TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Regular Meeting
Municipal Building
June 11, 2026

Members Present: David Prosser, Councilman
Joanne McClusky, Councilwoman
Michael Perkins, Councilman
Robert Slye, Councilman

Members Absent:

Councilman Prosser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a roll call of members present at 7:00 pm. Attorney Harrienger was also present.

MOTION #81-2026

Councilman Prosser moved to adopt the minutes from the May 15, 2026 regular meeting, Councilman Slye seconded.

Ayes All

MOTION #82-2026

Councilman Prosser moved to adopt the minutes from the May 28, 2026 special meeting, Councilman Slye seconded.

Ayes All

The Board next turned to the agenda item concerning the appointment of a new Town Supervisor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Supervisor Joel Bartlett, effective May 29, 2026.

Councilwoman McClusky nominated James W. Wright for appointment as Town Supervisor. In support of the nomination, she stated that Mr. Wright's background and experience in local, county, and state government, along with his familiarity with various agencies, would be a valuable asset to the Town of Watertown in dealing with governmental matters and interagency relationships.

Councilman Prosser asked if there were any additional nominations or discussion. Hearing none, Appointment of Town Supervisor, was introduced and read into the record.

MOTION #83-2026

RESOLUTION 8 of 2026
APPOINTMENT OF NEW TOWN SUPERVISOR

WHEREAS, the prior Supervisor of the Town of Watertown, New York resigned effective May 29, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the office of Town Supervisor is now vacant and may be filled by the Town Board of the Town of Watertown pursuant to New York Town Law § 64 and Public Officer Law § 42; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to make an appointment for the position of Town Supervisor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Watertown, New York:

1. James Wright is at least 18 years of age, a U.S. Citizen, a resident of the Town of Watertown, and is otherwise qualified to serve in the position of Town Supervisor.
2. James Wright is appointed to the position of Town Supervisor effective June 11, 2026.

3. The term of that office shall expire on December 31, 2026.
4. The compensation of that office shall be set at 0.
5. The Town Clerk shall file a certificate specifying the name, address, and appointment term of the person filling the vacancy with the County Clerk and the Department of Audit and Control, as per New York Town Law § 30.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Prosser, and seconded by Councilman Slye, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

Mr. Wright took the Oath of Office before joining the Board to continue with the meeting.

Following his appointment, Supervisor James W. Wright addressed the Town Board and those in attendance. He thanked the Board for its vote of confidence and stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve. He noted that approximately six months remained in the current term and expressed his commitment to addressing the Town's issues in a common-sense manner while providing greater transparency and improving the management of Town operations.

He stated that he believes in a stable, consistent, and informed decision-making process and had committed to the Town Board members that this would be his objective. He emphasized that decisions should be made with the Town's residents as the primary beneficiaries and priority.

Supervisor Wright again thanked the Board for its support and specifically recognized Deputy Supervisor David Prosser for the work he had undertaken since the resignation of the previous supervisor. He noted that Deputy Supervisor Prosser had been spending considerable time at Town Hall reviewing financial records and Town accounts, describing the task as challenging but essential.

Supervisor Wright stated that gaining a clearer understanding of the Town's financial position would be a top priority and that he looked forward to working with Deputy Supervisor Prosser to improve the Town's fiscal oversight before moving forward with other significant matters.

Town Engineer Mike Altieri addressed the Board and introduced his colleague, Naomi Gallagher, to provide updates on current engineering projects. Mr. Altieri noted that they typically begin with projects that are currently under construction.

Councilman Prosser asked whether the projected completion date remained unchanged. Ms. Gallagher responded that the anticipated completion date remains December 2026, and that the project is progressing well toward that goal.

