

PUBLIC HEARING
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, NEW YORK
July 9, 2025 6:00PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: LARRY LEGAULT, SUPERVISOR
NANCY CHARLESTON, COUNCILWOMAN
SHAWN THOMPSON, COUNCILMAN
RAY DRAKE, COUNCILMAN
ABSENT: DAN OKEEFE, COUNCILMAN
ALSO PRESENT: HWY Sup Bill Shirley, SLC
Legislator Rita Curran, RVRDA Larry Clark,
Grant Writer Linda McQuinn
OTHERS PRESENT: many Louisville residents

Supervisor Legault called the public hearing to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

LOCAL LAW # of 2025

A LOCAL LAW TO CHANGE THE OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT FROM
AN ELECTED OFFICE TO AN APPOINTED OFFICE

1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT: The Town Board the Town of Louisville desires to give the electors of the Town of Louisville the opportunity to vote on whether the Town should eliminate the elected position of Superintendent of Highways and replace it with an appointed position of Superintendent of Highways.
2. STATUTORY AUTHORITY: This local law is enacted under the authority of Municipal Home Rule Law §§ 10, 22 and 23. The Town hereby expressly states its intention that this local law shall supersede any provision of the Town Law of the State of New York to the contrary, including but not limited to Town Law § 20.
3. PURPOSE: The purpose of this local law is to abolish the elected position of Superintendent of Highways and replace it with an appointed position of Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Louisville.
4. ABOLITION OF ELECTED POSITION; CREATION OF APPOINTED POSITION: The elected position of the Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Louisville is hereby abolished, effective December 31, 2025. The appointed position of the Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Louisville is hereby created, effective January 1, 2026.
5. TITLE: This local law shall be incorporated in the Town of Louisville Code as a new Chapter thereof to be entitled "The Office of the Appointed Superintendent of Highways".
6. TRANSFER OF DUTIES: Except as set forth in Section 9, all duties, authority and power previously vested in the elected Superintendent of Highways shall be vested in the appointed Superintendent of Highways.
7. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: The person holding the office of Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Louisville, shall be a resident of the Town of Louisville.
8. SUPERSESSON: This local law shall supersede Town Law § 23(1) in its application to the office of Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Louisville, St. Lawrence County, New York.
9. AUTHORITY OF SUPERINTENDENT; APPOINTING AUTHORITY: (a) The appointed Superintendent of Highways shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as are or hereafter may be conferred or imposed by law, and such further duties as the Town Board may determine not inconsistent with law. Any references contained in the Code of the Town of Louisville to the Superintendent of Highways shall be construed as applying to the duly appointed Superintendent of Highways. (b) The Town Board shall be the appointing authority for all employees of the Town of Louisville Highway Department.

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10. **TERM OF OFFICE AND FILLING VACANCY:** The appointed Superintendent of Highways of the Town of Louisville shall serve for a term of Four (4) years, upon the terms and conditions determined by the Town Board, unless sooner removed by the Town Board in the manner provided for in this local law. A vacancy in the Office of Superintendent of Highways shall be filled by the Town Board for the unexpired term in the manner provided by law.

11. **SALARY AND REMOVAL OF HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** (a) The salary of the Highway Superintendent shall be fixed by the Town Board and shall be payable in such installments and at such intervals as the Town Board shall determine, which may be modified by resolution of the Town Board from time to time. (b) The Town Board may remove the Highway Superintendent for malfeasance or misfeasance in office upon written charges presented to the Town Board in the form of one or more affidavits. The Highway Superintendent shall have an opportunity to appear before the Town Board and be heard. Copies of any such charges shall be served upon the Highway Superintendent accused thereby at least ten (10) days before his/her appearance before the Town Board.

12. **MANDATORY REFERENDUM:** This local law shall be subject to a mandatory referendum to be held at the next regularly scheduled General Election on November 4th, 2025.

13. **SEVERABILITY:** The provisions of this local law are severable. If any court of competent jurisdiction decides that any section, clause, sentence, part or provision of this local law is illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect, impair, or invalidate any of the remaining sections clauses, sentences, parts, or provisions of the Local Law.

14. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This local law shall take effect upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting therein at such General Election on November 4th, 2025, upon the filing with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the applicable provisions of law, on January 1, 2026.

Supervisor Legault asked the Town Attorney, Eric Gustafson to explain the process and what it entails to putting the Highway Superintendent on the ballot this November. Town Law the law that governs the actions in the Towns of New York, some are in the Town Law, Highway Law and some in the Municipal Home rule law there is a lot of moving parts when it comes to making an elected to an appointed position and that the Municipal Home law requires that anytime you have an elected position and you want to abolish that position and convert to an appointed position that is mandatory that it goes to a vote to the people of the Town of Louisville. Tonight, the Town Board would have to adopt a Local Law that says we are going to change the position from an elected to an appointed position but it must be approved by the people of the Town of Louisville.

Public Comment

Resident questions how will this change benefit to the Town. Supervisor Legault answers the question and explains hopes to have more applicants for the position and the person not have to run every four years for their position, and for the Town Board to have a little more control over the Highway Superintendent, if they are elected they answer to the people not the Town Board. Another resident explains that if the person is voted the constituents in the Town would have to be happy with the elected official and to where an appointed position the individual would answer to the Town Board. Multiple Louisville residents' do not want the Highway Superintendent position to even go on the ballot for a vote that want the position to remain elected. Another resident expressed if the Town Board wants to make moves like this that they should take a ride in a plow

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truck and see how things are done and what goes on in the department that there is a lot to know about. Resident questions Supervisor Legault if he had any intentions in becoming appointed to the position. Supervisor Legault explains he has no interest in the Highway Superintendent position whether is elected or appointed. Resident feels an elected person will put their merits out to the people and if the person works for the Town Board they will not answer to the people and will depend on the Town Board, and they do not want it taken away from the voters. Another resident questions how the decision will be made by the Town Board if the people are expressed they do not want the Highway Superintendent position to go up for a vote. Supervisor Legault explains the Town Board would discuss it and move forward with the local law to place it on the ballot or not and to have public comment, that there are other people in the public they would like to see it on the ballot. Residents all questioned where are those people?! And that if was important to them they would have attended the meeting tonight. Resident questions how the Town Board members feel, Councilman Thompspon expresses he is for the elected position, Councilman Drake said he is for the elected position, and Councilwoman Charleston explains she was on board with appointed due to having qualifications, and elected position anyone could run, and that this brought up years ago and no one had acted on it, and at this point she is on the fence, not sure which way to go. Another resident explains as the County Legislator she has had many residents' reach out to her very upset about this and wanted to be sure she let the Town Board know the people are unhappy. Resident questions how would this effect the current Highway Superintendent if this position did go appointed, Supervisor Legault states he would finish his term.

Supervisor Legault addresses the Town Board and asks if there is a motion to moved forward with putting the Highway Superintendent position on the ballot this year? Town Board made no motion to move forward with putting the position up for a vote, this will not move forward.

Public Hearing closed 6:33pm and into Regular meeting.

Public Comment

Supervisor Legault asks if the public has any questions in regards to the reval while Town Attorney is here. Resident comments they went through the grievance process and felt there was no transparency with the assessor with why they were given the numbers they received and what their next steps to take, do they need to go back to the assessor. Attorney explains it now goes to small claims court. Another resident states they had asked the Town Board a couple times on what the rate will be and did not receive an answer, that the reval is going to hurt a lot of people in the Town, and no one in the Town can budget with out knowing the rate and would like the reval to be set aside for now and be redone. Supervisor Legault states we are past that point and cannot. Town Attorney explained the assessor sets the assessments and that the Town Board is governed by certain laws, that they can not do a thing about and the way properties are assessed is governed by REAL Property tax law and the Town Board does not have a role in setting values, if the property owner received an assessment they were not happy with they would go back to the assessor and if

