

The Fine Town Board held its regular and organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at the Municipal Office Building in Star Lake. Attendance was taken, and a quorum was present. The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM.

Board Members	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Supervisor Jeremy Thompson	X			
Councilman Philip Giardino	X			
Councilman Carlton Kerr	X			
Councilman Samuel Bryant	X			
Councilwoman Gigi Hayden	X			

Others Present: Tamika Provost, Town Clerk; Nelson Martin Jr., Highway Superintendent; Mark Hall, Water Superintendent; Chris Cook (on the phone), Larry Denesha, County Legislator; Mark Friden, Historian; Pam Johnson, James, and Kalie Tanner.

Committees- 01/2026-1 Moved by P. Giardino, seconded by G. Hayden, that the town board acknowledge that the Town Supervisor has designated the following committee appointments for the year 2026. Officials appointed to committees are responsible for gathering information and working with others to ensure efficient operation of such program or facility and to communicate back to the full town board recommendations for policy approval and money appropriations. The town board’s basic statutory responsibilities are not abdicated to the committee.

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. CF Arena | Carlton Kerr & Melissa Streeter |
| 2. CF Community Center | Phil Giardino |
| 3. CF Golf Course | Jeremy Thompson & Herb Snider |
| 4. Fine Town Hall | Samuel Bryant |
| 5. Youth Commission | Samuel Bryant |
| 6. Deferred Compensation | Philip Giardino, Jeremy Thompson, Carlton Kerr |
| 7. Oswegatchie Cemetery | Carlton Kerr, Gigi Hayden |

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Payroll -01/2026-2 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by S. Bryant, that the town board authorizes the town supervisor to pay the fixed salaries of officers, compensation of employees, payroll taxes and other payroll related expenses prior to audit for the year 2026. Also, moved to set the pay for the following town officials and employees:

POSITION	SALARY
Town Supervisor	\$ 17,393.00
Town Board (4) ea	\$ 2,900.00
Town Clerk	\$ 35,850.00
Town Justice	\$ 10,809.00
Highway Superintendent	\$ 65,000.00
Assessor	\$ 25,750.00
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 14,613.00
Board Assessment Review (3) ea	\$ 400.00
Dog Control Officer	\$ 5,000.00
Historian	\$ 500.00
Public Safety Admin	\$ 2,000.00
Records Mgt Officer	\$ 1,500.00
Sewer Plant Operator	\$ 7,877.00

School Tax Collector	\$ 4,500.00
Tax Collector	\$ 4,500.00
Water Superintendent	\$ 53,368.00

POSITION	RATE of PAY
Heavy Equipment Operator (2)	\$ 28.92 /hr.
Motor Equipment Mechanic (1)	\$ 28.92 /hr.
Motor Equipment Operator (3)	\$ 24.29/hr.
New Highway MEO	\$ 24.29/hr.
New Highway HEO	\$ 28.92/hr.
New Highway Laborer	\$ 20.38/hr.
Water District Laborer (on call)	\$ 21.83 /hr.
Court Clerk	\$ 17.61 /hr.
Court Officer	\$ 20.00 /hr. VACANT
Custodian	\$ 17.00 /hr.
Deputy Town Clerk	\$ 17.00 /hr.
Deputy Town Supervisor	\$ NO SALARY
Golf Club House Attendant (2)	\$ 16.00 /hr.
Golf Grounds Manager	\$ 19,552.00
Golf Grounds Laborer (2)(30 hrs./wk.)	\$ 16.00 /hr.
Golf Course Fertilizer Applicator	\$ 17.00/hr.
Golf Course Fertilizer Supervisor	\$ 17.51/hr.
Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$ Fees Collected
Youth Commission Director	\$ 2,500.00
Arts & Crafts Director	\$ 1,500.00
Recreation Attendants	\$ 16.00 /hr.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Mileage- 01/2026-3 Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by S. Bryant, that the compensation rate for town officers and employees using their personal automobiles in the performance of their official duties be established for the year 2026 at the current federal rate.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Meetings -01/2026-4 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by G. Hayden, that regular monthly Town Board meetings will, throughout the year 2026, be held at 6:30 pm on the Second (2nd) Wednesday of each month in the Municipal Office Building located at 4078 State Highway 3 in Star Lake.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Newspaper- 01/2026-5 Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by S. Bryant, that the official newspaper of the town for the year 2026 be the St. Lawrence edition of the Watertown Daily Times.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Returned Check Fee -01/2026-6 Moved by P. Giardino, seconded by G. Hayden, that the town board impose a charge of \$ 20.00 on each check tendered as payment and returned for insufficient funds.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Supervisor's Duties- 01/2026-7 Moved by P. Giardino, seconded by C. Kerr, that the town board impose on the town supervisor the power and duties of administration and supervision of town and special district functions on behalf of the town board, allowing the town to function between town board meetings for the year 2026. By this delegation, the town board does not abdicate to the supervisor or surrender to her the board's basic statutory responsibilities.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Bill Payment - 01/2026-8 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by G. Hayden, that the town board authorizes the town supervisor to pay claims for public utilities, postage, freight & express charges, principal and interest on indebtedness, and amounts becoming due on contracts which exceed one year prior to audit for the year 2026.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Post Roads- 01/2026-9 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by G. Hayden, that the town board authorizes the town highway superintendent to post roads as needed for the year 2026.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Bid Openings- 01/2026-10 Moved by P. Giardino, seconded by S. Bryant, that the town board authorizes any two of the following specific town officers be present to open advertised competitive bids on public works and purchase contracts. The authorized officers for the year 2026 are the town supervisor, town clerk, attorney for the town, superintendent of highways, and the deputy supervisor.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Conferences -01/2026-11 Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by S. Bryant, that the town board authorizes appropriate town officials to attend conferences/meetings and authorizes payment of their "actual and necessary" expenses for proper town charges for the year 2026. The following conferences and meetings are approved: NYS Association of Towns, Adirondack Association of Towns (AATV), Adirondack Park Agency (APA), St Lawrence County government meetings, Adirondack Common Ground, Adirondack Partnership, Adirondack Park Local Government (Lake Placid), Local Government Conference (Potsdam), Local Government Conference (Tug Hill), Highway Superintendent School (Ithaca), Highway Superintendent Fall Conference, NYS Town Clerk's Association, Assessor's Conference, Town Supervisor's Association, Code Enforcement Conference, and the NY Rural Water Conference.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Planning Board -01/2026-12 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by S. Bryant, to put an ad in the bargain hunter until 02/08/2026 to look for letters of interest to appoint someone at the next board meeting.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Registrar- 01/2026-13 Move by C. Kerr, seconded by G. Hayden, that the town board acknowledge that the Town Supervisor has designated Tamika Provost as the Registrar of Vital Statistics (4-year appt.)