PROJECTS IN CONSTRUCTION

Water District No. 4 Extension (Northland Estates/Pine Meadows)

Construction Budget:	$6,400,790.00 (Orig. 7,250,000.00)
Administrative and Technical Costs:	$1,709,500.00
Contingency:	$1,889,710.00
Total Project Cost:	$10,000,000.00
Total Grant Funding (WIIA and CDBG):	$ 6,250,000.00

Project Bid Results:	
Contract No. 1 - Pipeline Construction	$ 5,790,920.00 - JL Excavation
Contract No. 2 - Tank Aeration System	$565,000.00 - Powis Contracting Inc.
Contract No. 3 - Electrical Construction	$ 44,870.00 - Blackstone Electric

Projected Construction Substantial Completion Date: December 2026

Ms. Gallagher reported that construction of Water District No. 4 continues with JL Excavation serving as the prime contractor. To date, approximately 6,600 feet of water main has been installed throughout the mobile home parks. Work within the DOT ROW has also commenced. BCA is finalizing a plan for extension of service to several adjacent users within the Town.

NCC has been performing directional drilling work, and the engineering team has been coordinating with the contractor throughout the process. An extension of the project to serve several additional properties is also being finalized.

Ms. Gallagher further reported that all contract documents have now been received from Powis, the tank aeration contractor, and Blackstone, the electrical contractor. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled so that both contractors can begin ordering materials and proceed with the tank aeration and electrical portions of the project, which are separate from the water main installation work.

Sewer System Improvement Project

Ms. Gallagher reported that Lawman Construction has completed its work at the Circle K property as part of the sewer improvement project. The contractor recently contacted the engineering team regarding utility work at the City of Watertown Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Before work can begin at the treatment plant, the Town must receive and review a utility location and excavation plan from Lawman Construction. Coordination with the City of Watertown is ongoing to finalize the necessary arrangements. In the meantime, the contractor expects to begin the inflow and infiltration (I&I) portion of the project.

Overall, Ms. Gallagher stated that both the water and sewer projects are progressing satisfactorily.

Supervisor Wright asked whether all necessary agreements with the City of Watertown and approvals from the Department of Environmental Conservation had been obtained, and whether any outstanding issues could delay the sewer project.

Ms. Gallagher explained that discussions with the City have already taken place and that the remaining work primarily involves finalizing plans for locating existing utilities at the wastewater treatment plant. She noted that there are questions regarding the depth and location of certain utility lines, and that the contractor intends to use vacuum excavation equipment to verify those locations. Once the utility plan is submitted and reviewed, the remaining coordination with the City can be finalized.

Mr. Altieri updated the Board on the current sewer projects in the Town.

Townwide Sewer (Districts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) I&I and Pipeline Improvements

Responding to questions regarding the sewer project at the City of Watertown Wastewater Treatment Plant, Town Engineer Mike Altieri explained that an emergency action plan must be in place before excavation work begins. He noted that if an existing utility is damaged during construction, there is potential for the release of wastewater or other undesirable fluids. Therefore, coordination with the City is essential to ensure that personnel are prepared to respond quickly and make any necessary repairs.

Supervisor Wright asked who would make decisions in the event of such an issue. Mr. Altieri explained that the City of Watertown Wastewater Treatment Plant operator would be the primary decision-maker because the City operates the facility and holds the SPDES permit. He further noted that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) serves as the regulatory authority overseeing the project. Several coordination meetings have already taken place, and the remaining task is to finalize and implement the operational plan.

This project effort will be combined with the new sewer alignment from SD No. 2 into the City of Watertown WWTP and the new sewer alignment of the Town's sewer on the Circle K property. Lawman has completed the Circle K portion of the work onsite. NYS DEC is issuing separate approvals for the Circle K, I & I repairs and realigned pipeline at the WWTP respectively. The exploration of the utilities for the realigned pipeline at the City's WWTP is planned to commence in the next month or so.

