

August 12, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held its regular meeting of the Board on August 12, 2026.

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| Present were:   | Lisa M. Driscoll, | Supervisor                      |
|                 | Erik Reeve,       | Councilmember                   |
|                 | Patrick F. Funk,  | Councilmember, Dept. Supervisor |
|                 | Donna VanSickell, | Councilmember                   |
|                 | Dwayne C. Hill,   | Councilmember                   |
| Also Present:   | Heidi Loveless,   | Town Clerk                      |
|                 | Russell Hatch,    | Supt. of Highways               |
|                 | Thomas Giaguzzi,  | Dept. Town Clerk                |
| Others Present: | Thomas VanSickell |                                 |
|                 | Laurie Bedford,   | Town Assessor                   |
|                 | Liz Page,         | Editor of the Mountain Eagle    |
|                 | Jeffery Bell,     | Dog Control Officer             |

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

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from July 8, 2026, minutes.

There were no questions, comments or concerns regarding the minutes from July 8, 2026.

A motion to accept the July 8, 2026, minutes was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there was any correspondence.

There were no correspondences.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is Resolution number 017 of the year 2026. Resolution Scheduling a public hearing on a Local Law of the Town of Harpersfield to regulate and control dogs within the Town of Harpersfield.

Supervisor Driscoll has removed a few things from the last draft that was brought to the Town Board. She removed the leash law; she also gave residents 60 days to come and let the Town Clerk know if a dog changes ownership or a dog is lost or stolen. The dog license will be for up to three years. The license will expire at the time of the current rabies vaccine expiration.

Town Clerk Heidi Loveless explained that the rabies vaccine is generally good for three years so we would like the license to coincide with that. Puppy's vaccines are generally only good for a year; the license would still expire when the rabies vaccine expires. We have increased the registration fee also.

Supervisor Driscoll went on to tell the board that the spayed and neutered dogs would cost \$10 for three years, unspayed and unneutered dogs would be \$25 for three years. Also with the renewal, the Town Clerk will send out a second notice after 30 days. If any dog is picked up by the dog control officer with an expired license after the second notice has been issued, the fees for renewal will be doubled.

Supervisor Driscoll stated that with the seizure of a dog, it is up to the Dog Control Officer, Jeff Bell, to decide if he would need to bring the dog to the shelter or return it to the owner. The Town of Harpersfield is not looking to bring every dog to the shelter.

Councilmember Patrick Funk stated it would make more sense to just bring the dog back to the owner if he knows who that is.

Continuing with the seizure of a dog. The fee of \$40 will be collected by the shelter before the owner may get the dog back. Heidi contacted the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society; they had informed her that the way they have been taking care of the fees is, the owner of the dog pays \$10 to the shelter before they can release the dog. The shelter then charges the town \$30 for a total of \$40. We will need to make a resolution once we pass the new local law giving the Heart of the Catskills permission to collect \$40 from the dog owners and not billing the town for these fees.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 017, Resolution scheduling a public hearing on a local law of the Town of Harpersfield to regulate and control dogs within the Town of Harpersfield by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Dwayne C. Hill asked Dog Control Officer, Jeff Bell, how often he seizes dogs.

Jeff answered that it varies, sometimes 2 or 3 within a couple of month period sometimes only 1 in 6 months. Jeff told the board that most of the violations are because of unlicensed dogs.

A motion was made to schedule the public hearing for September 9, 2026, at 7:00pm by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Transfer Station. The town has purchased the roll-off-truck.

Russ informed the board that it seems to be a good truck. The truck came from Jefferson County. He did speak with Jefferson County and the man that oversees their equipment. The man told Russ that it was a decent truck. They were getting rid of the truck because it was part of their rotation.

Dwayne Hill asked what year the truck is.

Russ answered 2015.

