OCTOBER 13, 2026 - REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CAMILLUS, COUNTY OF ONONDAGA, STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD AT THE CAMILLUS MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT
John Fatcheric, Supervisor
Chris Cesta
Fred Covert
Mike LaFlair
John O'Hara
Laura Teufel

ABSENT
Mary Luber

STAFF
Rich Andino, Town Attorney

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
Lannie Doherty, Budget Officer
Mike Schreyer, Police Chief
Approximately 13 others

Supervisor Fatcheric called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING #1
Public hearing to consider proposed Local Law L-2026 – "A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Camillus".

Resolution #200
Councilor LaFlair moved to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. Councilor Cesta seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Public Comment:
A resident inquired why the Town considers this law necessary and why cuts can't be made. Supervisor Fatcheric explained that the tax cap law was passed in 2011 and doesn't account for what are now regular double digit increases in mandated expenses outside of the town's control. He added that, even with the significant budget reductions that have been made to areas within the town's control, there is no way to stay within 2% increase while still providing the services that the public expects.

A resident expressed concern about a potential tax increase resulting from the upcoming town revaluation and suggested the town make cuts to the budget now.

A resident noted that she is on a fixed income and having difficulty covering her expenses and stated her belief that senior citizens should be exempt from paying school taxes.

A non-resident stated that the Town should cut services to residents rather than increasing taxes.

Resolution #201
Councilor Cesta moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Covert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING #2
Public Hearing to consider the proposed Town Budget for 2027.

Resolution #202
Councilor LaFlair moved to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. Councilor O'Hara seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Budget Officer Lannie Doherty provided a summary of the proposed budget, noting that the Town Board's work to produce it was a challenging process of managing departmental needs, contractual expense obligations, emergency service agency needs, and maintaining skilled labor to provide safety and reliable services for residents, in addition to facing increased expenses not within the Town Board's control (health insurance increase of 19.5%, Medicare increase of 20%, liability insurance increase of 18%) with medical insurance comprising 12.3% of the total budget and NYS retirement payments comprising over $1 million per year.

She noted that, as Chief Fiscal Officer, Supervisor Fatcheric has worked diligently to reduce the overall debt of the town, while implementing a more fiscally responsible long-term financial plan that allows for taxing a small amount each year and reserving funds for larger projects. The Supervisor also worked with the financial team to make budget cuts that have the least impact on services to the public. These efforts have resulted in a proposed budget that yields a 6% decrease versus the 2026 budget, and any further reductions would have necessitated eliminating personnel, which would impact services to the community.

She then provided a rundown of the specific financials noting that the General Fund or Full Town tax will have an increase of $82.18 per $100k of assessed property value, the Highway Fund will have an increase of $86.29 per $100k of value, and there will be a decrease of $33.80 per $100k of value for homes within the Fairmount Fire District. In example, she explained that homes valued at $150k in Wards 2-6 will have an increase of $11.72 per month and in Ward 1 will have an increase of $14.56 per month.

Public Comment:
A resident stated that the police and fire departments should not have any cuts, but other town employees should have salaries reduced and pay more for health insurance benefits.

A resident inquired how much of the Town of Camillus budget is used to support illegal immigrants.

A resident inquired why the town has retiree insurance expenses and stated that town employees should have salaries reduced and pay more for health insurance benefits. Supervisor Fatcheric explained that these items are mandated in collective bargaining agreements.

Resolution #203
Councilor Cesta moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Covert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilors O'Hara and Teufel offered comments unrelated to Town Board business.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS/REPORTS

Superintendent Stoneburg was not in attendance but submitted to the Town Board a monthly report noting that leaf pickup has begun, employees have completed the mandatory harassment prevention training, that guiderail materials have been ordered for the Sportsman's Club road, and that they have begun preparations for winter operations.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

Councilor O'Hara moved to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting. Councilor Teufel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #204