Project Bid Results:
Contract No. 1 – Pipeline Construction $ 376,818.00 – Lawman Heating and Cooling

PROJECTS IN DESIGN

Sewer District No. 1
Total Project Cost: $ 2,643,000.00 (WWTF Replacement)
$4,491,000.00 (Stormwater Improvements)
Project Funding Awarded: NYS EFC WIIA - $ 444,500.00, NYS DEC WQIP - $ 1,000,000.00 (WWTF) NYS EFC GIGP - $945,000 Grant (Stormwater)

Project Update - The Town is in the final stages on closing for both the WQIP and GIGP grants received. An amendment for engineering services related to the GIGP grant has been submitted to the Town Board for review. BCA is finalizing a comment response to NYS DEC on the UV disinfection portion of the project. The replacement of the RCs is being evaluated between Moving Bed Bioreactor and Membrane Bioreactor technology.

The project consists of three major components:

1. Replacement and modernization of the wastewater treatment facility
2. Installation of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection equipment
3. Stormwater and inflow/infiltration (I&I) improvements

Mr. Altieri reported that the Town has secured substantial grant funding for the project, including:

- Approximately $1 million in grant funding to address core inflow and infiltration issues.
- Nearly $500,000 through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Program for the UV disinfection component.
- Nearly $1 million through the Green Innovation Grant Program for stormwater-related improvements.

He also advised the Board that the Town may qualify for an additional grant of approximately $388,000, depending on the timing of DEC approvals and financing milestones. If awarded, the additional funding would help reduce future costs to district users.

Regarding the UV disinfection project, Mr. Altieri reported that the Town must revise its approach after learning that the technology originally proposed for pilot testing will no longer be supported in North America. The manufacturer has been acquired by a larger multinational company and has discontinued support for the technology, including the Town's planned pilot project. As a result, the engineering team is evaluating alternative treatment technologies to determine the most cost-effective and sustainable option.

The next major phase of the project will focus on replacing the facility's rotating biological contactors (RBCs), which serve as the primary treatment units. Mr. Altieri explained that the existing units have reached the end of their useful life and replacement parts, including bearings, have become increasingly difficult to obtain.

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Sewer District 4, 5 and 6 Engineering Planning Grant Study - The EPG is in the stages of grant closure with NYS EFC. This study will examine additional upgrades that may need to be undertaken related to these districts. The Town has received RFQ responses for the engineering services for this study. Numerous users in and around the area of Water District No. 4 extension have expressed interest in sewer service.

Water Districts 1, 3, 4 and 5 - A combination of aging infrastructure and issues on the horizon will necessitate upgrades and potential consolidation of these districts for operational efficiencies, particularly for the ground tank serving WD 5. There may be an opportunity to consolidate these districts with WD Nos. 1 and 2 with the potential of also extending water service down Floral Drive, Spring Valley Drive and other areas of the Town.

Stormwater WQIP Grant - The CFA is open. The Town will be eligible to apply for a vacuum truck to assist the Highway Department in maintaining the stormwater system. BCA is in the process of preparing that application for submission at the end of July.

Mr. Altieri noted that additional grant opportunities may be available through the New York State Department of State's Local Government Efficiency Program to help offset future planning costs.

Potential Grant Application for Highway Department Equipment

Mr. Altieri concluded by discussing a newly announced Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) opportunity through the DEC's Water Quality Improvement Program. Because the Town operates as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), it is eligible to apply for funding toward the purchase of stormwater maintenance equipment.

The engineering team is preparing an application for a vacuum truck/jetter combination unit, which would assist the Highway Department in maintaining the Town's stormwater infrastructure. The grant could provide up to $600,000 toward the purchase, although a local matching contribution would be required.

Mr. Altieri stated that additional information regarding the application and matching requirements would be presented to the Board at its next meeting. He noted that the State's delayed budget process shortened the application timeline, leaving municipalities less than a month to prepare submissions.

With no further questions, Mr. Altieri concluded the engineering report.

No one from GYMO was present to update the Board on Northeast Water District No. 7, but offered the following summary.

