

The Fine Town Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 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 were H. Dolan, Town Clerk; H. Leader, D. Ziemba, M. Friden, D. Downey, C. Cook, N. Martin, S. Dumke; and Larry Denesha, County Legislator.

Sewer District – Dave Ziemba explained to the board that there is a new bunkhouse being built in the hamlet of Wanakena. This bunkhouse will have water and sewer hookups. He would like the board to consider charging for another sewer hookup. Henry Leader, our town attorney, will review our present law on sewer rates and let the board know if an amendment is necessary. Jeremy will talk with our code enforcement officer to see what the plans for the bunkhouse show and make sure that he is advising people on the proper way to hook up to public utilities.

Blighted properties – Sue Dumke was present to discuss blighted properties in the towns of Clifton and Fine. She has concerns about these properties bringing down all of our property values, and some of them going up for tax sale and then people having to pay to clean them up. Jeremy invited her to the joint town board meeting on the 1st of October to discuss it with Clifton. He also told her that a few of those properties are works in progress and it takes time to get the results we are looking for. Sue would like to see the towns add garbage pickup to the taxes.

Exemption – Jeremy explained a current exemption that we have. It is the Capital Improvement Exemption that gives people a partial exemption on improvements that they make to their homes. This is to encourage people to fix up their homes and not penalize them for it.

Historian - Mark Friden has been busy with his historian duties. He gave a presentation in Wanakena. He has looked into a grant to replace the historic marker on the Skate Creek Rd. He can apply for that in October. He has applied for a Rock Charitable Fund grant for the Fine Town Hall for a building conditions survey. LaBella submitted a proposal to do the survey, and they are willing to wait on the proposal to see if the town is awarded the grant. Grant awards are announced in January, and they would do the survey in the spring.

Grant – Sam asked about the Downtown Revitalization Grants and if they would apply for the Fine Town Hall. Jeremy suggested he look into what types of things they would cover.

Boat Launch – It was on the agenda to discuss the Wanakena Boat Launch and invasive species. There was a concern about invasive species being introduced to the Oswegatchie River and Cranberry Lake, and a suggestion to limit what boats could use the “boat launch” in Wanakena. The board was not interested in addressing this, as that is not an official boat launch, and there is some controversy over who actually owns that property.

Report – The Dog Control Officer report was submitted to the board.

Report – The Code Enforcement Officer report was submitted to the board.

Report – 09/2025-109 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by S. Bryant to accept the Town Clerk’s Monthly Report as presented.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Minutes – 09/2025-110 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by G. Hayden the minutes from the August 13th meeting were accepted as presented.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Reports – 09/2025-111 Moved by P. Giardino, seconded by G. Hayden to Supervisor Financial Reports were accepted as presented.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Budget – 09/2025-112 Moved by S. Bryant, seconded by P. Giardino to adopt the attached budget amendments.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Bills – 09/2025-113 Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by S. Bryant the town bills represented by vouchers 25-309 through 25-345 be paid.

<i>General Fund -</i>	<i>\$ 24,482.06</i>
<i>Highway Fund -</i>	<i>\$265,147.70</i>
<i>Youngs Rd Bridge -</i>	<i>\$524,251.18</i>
<i>Golf Course -</i>	<i>\$ 3,288.98</i>
<i>Sewer District -</i>	<i>\$ 382.08</i>
<i>Water District -</i>	<i>\$165,974.20</i>
<i>Total -</i>	<i>\$983,526.20</i>

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Loan – 09/2025-114 Moved by G. Hayden, seconded by C. Kerr to authorize a temporary loan of \$250,000.00 from the General Fund to the Youngs Road Capital Project Fund for cash flow purposes to pay expenditures required before reimbursements are received.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

County – Larry Denesha, our County Legislator, was present to update the board on what is happening at the county. The county has approved a resolution for the demolition of 4231 SH 3 in Star Lake. This should be done before winter. There is also a resolution to raise the income ceiling limit on the senior citizens' exemption at the county level to \$25,000. There are two resolutions dealing with delinquent tax liens that have caused quite a stir around the county. There are some properties that are delinquent in taxes, some for many years, that for whatever reason the county will not foreclose on. These resolutions will make certain properties exempt from taxes until such time that they can be cleaned up and placed back on the tax rolls. This is a huge financial burden for the county, and the purpose of these resolutions is to address these problems. The county has every intention of working with the towns where these properties are identified. The county will announce soon who the Emergency Services Director will be.

Arena – The arena financials were presented to the board. Their committee meeting was held last night. They will be switching some lights over to LED. They will be advertising in October for someone to make the ice. If any board member has questions about switching over the arena insurance to the Town of Clifton, please give them to Jeremy. He will forward them to John Russell so that their agent can answer them. Their agent will not be at the joint meeting.

Golf Course – The golf course clubhouse will be closing on October 12th. They will need to hire a contractor to remove a tree from the course.

Audit – 09/2025-115 Moved by P. Giardino, seconded by S. Bryant to accept the 2024 Golf Course Audit as presented.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Carried.

Action Plan- The action plan was reviewed.

Local Government Conference – The Local Government Conference in Potsdam is coming up in October if anyone town official is interested in attending. It is a good conference, close to home.

EV Charging – Trey Talbott sent Jeremy a request for EV charging stations in the town. Sam will look into this and report back to the board.

Budget Workshop – The 2026 budget workshop is set for Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 PM at the office building.

Adjourn – 09/2025-116 Moved by C. Kerr, seconded by S. Bryant the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope M. Dolan, Town Clerk

BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS 09/10/2025

BUDGET AMENDMENTS –

GENERAL FUND:

Transfer \$2,172.00 from Contingency A19904 to
\$1,640.00 Building CE – Community Center A16204.4 (transfers remainder of 2021
insurance claim to CE \$1,637.78) and
\$ 532.00 to traffic control A33104

GOLF COURSE:

Transfer \$900.00 from Contingency SPG19904 to Personal Services – Fertilizer
SPG72501

Transfer \$4,000 from Fund Balance SPG915 to Contractual Expense – Clubhouse
SPG72504.1