Supervisor Driscoll told the board that the money for the truck was wired. Wiring the money saved the town \$500. The money had come out of the Highway account, that account was already set up to do the wire transfers. The Highway was paid back by check from the Transfer Station. The board will see that in the vouchers that are to be presented to them. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll went on to talk about the back of the building at the Transfer Station. The back of the building was ripped open from the containers hitting into the building. That has all been repaired. New boards were put up, gravel has been packed in, siding has been put up with insulation and new windows. Hopefully this will keep the pipes from freezing this winter. The conveyor belt is in the process of being installed for the recyclables. There is also a new door. Supervisor Driscoll thanks the Highway Department for doing all the repairs at the Transfer Station.

Russ added that he feels that the conveyor belt is going to work well. The belt is making the container further away from the building, with the roll-off truck that was just purchased it makes placement of the container easier. There will be no need to push the container into place.

Supervisor Driscoll added that there have been new stairs put in that go down to the basement, there are new stairs that go up to where the recycled paper goes and there will be another set of stairs put on the other side of that container. The attendants at the Transfer Station will be paying close attention to what materials are going into the containers, to ensure that the correct items are in the correct containers. That is the attendant's primary job. They need to make sure that the containers are going to Walton with the proper materials in them. The town has also purchased signs to be put up at the Transfer Station. The signs will inform residents what materials that the Transfer Station allows and where the items go. Areas will start being closed when containers are being changed or full. Residents will not be able to dump during those times. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the 100% disabled Veterans Local Law.

Laurie Bedford informed the board that after looking at the Local Law that the Town of Harpersfield has already adopted, it seems that the town is ok. There are residents that are trying to qualify for this exemption. Laurie is looking into an application for the exemption. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if the councilmembers had anything to address with the board.

Patrick Funk informed the board if anyone was to get an email from the Mayor of Stamford inviting them to a party, do not open it. This email is a scam.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda are the cameras for the Highway Garage. Kevin will be at the town tomorrow to install these cameras. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is a paving update.

Russ told the board that the paving is finished for the year.

Russ also gave the board the latest update on the new excavator. Russ had spoken with Eklund's a couple of days ago, they needed the minutes from the last board meeting where the board had approved the purchase of the new excavator. Heidi emailed that over to them and they are now going to order the excavator.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Russ if there were any updated on the Gun House and Reed Rd culverts.

Russ answered that the grant has been put in, and the town will know if they received that in September.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Russ if he was going to start ordering the materials for that project.

Russ answered yes. Russ would like the culverts to be built during the winter so that they are ready to be installed next year.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if these bills would come to the town and then the grant reimburses the town.

Russ believes that the town will be reimbursed by the grant.

The Town Clerks report for the month of July was issued to the board. The amount the town received was \$995.91.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the abstract and vouchers. The bond was paid today. There was a wire fee for \$20 that is showing. The Town Hall needs some deep cleaning. Heidi has offered to do that at the Town Hall. Some of the annual contributions were paid this month, the Town Historian, The Stamford Village Library, Office of the Aging, and The Town of Harpersfield Planning Board. The Highway is showing \$20,000 for the roll-off truck. The abstract shows the Transfer Station paying the Highway back for that. \$155,741.13 went for paving the road. With \$32,000 coming out for fuel as well. The Transfer Station had some bills that came in for the work that is being done.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the Profit and Losses. Ms. Driscoll wanted to bring to the board's attention that a bill was put in the system incorrectly, the amount that was put into QuickBooks was \$365,000 when it should have been \$3,650. General B shows all of the contributions coming out. The Transfer Station is looking a bit higher because of all of the work that is being done.

A motion to go into executive session for possible litigation and personnel was made by Patrick F. Funk at 7:35pm. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

A motion to come out of executive session at 8:46pm was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll is looking for an agreement from the board for all highway employees to have a minimum of a class B license or better license and that the Town of Harpersfield will provide any support that is needed for an employee to obtain that.

Patrick F. Funk would like to see an agreement between the town and the employee with stipulations that would be looked at by the town's attorney.

Supervisor Driscoll agreed and will be working with the town's attorney on this for the next board meeting.

A discussion was had.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Wednesday September 9, 2026 at 7:00pm along with a public hearing for the proposed Dog Control Local Law.