EASEMENT SUMMARY UPDATE

	Total	Signed
Forced Main and Water service	72	47
Force Main Only	4	1
Water Service Only	68	32

- Resident, Jon Adams, agreed to go door-to-door for acquiring signed easements. Has been to 6 of the critical easements, 2 of them said they would think about signing.
- Waiting to hear from City Engineering Department regarding Town connections to City Water Main on Hunt Street.
- Received DOH Comments, GYMO revising plans to address comments
- Department of Ag & Markets letter has been in contact with the Town Attorney.

Attorney Harrienger stated that she believed Mr. Adams had been in contact with a number of residents regarding the easements. While she was unsure how successful those efforts had been in obtaining additional easements, she provided an update regarding the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Attorney Harrienger explained that Agriculture and Markets had previously presented a significant obstacle by requiring deed restrictions on properties located within the agricultural district. Following the Town Board's direction, she sent a letter requesting that the agency reconsider its position. As a result, Agriculture and Markets changed its stance. Rather than requiring the Town to impose deed restrictions on the affected properties, the agency now only requests that the restrictions be considered.

The only remaining requirement is that the Town provides Agriculture and Markets with written notice at least 10 days before funding becomes available and/or construction begins.

The floor was opened for public comment. As no one wished to speak, the public comment period was closed.

Town Clerk's Correspondence:

Steiner's Store, 25511 NYS Rte 12, Notice the store is licensed to retain explosive materials.

Shannon Exford, Salmon Run Mall, 30 day advanced notice of application of liquor license.

MOTION #84-2026

Councilwoman McClusky moved to accept the Town Clerk's report, seconded by Councilman Perkins.

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

Attorney Harrienger advised the Board that they may want to adjourn to Executive Session to update the new Supervisor regarding possible legal actions involving the Town.

MOTION #85-2026

Councilwoman McClusky offered a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:28 pm to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation. Town Engineer Mike Altieri and Naomi Gallagher were invited to attend and provide technical guidance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Prosser.

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

The meeting reconvened at 7:55 pm. No action was taken in executive session.

MOTION #86-2026

RESOLUTION 9 of 2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown has entered into an agreement with PJ Simao/ Thirty One Development LLC and Stewart's to facilitate the timely construction of a connection road off New York State Route 3, approximately 250 feet in length; and

WHEREAS, the attached eight-point agreement has been reviewed and agreed to by both the Town of Watertown and the developer, PJ Simao/Thirty One Development LLC and Stewart's; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Watertown hereby approves the attached Agreement with PJ Simao/ Thirty One Development LLC and Stewart's, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a motion to adopt the foregoing resolution was made by Councilman Prosser and seconded by Councilmember Perkins, and upon a roll call vote of the Board.

Discussion took place:

Councilwoman McClusky stated that she remained opposed to the amended agreement proposed from Mr. Simao. She noted several concerns, including that the agreement again designated the Town as the applicant and agent for obtaining permits, required the Town Highway Superintendent to participate in the permitting process, and obligated the Town to pay costs associated with traffic signal permitting. She further expressed concern that the Town would assume responsibility for maintenance and costs beyond the first 250 feet of roadway, creating additional and uncertain financial obligations.

Councilwoman McClusky also noted that the proposed timelines for land conveyances were unrealistic, as the Town would be unable to complete such actions within ten days as the contract called for. In addition, she objected to the removal of language that would have provided a mutual waiver and release of damages if there was a breach of contract by the town. Finally, she opposed accepting the proposed $25,000 contribution as gifting. Also citing the lack of certainty regarding engineering expenses and potential traffic signal costs.

She asked Mr. Green for clarification regarding the estimated costs associated with the traffic signal.

Mr. Green explained that previous discussions with the New York State Department of Transportation estimated approximately $50,000 for engineering and modifications to the existing signal, assuming a new traffic signal was not required. He stated that an engineering study would be necessary to determine whether the existing span wire and equipment could accommodate the additional signal components. If the existing infrastructure could not support the changes, a complete reconstruction of the traffic signal system would be required.