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Cesta, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilor Covert, to wit:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled Local Law No. L-2026, "A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Camillus," was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Camillus held on September 8, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on October 13, 2026, by the Town Board of the Town of Camillus and proof of publication of notice of such public hearing, as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Camillus in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Volume 6 N.Y.C.R.R., Section 617 of the Regulations relating to Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law of New York (SEQRA), requires that as early as possible in the consideration of a proposed action, an involved agency shall make a determination whether a given action is subject to the aforementioned law; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2026, the Town Board declared itself lead agency and determined that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. L-2026 is an unlisted action and will have no significant effect on the environment, issuing a negative declaration, thus concluding environmental review under State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to enact said proposed Local Law No. L-2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is
RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Camillus, Onondaga County, New York, does hereby enact Proposed Local Law No. L-2026 as Local Law No. 12-2026 as follows:

"TOWN OF CAMILLUS
LOCAL LAW NO. 12 OF 2026
A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED
IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C IN THE TOWN OF CAMILLUS

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Camillus as follows:

Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT
It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Camillus, County of Onondaga pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Camillus to adopt a Town budget for (a) Town purposes; (b) fire protection districts; and (c) any other special or improvement district governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year 2027, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by the General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 2. AUTHORITY
This local law is adopted pursuant to Subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

Section 3. TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE
The Town Board of the Town of Camillus, County of Onondaga, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY
If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operations to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE
This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State."

Discussion
Mr. Andino read a statement submitted by Councilor Luber noting her support for approving the budget.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

John Fatcheric	Town Supervisor	Voted Yes
Chris Cesta	Councilor	Voted Yes
Fred Covert	Councilor	Voted Yes
Mike LaFlair	Councilor	Voted Yes
John O'Hara	Councilor	Voted Yes
Laura Teufel	Councilor	Voted Yes
Mary Luber	Councilor	Absent

Resolution #205
Councilor Cesta moved to approve the proposed Town of Camillus budget for 2027. Councilor O'Hara seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resolution #206
Councilor Cesta moved to approve Warrant No. 19, checks and ACH payments in the amount of $312,884.34 as audited by the Town Board and hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Town Supervisor. Councilor Teufel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resolution #207
Councilor O'Hara moved to approve allowing the Optimist Club of Camillus to use Municipal Building property at the corner of Male Avenue and West Genesee Street for their Annual Christmas Tree sale. Councilor Covert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resolution #208
Councilor Cesta moved to approve the 2027 Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement with the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium and authorize the Supervisor to sign. Councilor Teufel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resolution #209
Councilor Covert moved to approve budget amendments to reallocate $200.00 from A00.0000.02705.0000-Gifts and Donations to A00.3120.42600.0000-CODE_Police Community Engagement, $3,116.01 from A00.0000.02260.0000-Police DWI Enforcement to A00.3120.15000.3109-Police Stop DWI Overtime, and $2,532.66 from A00.000.02770.0000-Miscellaneous to A00.1620.41600.3408-Deer Culling Expenses. Councilor LaFlair seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resolution #210
Councilor O'Hara moved to declare four Smith and Wesson M&P Sport II rifles owned by the Camillus Police Department as surplus and authorize the sale and transfer of said rifles to the Marcellus Police Department. Councilor Teufel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resolution #211
Councilor Covert moved to authorize Code Enforcement to proceed with hiring a contractor for property cleanup at 76 Richlee Drive, TM #: 033.-01-18.1, in accordance with Camillus Municipal Code Chapter 26-Uniform Code Enforcement. Councilor Cesta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS COMMENTS

Mayor Waterman was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A non-resident remarked on the improvements to the Sportsman's Club road and amendments to the cease-and-desist order, as well as the ongoing ZBA action.

A resident discussed issues related to his driveway following improvements to the roadway.

A resident expressed interest in being considered for the Parks & Recreation Director position.

A resident complimented the partnership between the West Genesee School District and the Town and complimented the Town Board on their work.

A resident expressed frustration about the process of having his fire inspection performed, getting resolution on a property compliance issue, and what he believes was malfeasance by the prior administration.

Resolution #212
Councilor Cesta moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilor Covert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Resolution #213
Councilor LaFlair moved to return to Regular Session. Councilor Cesta seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor O'Hara moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Councilor Covert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Dickson-McMahon
Town Clerk