional cost. We continue to Invest in new high-capacity, environmentally friendly, fiber-optic network technologies optimized to support our business community and offer enhanced network resiliency. MTC also enclosed a copy of the impacted rates effective April 1, 2026.

Councilmember Patrick Funk asked if the Town had separate internet lines from the Town Hall to the Highway Garage?

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes.

Mr. Funk suggested talking with MTC and seeing if they would set it up as a mesh instead of the separate lines. This would involve running a cable from the Town Hall to the Highway Garage and then setting up a router over at the Highway Garage. That way we would only have to pay for one line instead of two.

That may save the Town a bit of money.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that the Town does get a discount because we allow MTC to use the Town Hall to park their truck in, but she has no problem looking into that.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is an update on Headwaters Ambulance

Liz Page told the Board that Headwaters have received the two used ambulances. One of them is in service and one of them is getting brakes repaired. The new personnel have been cleared so that's starting to get better.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that Headwaters is having their next meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> and she does plan on attending this meeting. One additional Town Board member may attend with her. This meeting will be held at Audio Sears Corporation.

Councilmember Patrick Funk said more Board members may attend they are just not able to talk business.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked what the meeting was for.

Supervisor Driscoll said it is to get an update on how Headwaters is doing. All three Towns are invited to the meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the payment schedule for Buildings. There was a campground permit fee added, 50 sites and under would be \$250 and anything over 50 sites the cost would be \$500.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if the campground permit fee was an annual fee.

Supervisor Driscoll answered in the Towns Local Law it states that it is an annual fee.

Councilmember Reeve asked if people who own the campgrounds must get reapproved every year.

Supervisor Driscoll answered it would be more of an inspection to make sure that they are still meeting the Towns and The Department of Health requirements.

Councilmember Funk said looking at the commercial solar project it states \$6000 plus 1% of cost of construction per acre covered. He feels like it needs to be clearer on how it reads. He would like that to have an example included. Also, the permit for the pools is that for even the pools that are not permanent.

Heidi Stevens answered that Chris was looking into that.

Councilmember Reeve asked about the asbestos inspection. If you are demoing a building and burying it on your own property. Would that inspection still need to be done?

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes if you are burying it on your property, you would not need to do anything for asbestos. If you do get it trucked out someone would need to come and inspect it and provide the inspection to the Town before a demo permit is issued. The Town wants to make sure that when getting a permit for demolition people are aware that they would possibly need this inspection prior to the permit being issued.

Supervisor Driscoll would like to see the fee schedule structured a little differently. A discussion was had.

Heidi asked the Town Board if she could ask the Board a question regarding the Certificate of Occupancy and the Certificates of Compliances that are missing for several files. She asked how the Board would feel about closing out all the Certificate of Compliances and leaving open the Certificates of Occupancies, it seems that while going through the files there are far more missing Compliance Certificates than Occupancy Certificates.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that she would first like to see how many are missing, then we can go from there.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Veterans Tax Exemption Resolution. Ms. Driscoll did go on to the States website to look over the requirements to make sure that our Local Law was reading correctly. The verbiage was correct.

Council member Funk said that there was an and/or question.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that it stated or. They just have different rules as to why the veteran had been removed from the military.

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**

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

Laurie Bedford stated that we should not get a lot more new exemptions for this year. She just had to remove one because the property owner is now deceased.

Supervisor Driscoll said for the Local Law that was set in place in the 1980's the Town really needs to look more into it this year. That Local Law states a dollar amount listed and the Town should do the math and see if that dollar amount should be updated.

Laurie said that the dollar amount listed in that law is the assessed value. Those have not changed. If the Town does the Reevaluation and goes to 100% than that amount will need to be changed.

Councilmember Funk stated that there is a lot of requirements. He does not feel that there will be very many residents who meet all of the criteria. For example you could have a Veteran that

is 100% disabled but still employable or a Veteran that is 100% disabled and not employable.  
The Law is not that clear.

A motion was made to accept Resolution No. 009 of the year 2026 scheduling a public hearing by Erik Reeve. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 009**

#### **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**

**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 proposed 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 proposed 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 proposed draft Local Law shall be placed in the Town Clerk’s office and made available for public inspection; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board will hold a public hearing for consideration of the Local Law on April 8, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said hearing in the Mountain Eagle, and to post copies of such notice in the manner provided by law.

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

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

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Resolution for the Judges Audit. The Town Board reviewed the Judges Audit at the February Board meeting and had made a motion to accept the audit. We need to have a resolution to accept the Audit.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD  
RESOLUTION NO. 010 OF THE YEAR 2026

Councilmember Erik R. Reeve offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: TOWN JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT

WHEREAS, Town Justice Lawrence R. Musella has presented the Town Supervisor with a letter advising her that the records and docket for the Town of Harpersfield Court, Calendar Year 2025, are available to be presented for examination.

WHEREAS, the Appendix 10 – Annual Checklist for Review of Justice Court Records, the monthly reports and the report of certifications have been presented to the Town Board for review.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield acknowledges that the required examination has been conducted at their regular meeting held on March 11, 2026.

Seconded by Councilmember Patrick F. Funk with the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
	Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
	Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
	Councilmember	Donna Van Sickle	Aye.