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the property owner is still not happy they continue on to the Board of Assessment & Review. Board of Assessment and Review are not bound by the assessor they are independent individuals, and the next step would be going through the assessment and review through the court. Town Attorney explained when the rate per thousand, when all the assessments go up the Town of Louisville charges goes down unless they increase what they are spending and in this case the total of assessments in the Town of Louisville almost doubled, when they take their budget and they divide what they need to keep the services coming by the much greater assessed value the rate per thousand goes down. The school and County are bound by the assessment ratio is all adjusted. The law contemplates everyone pay their fair share and when you have people who had not had a reval done, had not had their property reassessed in decades versus someone who just purchased the property inequities build up in the system that as the Town Attorney that he cannot defend. The Town Board says do a reval and that is all the do, they do not set the assessments, they do not affect the BAR or the don't affect small claims assessment review. Another resident questions when could the Town Board have done something, Town Attorney explains they can't. Resident continues with in previous meeting it was mentioned a thousand signatures to halt it, Supervisor Legault stated he said he would have to get legal council before any decisions could be made. The town attorney explains the Town Board can not make the decision they do not want to do this, the law says this is how it goes with many reasons behind it, the Town Board doesn't control any of it the State does and that the law allows assessors to be hired from outside the Town. Another resident requests more transparency with data and information when come time for the next reval and resident felt rushed. Resident questions why 17 years later, Town Attorney it should be done sooner but it is not required. Resident would like to know when they could expect another reassessment. Supervisor Legault states they would like to do it every five years, and believes the assessor feels the same way. Residents question reappointment for assessor, Supervisor Legault answered the assessor was reappointed in February 2025 for 6 years. Resident requests a motion from the Town Board to fire the assessor, Supervisor Legault answered with that is a personnel matter and will not be discussed in an open meeting. Resident addresses the Town Board commenting how quiet they have been while hearing concerns and frustrations with a current employee and would like the Town Board to have a discussion amongst them in regards to addressing the issues brought to them from the public. Town Attorney spoken up with request to Town Supervisor Larry Legault to not comment on any personnel matters in an open meeting, the public has the right to bring their comments forward but the Town Board has certain responsibilities to remain quiet on personnel matters.

Accept or correct June 11, 2025 regular meeting minutes

Resolution #73-2025

Motioned by Councilwoman Charleston, seconded by Councilman Drake

Clerk Ellsworth addressed the Town Board with a correction needed in the section pertaining to Brent Smith's insurance currently states \$200.00 a month, year-round and needs to be corrected to \$185.00 a month for 7 months (May-November), duly carried to accept correction to the June 11, 2025 minutes.

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Report from Larry Clark with the RVRDA: Supplied report to the Town Board with Holiday/Community Spirit decorations has been approved in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Report from SLC Legislator Rita Curran: County has past a resolution regarding 50 million dollars that our governor put aside in the budget to fund the legal defense for illegal immigrants and asked she reallocate it to the people who are living here in the state that are residents. Resolution coming up and hopes the Towns will adopt in some form of in regards to potential prison closures, right now County Correctional Facilities has about 2,500 state ready inmates and the governor feels that 3-5 prisons need to be closed. Rita also brings up the County bus stopping at Louisville Housing with concerns of a resident walking in the street to Pig & Moo for the bus stop currently to Jason from the County Planning Office. Jason explains the bus does currently stop at Louisville Housing and the resident who is walking to Pig & Moo choses to walk and likes to walk.

Report from Jason from the County Planning Office: Funding for septic systems that is available to some Louisville residents. Jason brought brochures and a map to be placed at the Town Offices for residents to be able to check to see if they are eligible for the funds being offered towards septic repairs. It is not for new construction.

Report from Louisville Landing Recreation Manager Perry French: Course had a great turn out over the holiday weekend. The course has been very busy with the nice weather. Perry requests approval for reimbursements for golf fees to Charlie Boots and Bryan Lavigne for medical reasons. Charlie Boots to be refunded \$1,610.00, Bryan Lavigne to be refunded \$915.00. Clerk Ellsworth questions the Town Board if there is something they would like to put in writing in reference to refunds, last years it was discussed that there would be credits instead of refunds. Supervisor Legault answered with moving forward there will need to be a plan in place for reimbursements. Perry will work on getting that on the enrollment forms for this fall with requests of reimbursements being rolled over into the following as a credit, with contingency if the customer is medically unable to play again with a date of a cut off.