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Audience Participation- James Tanner spoke of issues with the Highway Department and past hires. Pam Johnson spoke about the Missoula Theatre production done at the school. The Board suggested Pam find out what they still lack for funding and return to the next meeting.

Dogs Control- The Dog Control Report was submitted to the board for December.

Report- 01/2026-14- Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by S. Bryant, to approve the Municipal Shelter Inspection Report.

Codes – The code reports from November and December were submitted to the board.

Agreement -01/2026-15 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by G. Hayden, to authorize the signing of the agreement to spend highway funds.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Agreement -01/2026-16 Moved by S. Brant, seconded by G. Hayden, to authorize the signing of the Holding Harmless Agreement with Hermon.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Agreement- 01/2026-17 Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by S. Bryant, to authorize the signing of the Holding Harmless agreement with Gouverneur.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Agreement- 01/2026-18 Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by P. Giardino, to authorize the signing of the Holding Harmless Agreement with St. Lawrence County.

Report – 01/2026-19 Moved by P. Giardino, seconded by S. Bryant, to accept the Town Clerk’s Monthly Report as submitted.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Contract- 01/2026-20 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by P. Giardino, to authorize the signing of the 2026 School Tax Collection Contract.

Minutes – 01/2026-21 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by G. Hayden, to accept the December 10th meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Bills – 01/2026-22 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by G. Hayden, the town bills represented by Vouchers 25-459 through 25-499 and 26-1 through 26-17 be paid, with the addition of 25-500.

<i>General Fund -</i>	<i>\$ 94,468.94</i>
<i>Highway Fund -</i>	<i>\$239,582.74</i>
<i>Fire Prot. Districts -</i>	<i>\$ 55,282.00</i>
<i>Youth Commission</i>	<i>\$ 230.46</i>
<i>Golf Course</i>	<i>\$ 2,238.26</i>
<i>Sewer District -</i>	<i>\$ 2,583.01</i>
<i>Water District -</i>	<i>\$ 8,276.91</i>
<i>Fire District -</i>	<i>\$ 188,189.00</i>
<i>Youngs Road Bridge Project-</i>	<i>\$22,433.64</i>
<i>Total -</i>	<i>\$613,284.96</i>

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

County- Larry spoke about the accomplishments made in 2025, including completing the 4-year project of paving 100 additional miles of county roads with an investment of \$14.2 million. Completed the \$8 Million renovation of the 1993 public safety complex, which included a new 911 dispatch center, district attorney suite, grand jury suite, civil office suite, and modernized the entire mechanical system. Opened a 3rd satellite office in Gouverneur. Completed the \$1 million replacement of the ac in the courthouse. Completed the installation of the generator at the Human Service Center on 310. Adopted a budget to decrease real property taxes. Also, commenced design work to replace the parking lots at the courthouse, human service center, and Public Safety Complex.

Arena – The arena financials were submitted to the board.

Action Plan- The Action Plan was reviewed. The board agreed to look into the EV charging and prices.

Agreement – 01/2026-23 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by G. Hayden, to authorize the signing of the 2026 contract with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for \$300.00.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Exemptions- The board agreed to leave the Senior citizens' exemptions the same.

Policy- The board reviewed the procurement policy.

Historian – Mark spoke about the 250th birthday of the United States.

Executive Session- 01/2026-24 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by P. Giardino, to go into executive session.

Regular meeting-01/2026-25 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by G. Hayden, to return to the regular meeting, with no action taken.

Adjourn – 01/2026-26 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by P. Giardino, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamika Provost, Town Clerk