Absent: Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill Absent.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the 2025 Annual State Comptroller reports. These reports have been posted on the Towns website. These reports have also been submitted to the State. This report shows what the Town spent in the year 2025. Supervisor Driscoll thinks it is easier to see on the Profit and Loses. The Profit and Loses show the budget to compare the expenses too. This report was submitted on February 28, 2026. The State comptroller will review this report and come back to the Town with any questions that they may have. Last year they asked why the Town had spent so much in 2023 on fuel compared to 2024. The answer to that was that the last invoice for the fuel bill was paid out of the 2024 budget.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the fuel bid. The fuel bid did go through. The Town had decided to keep it on a fluctuating price rather than the fixed price. The Town was able to get the tanks filled prior to the war in Iran starting.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Amerigas tank and contract. As we were looking for something else in previous meeting minutes we had come across where it had stated that the Town of Harpersfield owned the tank. We have sent an email to Amerigas asking for the original contract and questioning if the tank belongs to The Town of Harpersfield or to Amerigas. We have not gotten a response currently. Heidi will follow up with them.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Backhoe for the Transfer Station. The price had gone up to \$34,000 it was worth \$26,000. Russ is keeping his eye out for another one from the auction.

The Bucket was purchased for the skid steer which the invoice is attached to a voucher for review tonight. The glass for the skid steer keeps braking. Russ had ordered a new glass and metal with mesh to go around it. This is heavier duty than the one that is currently on the skid steer. Hopefully this will prevent the glass from breaking again.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked if he is hitting stuff with the skid steer.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that the last time he had just closed the door and the glass shattered and that was right after a new one had been installed.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that Russ had told her that he is working with Soil and Water to get a grant to pay for the 25% that the Town would be responsible for with the Gun House Hill Road project.

Councilmember Funk asked if the grant we were getting the stipulation was for the Town to be responsible for a certain amount of money.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that it must be a matching amount.

Mr. Funk asked if the Town is putting in another grant for the amount they are supposed to match.

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes. According to them the Town can put in this grant. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any other council members looking to address anything with the Board.

There was nothing further to address.

The Town Clerk report was issued for the month of February to the Board. The amount that the Town received was \$145.00.

The Tax Collector report was issued to the Board the amount issued to the Town for the collection of property taxes in February was \$162,341.19. The amount the Town received in penalty charges was \$997.48 and the amount the Town received for bank interest was \$853.06.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Abstract and Vouchers. There was an issue at the Highway garage with the septic. The sinks and toilets were all plugged. Russ contacted Phil Simmons. He came and they ended up digging everything up. There was a clog that was extremely bad. The tank needed to be pumped out and new pipes had to be put in. In the vouchers you will see a bill for \$1100.00 from Mr. Simmons for \$1100.00 and a bill from Neal Many in the amount of \$400.00. The Fire Districts are being paid. Headwaters are also being paid. iWorQ is also being paid. The diesel came for the Highway trucks that was in the amount of \$24,323.96. A discussion was had.

A motion to pay the bills that have been presented to the Board 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 Profits and Losses. The Board has received 2. One is for January – February of the year 2026. The other Profit and Losses is for the year 2025. Supervisor Driscoll would like to talk about the 2025 Profit and Losses first. General A shows an income of \$603,920.79, keep in mind that it does not include the appropriated fund balance. The Town spent \$552,317.40. The Town spent 97.2% of the budget. The Town received about \$5,000.00 more than expected on mortgage tax, also received \$4,930.50 more than expected from fines and forfeited bail money and rental property the Town received \$7,199.96. Which is from the Verizon Cell Tower lease. Some of that money went into the fund balance. General B the budget was \$75,211.13. The expenses were \$72,452.78 and the income was \$76,090.43. The Town spent 96.3% of General B. DA, the Town used some of the appropriated fund balance. The budget was for \$233,356.46. The Town spent

\$241,519.58. Machinery Contractual went over by \$23,000. The Town spent 103.5% of DA. Karen will pull some of the fund balance to even that out. DB, the budget was \$901,543.70 and the Town spent \$912,653.46. Karen will use the fund balance to even that out as well. SL the Town used only fund balance. The Town did not collect any from taxes.

Councilmember Funk asked the Town did not take any money from taxes for SL.

Supervisor Driscoll answered that the fund balance had \$6,000 or \$7,000 in there. So the Town used those funds.

SF funds were exactly as budgeted for. Transfer Station the budget was for \$201,727.00 the Town spent \$192,872.27. This is because of the attendant's time. It is an approximation based on the amount of work that needs to be done. The last page is the Fund Balance page. Supervisor Driscoll would like to talk to Karen so she can explain how the fund balance relates to the fund balance sheet. How Karen would even it out is that she would take the fund balance and move it into the money so it shows that we used the fund balance. Taking the negative and making them a 0 basically.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions form the 2025 Profits and Losses.

There were no questions.

Profits and Losses for January – February 2026 just shows where the Town stands right now. The remainder of the property tax income will go to SF. This month the Fire Districts, Headwaters and the fuel bill were all paid. That shows a large amount of expenses on this Profits and Losses.

A motion to go into executive session for litigation at 8:10pm was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

A motion to come out of executive session at 8:34pm was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

1 Grant Place and 5 Lake Street both in Stamford have made offers to the Town regarding their property assessment values.

A motion to accept the offers for 1 Grant Place and 5 Lake Street was made by Erik Reeve. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

The regular meeting of the Town Board along with a Public Hearing will be held Wednesday April 8, 2026 at 7:00pm.