Councilwoman McClusky noted that such a scenario would significantly increase the cost.

Mr. Green agreed, stating that a full signal reconstruction could cost approximately $250,000.

Supervisor Wright stated that, after reviewing the proposal over several days, he shared many of the concerns already expressed. He questioned why the Town was not dealing directly with Stewart's Shops, why the Town was being asked to serve as the lead agency, and why there was no comprehensive budget or implementation plan for the project. Based on those concerns, he stated that the proposal did not align with the objectives and direction he believed the Town should be pursuing.

Chuck Marshall, representing Stewart's Shops, addressed the Board. He explained that Stewart's was not negotiating directly with the Town because the contingency provisions in its contract would not take effect until the necessary approvals were obtained. Until that time, the negotiations remained between the current property owner, Mr. Simao, and the Town. Mr. Marshall noted that he had attended nearly all of the meetings regarding the project and stated that Stewart's was willing to participate once it obtained the rights to the property.

With no further comments from the Board, the Town Clerk called the roll.

Supervisor Wright	no
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	no
Councilwoman McClusky	no
Councilman Slye	no

The resolution fails.

MOTION #87-2026

RESOLUTION 10 of 2026

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town Board to authorize an agreement between the Town of Watertown and Jefferson County for participation in a shared Sweeper Truck Service; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown is a member of the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition and requires the services of a street sweeper vacuum truck within its corporate limits to meet its MS4 responsibilities as a member thereof; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County owns and maintains, through the Jefferson County Highway Department, a street sweeper vacuum truck (hereinafter referred to as the "Sweeper Truck") capable of cleaning catch basins, sweeping streets, and cleaning bridges; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County desires to make the Sweeper Truck available to the Town in order to promote efficiency among Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition members and to assist the Town in meeting its MS4 responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Watertown Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, and Town Attorney to execute the attached agreement with Jefferson County for participation in the shared Sweeper Truck Service.

During discussion, Supervisor Wright asked Highway Superintendent Clement whether he supported the proposal. The Highway Superintendent responded that he did.

Supervisor Wright then asked whether the necessary equipment would need to be rented or whether it would be available through the County. The Highway Superintendent explained that the Town participates in a cooperative partnership arrangement and that the equipment is available whenever it is needed through that program.

A motion to adopt the forgoing resolution was made by Councilman Slye and seconded by Councilmember Prosser. Upon a roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #88-2026

RESOLUTION 11 of 2026
ADOPTION OF NEW YORK HIGHWAY LAW § 284 AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the New York Highway Law § 284 requires an agreement be entered into between the Town Board and the Town Highway Superintendent each year; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Watertown has reviewed the proposed New York Highway Law § 284 Agreement provided by the Town Highway Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Agreement is in keeping with the allocation of funds stated within the Town Budget; and

WHEREAS, after careful review, the Town Board would like to proceed with the proposed Highway Agreement as presented, the same being attached herewith and incorporated by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Watertown, New York:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Watertown finds it in the best interest of the Town to accept the proposed New York Highway Law § 284 Agreement, as presented by the Town Highway Superintendent.
2. That the Town Supervisor of the Town of Watertown is authorized to sign the aforementioned New York Highway Law § 284 Agreement on behalf of the Town.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Perkins, and seconded by Councilwoman McClusky.

Supervisor Wright opened discussion by noting that, based on a quick review of the proposed work; he estimated approximately $450,000 in permanent highway improvements.

Superintendent Clement clarified that only $300,000 had been budgeted for capital improvements.

Supervisor Wright acknowledged that figure and questioned how the Highway Department planned to complete the proposed work when it exceeded the amount budgeted.

The Highway Superintendent explained that he had already scaled back one of the planned road projects due to the need for multiple pipe replacements, shoulder work, and the removal of a rock wall. Even with those adjustments, the project was projected to be approximately $15,000 over budget.