Resolution #74-2025

Motioned by Councilwoman Charleston, seconded by Councilman Drake, duly carried to accept the reimbursements to Bryan Lavigne in the amount of \$915.00 and to Charlie Boots in the amount of \$1,610.00.

Report from Recreation and Maintenance Supervisor Lindsey Gladding: Mowing is being done weekly. Three benches new plaques, engraver machine is down. Putney was called to take down a branch at the Chase Mills cemetery. The recreation crew is currently trimming brush and trees at Whalen Park for the Turtle Trot. Route 37 Boat Launch will be getting more lighting installed at the end of the ramp. Lindsey thanks the Highway Dept. for their help with installing posts at Route 37 Boat Launch. Recreation Clerk Chloe has been working on a prize package for the Kayak Run. We had a hard time getting donations but ended up with a great prize package. At this time there are

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only 10 people signed up, we are hoping they just show up on the day of the Kayak Run. Chase's Riverside Dining has a band that will be playing from 2PM-6PM. Goodrich was called for repairs on the upright cooler in the kitchen at Chase's Riverside Dining. Lindsey was called to Pro shop for repairs in lighting, switching out the old T12 bulbs to new LED bulbs. Mr. Gladding plans to start putting ice in September 22nd. Siemens will come in early September to get direct drive systems working properly. Ice rates for the 2025-2026 season will remain the same as last year. LMH and Figure Skating at \$100.00 and all other uses \$115.00. The new scoreboard will be installed end of July beginning of August. Lindsey will collect quotes for Fire Station #1 repairs.

Report from Highway Superintendent Bill Shirley: Truck #9 is back from getting recalls repaired and emission issues are repaired. The other new truck is looking to be here in September. Bridge Railings on Nation Rd., Dishaw Rd., & Martin Rd.: Dishaw Road: Called Brian from Barton & Loguidice about Dishaw Rd. He went under it and said it won't fall in, but it needs to be repaired in the next few years. We should start looking for funding for this replacement, estimating about \$1 million. Nation Road bridge: nothing new to report, Martin Road bridge: Andy Willar from SLC looked into it, and we do not need to involve the DEC. He suggested we remove the bridge and replace it with a 36" culvert. I estimate that this will cost between \$14,000 - \$16,000. We have 2 pieces of culvert pipe, but we will need to order 1 more and rent an excavator to break up the concrete. This job can be done in-house. Pellet heating system still needs to be looked at. Bill is trying to get a hold of someone to complete sandblasting on the lift. The sand sifter can not be returned, it was a final sale item. Bill asks the Town Board if they would like to list it on Auction's International. Tom from Auctions International came today and took pictures on truck #7 (2006 International), Shoulder machine, bleachers, and some items from Rec Dept. (old Score Board) and Water Dept (extractor). The County will be completing all paving starting in August sometime. CHIPS & other Funding this year, we could receive up to \$127,501.15. Town Line extension road, brush has been cut this past week, and shoulders should be completed next week. We are working with the Town of Massena on this project. Bill would like him and his Deputy to attend Highway School in Niagara Falls in September this year. Bill appointed Lindsey Gladding as his Highway Deputy for the 2025 year. Thompson Deisel was here today, looking at the Municipal generator they need to order parts, cost is unknown at this time. Thompson Deisel also fixed the backhoe while they were here, backhoe threw an engine code.

Resolution #75-2025

Motioned by Councilwoman Charleston, seconded by Councilman Drake, discussion Councilman Thompson cap request on Martin Rd. bridge repairs at a cost of \$16,000.00, duly carried to accept cost of \$16,000.00 for Martin Rd. bridge repairs.

Resolution #76-2025

Motioned by Councilwoman Charleston, seconded by Councilman Thompson, duly carried to accept Sand Sifter, Extractor, Scoreboard, and bleachers to be listed on Auction's International to be sold with Sand Sifter to be sold no less than \$3,000.00.

Resolution #77-2025

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Motioned by Councilwoman Charleston, seconded by Councilman Thompson, duly carried to accept Highway Superintendent Bill and his Deputy Lindey Gladding to attend Highway School in Niagara Falls in September 2025.