He further explained that the Town could utilize CHIPS reimbursement funding to offset costs. However, the Town must first expend the funds before reimbursement is received. At the time of the discussion, the Town had nearly $800,000 in CHIPS funding available.

The Highway Superintendent reported that he had recently submitted reimbursement documentation for work completed on Mall Road, and expected a reimbursement check of approximately $117,000 by mid-July.

He stated that the anticipated reimbursement, combined with available funds, should provide enough cash flow to pay for the new truck upon delivery, complete the planned blacktop work for the year, and still leave approximately $140,000 available.

Councilman Prosser added that he had advised the Highway Superintendent that, once reimbursement applications were submitted, the Town would process them as quickly as possible. He stated that one of the Town's past challenges had been delays in reimbursement processing and emphasized that future submissions should receive a prompt turnaround.

During further discussion, Supervisor Wright stated that he was reluctant to approve an agreement that exceeded the amount of funding available. He asked what adjustments could be made to bring the project within budget until additional appropriations could be authorized.

The Highway Superintendent suggested reducing the total to approximately $315,000. He explained that his original estimates had included approximately $180,000 and $270,000 in permanent improvements, totaling about $450,000, but the costs had since been reduced.

He noted that the Jefferson County Highway Department would perform the paving work through a shared services arrangement, significantly lowering expenses compared to using a private contractor. By utilizing the County's services, the Town would be able to reduce overall project costs.

The discussion concluded that the revised total for the projects would be approximately $315,000.

The Highway Superintendent provided a breakdown of the estimates:

- East Gotham Road – approximately $142,000
- Permanent Improvements – approximately $132,000
- Sandy Creek Valley Road – approximately $171,000

He also noted that shoulder work remained necessary and explained that he was exploring the use of recycled asphalt millings stored in the Town pit. If the material could be screened and reused, it would reduce the need to purchase additional shoulder material and generate further savings.

Following the discussion, Supervisor Wright entertained a motion to amend the agreement using the amount of $315,000 for permanent highway improvements. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McClusky.

Upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #89-2026

RESOLUTION 12 of 2026

WHEREAS, public works employee Christopher Harris has reached his employment anniversary date and is entitled to a wage grade increase from MEO-3 to MEO-2.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Christopher Harris is hereby promoted from wage grade MEO-3 to MEO-2 at the new hourly rate of $26.79 per hour starting with pay period #13, June 15, 2026.

A motion to adopt the forgoing resolution was made by Supervisor Wright and seconded by Councilmember Prosser and upon a roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #90-2026

RESOLUTION 13-2026 and ORDER
Removal of Clutter, Litter, and Debris
Located at: 16406/444 US Route 11, Watertown, NY 13601
Tax Parcel No.: 100.08-1-3.1

WHEREAS, The Town Board of Watertown has familiarized itself with the emergency status of clutter, litter, debris, and more specifically garbage located at 16406/444 US Route 11, Watertown, NY 13601; Tax Parcel No.: 100.08-1-3.1 and has considered an investigation report conducted by the Town's Enforcement Officer, with exhibits, pertaining to the same pursuant to Local Law No.: 1 of 2026 (Clutter, Litter, and Debris), and is familiar with the Town Court of the Town of Watertown's finding of noncompliance against the subject property owner; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that 16406/444 US Route 11, Watertown, NY 13601; Tax Parcel No.: 100.08-1-3.1 is in violation of the Clutter, Litter, and Debris Law and that the garbage accumulated there is so dangerous and/or unsafe to human health that it must be removed with immediacy to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public in accordance with the Clutter, Litter, and Debris Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the Official Record and determines as follows:

1. The garbage at the subject property has been found to be dangerous and/or unsafe in that:

    a. It has become so decayed, unsafe, unsanitary that it is likely to cause sickness, disease, and/or the infestation and spread of disease-carrying vermin so as to possibly result in injury to the health, safety or general welfare of those living therein and nearby;
    b. Because of its condition, the property is unsafe, unsanitary and/or dangerous to the health, safety or general welfare of people; and
    c. The garbage is open and accessible to minors, the general public, and animals.