Report from Linda McQuinn: Currently working on two grants with a deadline of July 31, 2025 for the Community Center roof and Salt Barn at the Highway Barn. Grant money salt storage shed.

Resolution #78-2025

Motioned by Councilman Thomspon, seconded Councilman Drake, duly carried to accept resolution for grant money for the Salt Storage shed at the Highway Bar.

Resolution #79-2025

Motioned by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Drake, duly carried to accept grant funding at the Community Center.

Public Comment: Resident attended Wilson Hill meeting last night and they wanted to thank Lindsey Gladding and recreation maintenance workers for their work on entry place where the bulletin board, and all work along the road, resident questions if work will continue on to the other access lots being cleared out as well. Recreation Supervisor Lindsey informs resident as long as it is NYPA land. That there are 10 access lots that are maintained at this time. Another resident shares his concerns with having to pay debt repay and not being hooked up to the water, and is now looking to connect and will have to pay for those costs themselves as the property owner. Supervisor Legault explained if the property owner was there at the time the water went through, he would not have had to, but now that it is after the project had gone through it is up to the property owner to cover the costs to connect to the water. Resident shared concerns on golf fees being refunded, does not agree that the fees should be refunded, and if something comes up that is the chance you take. Resident also shares concerns with dogs on Town property doesn't feel they should be there. Another resident also speaks up sharing the same with golf fees being refunded, doesn't think funds should be refunded, that maybe have it transferred to a friend/family member instead of refunding.

Report from Summer Rec Director Emily Wilkins: Summer Rec has 28 kids signed up this year and that is the most they have had in quite some time. There had been many changes in requirements for having an running the Summer Rec program, certificates and requirements. All requirements have been met. Emily requested a reimbursement for the costs for certifications in the amount of \$625.00. Emily suggests maybe next time around hiring having the Emergency Response certification.

Communications and Petitions: Letter from NBT Bank with information on the new truck just purchases on when payments are due. Letter from SLC Municipal Clerks Association. Letter from DANC of their monthly report. Letter from Rear Admiral Richard J. Guimond addressing issues with the causeway, wanting it widened to NYPA with Town of Louisville cc'd. Letter from Case & Leader LLP, the Town is not interested in taking this over the property is landlocked. Progress report from

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C2AE. Certificate for Terri O'Keefe, Louisville Tax Collector. No supervisor's reports or budget at this time.

Old Business: Report from Local Government Task Force and RVRDA, Supervisor Legault submitted a request to looking into widening the causeway as part of recreation improvement. Update on RVRDA grants, Larry Clark supplied report to the Town Board with Holiday/Community Spirit Decorations in the amount of \$10,000.00. Report from Neighborhood Watch, Councilman Thompson suggests those using the facilities to do a sweep before kids playing at the playgrounds in the event there are needles or anything that should not be there. Update on the filter upgrade at the Water Plant, Town's water plant should be back on their own water July 21, 2025. Grasse River Road being transferred to the Town of Louisville is still in both parties' attorneys' hands at this time. Update on outside auditor, there is nothing to report at this time. Update on Hurricane Debby reimbursements, Clerk O'Keefe continues to work on this. Hometown Days 2025 events; Ice Cream Social, Music & Fireworks on July 18th at 7pm, Kayak/Canoe Run on July 19th at 11am, and Parade and Kids Day on July 20th at 12:00pm. Next Hometown Days meeting will be on October 6, 2025 at 6pm in the Town Board room. New Zamboni to be paid for with funds from NYPA Energy Efficiency Program.

New Business: Discuss parking on CR 39 in front of In-Laws Ventures. Support the Louisville Turtle Trot on Saturday July 26, 2025 at Whalen Park, run starts at 9:00am. Approve Town Clerk's abstract 07-25 to pay bills as presented. Clerk Ellsworth presented changes of 06-25 Abstract to the Town Board as follows: Voucher # 8-25SB \$794.30, and Voucher #145-25H \$174.00 (HWY DA).