2. The Town Board adopts the Inspection Report of the Enforcement Officer and the recommendation in respect thereto.

3. The owner of the property has received excessive notice of the state of his property, as a Court case in the Town of Watertown Town Court began in November of 2025 and ended on May 21, 2026 with a finding of noncompliance against the property owner after he failed to clean the property and the property continued to deteriorate. The owner of the property was explicitly told on the record of the Court that if he did not clean his property, the Town would have no choice but to do so on an emergency basis due to the level of garbage and dangerous materials located on his property. During the Court appearances the owner of the property expressed his understanding of this on the record.

4. The Town's Enforcement Officer has monitored the subject property and has determined that any persons having interest in the subject property have neglected and/or refused to timely comply with all requests to clean the property. This has been well documented by the Enforcement Officer and by the Town of Watertown Court case regarding the matter.

5. The Enforcement Officer is hereby empowered to take all steps necessary for removal of the offending clutter, litter, debris, garbage with the use of Town employees, if available, or with the use of a third party.

6. The Town Enforcement Officer shall document all costs and expenses incurred in connection with this matter and coordinate efforts with the Town Clerk to assess all costs and expenses thereof against the owners, and to require repayment/reimbursement of all costs and expenses of clean up and removal, including administrative, engineering, and legal costs and expenses from persons having interests in the subject property.

7. In the event that repayment/reimbursement of costs and expenses of clean up and removal including administrative, engineering and legal costs and expenses are not paid to the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days from billing, then Town Officers and/or agents and/or employees shall take all steps reasonably necessary to assess all costs and expenses and levy the same upon the real property from which such dangerous/unsafe clutter, litter, debris, and garbage has been removed/abated.

8. This Resolution and Order shall take effect immediately.

Discussion took place:

Attorney Harrienger stated that the process was well laid out. The property does need to be cleaned up due to the condition of the premises. The materials present are considered garbage and create a dangerous situation that needs to be addressed immediately.

The foregoing Resolution and Order was offered by Councilman Perkins and seconded by Councilman Prosser and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #91-2026

RESOLUTION 14-2026 and ORDER
Scheduling Public Hearing – Potentially Unsafe Building/Structure
Located at: 25792/816 Ridge Road
Tax Parcel No.: 83.12-1-15

WHEREAS, The Town Board previously adopted Local Law 1 of 2023 (Unsafe Building and Structure Law) in an effort to address buildings and structures that may be dangerous and/or unsafe by reason of damage by fire, the elements, age or general deterioration; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes that vacant building(s) or structure(s) not properly secured also serve as an attractive nuisance for young children who may be injured therein, as well as a point of congregation by vagrants and transients; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Enforcement Officer and Engineer have investigated and recommend that the building and/or structure located at: 25792/816 Ridge Road and identified as Tax Parcel No.: 83.12-1-15 is dangerous and/or unsafe and is otherwise in violation of the Unsafe Buildings and Structures Law. A copy of that investigation report is attached and incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has familiarized itself with this structure and property and has reviewed and considered the report, with certain attached materials, and is prepared to proceed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, by the Town Board of Watertown:

1. The Town Board concludes that it is likely that the building or structure located at 25792/816 Ridge Road and identified as Tax Parcel No.:83.12-1-15 is dangerous and/or unsafe and is in violation of the Unsafe Building and Structure Law.

2. The Town's Enforcement Officer is directed to coordinate efforts with the Town Clerk for the preparation of a Notice of Public Hearing which shall be published, posted (including posting the property), and served upon the persons having legal interests in the subject property in accordance with the Unsafe Buildings and Structures Law.

3. The Public Hearing will be held at 22867 Brookside Drive, New York on July 9, 2026, 2026 at 7:00 PM to determine whether the building(s)and/or structure(s) is dangerous and/or unsafe, and if so, whether the same shall be promptly demolished and removed.