Resolved that invoices contained on Abstract 07-25 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

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07/2025 - Abstract

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Voucher #'s</u>		<u>Amount</u>
General A	215-25G - 246-25G	\$	99,539.57
General B		\$	1,466.60
SF			
SL1		\$	15.70
SL2		\$	31.40
SL3		\$	262.37
SL4		\$	9.02
General Savings Transfer Total		\$	101,324.66
Highway DA	146-25H - 167-25H	\$	7,922.38
Highway DB		\$	20,502.19
Highway Savings Transfer Total		\$	28,424.57
Water District #1	98-25SW - 112-25SW	\$	7,619.19
Water District #2		\$	2,528.42
Water District #3		\$	5,451.32
Capital	26-25CD - 34-25CD	\$	211,807.05
Hometown Days	09-25SB - 14-25CD	\$	1,675.01
Louisville Landing (LI 99-25GF - 124-25GF		\$	51,224.50
Total of Abstract		\$	410,054.72

Added: (after meeting approvals)
 Voucher # 125-256F = \$915.00
 Voucher # 126-256F = \$1410.00
 Voucher # 247-256 = \$625.00

Resolution #80-2025

Motioned by Councilwoman Charleston, seconded by Councilman Thompson, duly carried to accept the 07-25 Abstract along with the changes listed above to the 06-25 Abstract.

The June 2025 Town Clerk report was reviewed.

Public Comment: Resident on CR 39 shares their concerns with the parking on both sides of the road, explaining he is coming to the Town Board before going further with his attorney to have these concerns addressed. He would like the Town Board to shut it down until the parking issue is resolved. Resident informs the Town Board he currently has to pick up garbage from the business residing next door and shares with the Town Board that him and his wife attended the February 2022 meeting that pertained to this parcel and shared their concerns with this project. There are also concerns with traffic being able to see. Another resident mentions they noticed a NYS Trooper directing traffic, and wondered if someone was paying them to do this service, resident also feels it is already a very busy road with traffic concerns as well and when adding parking on CR 39 it will not make it any better. Another resident speaks up says they had driven up CR 39 to SH 37 and people were actually parking on SH HWY 37 as well and with the stop sign there, people could not see what is coming and going around the parked vehicles on State Highway 37 and would like to at least see signs up to prevent the parking in these areas. Highway Superintendent Bill Shirley shares concerns with if parking does stay the way it currently this will cause issues with keeping the road clear with no room to push the snow. Highway Superintendent will reach out to the County in regards to this.

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Another resident questions if law enforcement had been called, and resident confirms they have been. Town Board discusses ways to address this issue on containing the parking issue.

Report from Councilman Thompson: Spoke with LVFD on the chicken bbq held during their car show, would like the Town Board to do the chicken bbq at their car show going forward. Clerk Ellsworth informs Councilman Thompson we have already been communicating with LVFD in regards to this and it will be discussed at our Hometown Days meeting on October 6, 2025 at 6pm. Councilman Thompson met with Patti and discussed Hometown Heroes plans, intends to have banners up in Spring of 2026. Clerk Ellsworth will get information to Highway Superintendent Bill Shirley and Town Historian Patti Shirley pertaining to who to contact in Massena on the Hometown Heroes banners.

Supervisor Legault shares thank you card from Ken Pike who has recently retired from the Highway Department this year.

Report from Councilwoman Charleston: Presents to Town Board the advertisement in the Haven magazine regards to Mutton Ridge being up for sale. Councilman O'Keefe and Councilwoman Charleston met with Perry and Bill to discuss their budget. Councilman O'Keefe and Councilwoman Charleston will continue monthly meeting with all department heads in regards to their budget and where they are.

Report from Town Clerk Amy Ellsworth: Asks Town Board if they will be doing the luncheon on August 21, 2025 at the Community Center. Clerk Ellsworth and Summer Rec Director Emily will discuss food truck options.

Public Comment

Resident shares concerns on Town Board floors showing rust from the chairs. Town Supervisor Larry Legault will bring this to the custodian's attention on moving chairs prior to mopping.

Adjourn

Resolution #81-2025

Motioned by Councilman Drake, seconded by Councilman Thompson, duly carried to adjourn meeting at 8:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amy Ellsworth

Town Clerk