4. This Resolution and Order shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution and Order was offered by Councilman Prosser, and seconded by Councilman Perkins, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #92-2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown has received a request from Advocate Drum for a Leadership Membership; and

WHEREAS, Advocate Drum's mission is to protect and enhance Fort Drum's military value, sustain and leverage its economic and cultural significance to the Fort Drum region and New York State, and foster effective communication between the installation and its civilian neighbors to promote mutual support and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the importance of supporting organizations that promote the continued success and positive relationship between Fort Drum and the surrounding communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Watertown Town Board hereby authorizes payment of Bed Tax Monies in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500.00) to Advocate Drum for a Leadership Membership.

Supervisor Wright acknowledged that he was a member of the Advocate Drum Board and would not vote on the motion.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Perkins, and seconded by Councilman Prosser, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Wright	abstain
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #93-2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown identified an emergency repair that was required on US Rte 11 within Water District No. 4; and

WHEREAS, the Town received a quote from North Country Contractors, LLC to perform the necessary repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determined that the repairs are necessary to maintain the integrity and continued operation of the water system; and

WHEREAS, due to the emergency nature of the situation, immediate action was necessary to prevent further damage and potential loss of access to the water system, making it impractical to follow the normal bidding process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Watertown Town Board hereby authorizes payment to North Country Contractors, LLC in the amount of $8,850.00 for the emergency repairs required within Water District No. 4.

Discussion followed:

Attorney Harrienger advised that under General Municipal Law, the Town would normally be required to obtain bids; however, due to the emergency circumstances and the risk of significant failure to the system, the emergency exception applies.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Prosser, and seconded by Councilwoman McClusky, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes

Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #94-2026

Supervisor Wright moved to pay the following abstracts as audited.

Utilities paid prior to the meeting

General Vouchers	#	105	to	107	Total	$	12,933.10
Highway Vouchers	#	86	to	86	Total	$	21,123.63
Spec. Dist. Vchrs.	#	55	to	55	Total	$	3,774.54

Vouchers approved for monthly meeting

General Vouchers	#	108	to	126	Total	$	47,120.31
Highway Vouchers	#	87	to	103	Total	$	201,009.34
Spec. Dist. Vchrs.	#	56	to	70	Total	$	180,260.41

Councilmember Prosser seconded the motion.

Ayes All

Highway Superintendent Clement gave report to the Board:

The Board discussed filling a vacancy within the Public Works Department following the departure of a previous employee. The appointment would bring the department back to full staffing levels and ensure the Town can continue to provide necessary maintenance and services.

Superintendent Clement reviewed applicants and recommended the appointment of Kenneth Booth. Mr. Booth resides on Overton Road, Adams Center, he holds a clean CDL Class B license, and has previous experience with Elliott's Tree Service and other equipment operation, including plowing, ground work, and mechanical tasks. It was noted that he has experience that aligns with the duties required by the department and has expressed interest in performing water-related duties as well.

MOTION #95-2026

Resolution – Appointment of Public Works Employee

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists within the Public Works Department workforce; and

WHEREAS, maintaining adequate staffing levels is necessary to provide required maintenance and services to the public; and

WHEREAS, applications for the Public Works position were solicited and reviewed by the Public Works Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Superintendent recommends the appointment of Kenneth Booth to fill the vacancy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Watertown Town Board hereby appoints Kenneth Booth as a MEO 2 highway employee on a probationary basis at an hourly rate of $26.79 per hour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon successful completion of a three-month probationary period, the employee shall be eligible for permanent full-time appointment.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Prosser, and seconded by Councilman Slye, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Wright	yes
Councilwoman McClusky	yes
Councilman Perkins	yes
Councilman Prosser	yes
Councilman Slye	yes

MOTION #96-2026

Supervisor Wright seconded by Councilman Prosser moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Ayes All

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Pamela D. Desormo, Town Clerk