

March 11th, 2025 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

LaFayette Town Board Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on March 11th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the LaFayette Town Hall, 2577 US Route 11 N, LaFayette NY.

Present: William McConnell, Town Supervisor
Melanie Palmer, Town Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Town Councilor
Nate Loughlin, Town Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk

Town Attorney: Jeff Brown

Others Present: Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement
Steve Robson, Highway Superintendent
Jessica Rice, Library Director'
And other residents

1. Supervisor McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn took the roll, All present,
3. Councilor Marzo led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 11, 2025

R-32-25 Councilor Loughlin moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to accept the February 11, 2025 Regular Town Board meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn. Motion carried 5- 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. BOARD ACTION

- A. Eagle Scout Project Presentation by Hudson Borchert for Stafford Park signage & Filtered Water Stations - Hudson explained his project in detail and advised that in order to fund his project he will be selling stainless steel water bottles and he would like permission to have them available at the Town Clerk's office. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn advised that both she & Deputy Town Clerk Tonya Farewell are in favor of assisting Hudson in this very worthwhile project.

R-33-25 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to allow Hudson Borchert to sell his water bottles to fund his Eagle Scout project at the Town Hall with the Clerk's assistance. Motion carried 5 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

B. Introduction of Local Law 2-2025 Permitting Best Value Purchasing – Attorney Brown advised that this local law will be scheduled for a public hearing at the April 15th regular Town Board meeting and does not require a SEQOR.

R-34-25 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to introduce Local Law 2-2025 and set the public hearing for April 15, 2025 at 6:30pm permitting Best Value Procurement in the Town of LaFayette. Motion carried 5 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

C. Introduction of Local Law 3-2025 to eliminate sketch plan meetings for most Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals applications – This local law will require a SEQOR and a referral to County Planning to be submitted by Attorney Brown.

R-35-25 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to introduce Local Law 3-2025 and set the public hearing for April 15, 2025 at 6:30pm to eliminate sketch plan meetings for most Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals applications. Motion carried 5 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

D. Introduction of Local Law 4-2025 to amend Chapter 290 (Zoning) of the Code of the Town of LaFayette to create a joint Zoning Board of Appeals/Planning Board – This local law will require a SEQOR and a referral to County Planning to be submitted by Attorney Brown.

R-36-25 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to introduce Local Law 4-2025 and set the public hearing for April 15, 2025 at 6:30pm to amend Chapter 290 (Zoning) of the Code of the Town of LaFayette to create a joint Zoning Board of Appeals/Planning Board. Motion carried 5 - 0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes

Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

E. LaFayette Fire Department 2024 LOSAP review & approval.

R-37-25 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to pay post entitlement benefits to 7 people to be paid by voucher in recognition of their accomplishments for 2024 per the LOSAP report submitted by the LaFayette Fire Dept. Motion Carried 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

R-38-25 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to approve the post entitlement payment to 18 members of the LaFayette Fire Dept. out of the LOSAP contributions to BPAS. Motion Carried 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

F. Morezak Road Abandonment - Mark Schaub

R-39-25 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to authorize the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent to sign the Certificate of Abandonment. Motion Carried 5-0

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

G. Amidon Road Ext. Abandonment - Supervisor McConnell advised that this agenda item will be tabled until such time as Mr. Fallon is available and his documentation is complete.

H. 2024 MS4 Stormwater Report (due 4/1/25) - Code officer Ralph Lamson advised that he only received the report late this afternoon (3/11/25) and will forward it on to the board for review.

R-40-25 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion authorizing the Supervisor to submit the 2024 MS4 Stormwater report contingent on Town Board review and approval. Motion carried 5 -0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

I. CPIC Annual Report - Board Chair Kelly Wypch reviewed the annual report and offered suggestions on how to accomplish the remaining three goals, to be discussed in further detail at the next CPIC meeting.

J. Town Hall Mail Meter Lease

R-41-25 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion authorizing the Supervisor to sign the 63-month lease with Ed & Ed for the new mail meter at a monthly cost of \$190.80. Motion carried 5 -0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

K. Grand Daddy Class Reunion Mass Gathering Application (Fee Waiver)

R-42-25 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to waive the \$100 Mass Gathering Permit fee for the Grand Daddy Class Reunion. Motion carried 5 -0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

L. One Stop Tree Service / Josh Amidon agreement for annual planter maintenance - this agreement has not been received and the Board agreed to table this topic until the April 15, 2025 regular Town Board Meeting.

6. COMMUNICATONS FROM THE PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER

7. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor

a. February Monthly report is available online and at the Town Hall for review.

- b. Transfer of appropriations - No transfers necessary at this time.
- 2. Attorney - Attorney Brown advised he had nothing further to report
- 3. Highway - Superintendent's Report

Roads: Miscellaneous general maintenance to our roads, shoulders, ditches and culverts will continue through the spring as weather permits. All snow removal equipment is ready. Snow and ice ops for the month of March - 39 times for snow and 3 times for ice.

Highway Business: Still, I am working with FEMA on our final location, 2026 Clark Hollow Road. We were partially approved for work completed (forced account labor, equipment and materials) of \$14,865.04. In October of 2024 I was able to work with our first PDMG for one month. She was able to correct all of the mistakes made by our past 5 PDMGs. After all corrections were made, we are now looking for over \$250,000. I was appointed finally on February 19, our 7th PDMG to get all corrected paperwork submitted and hopefully approved to closed this location out.

After speaking with Jeff Brown and with his approval, I will be listing our 2009 International Paystar on Auctions International. In my 2025 budget I set a revenue of \$50,000 for this truck. I will be listing as "still in service" with a reserve of \$60,000 and to close on April 7, the day before the Town Board Meeting. If we receive a bid for more than the reserve set, I will then ask the Town Board to surplus it and approve the sale. If we do not receive any bids above the reserve, I will relist the following month to hopefully a new range of potential bidders.

In the 2023/24 plow season we responded 71 times for snow and ice operations with a salt usage of 778 ton and sand 709 ton. So far in the 2024/25 plow season we have responded to date with 113 times for snow and 5 times for ice operations with an approximate salt usage of 2100 ton and sand 1400 ton. Total trips do not reflect repeating our first hills plowed to ensure vehicle and bus safety. We also responded 23 times to heavy drifting due to high winds. I also sent heavy equipment (loader and excavator) out multiple times to push back all of our drift areas to make room for more snow. I have had 620 ton of salt on order since February 4th and have not seen a delivery yet. We are not the only municipality in the same situation - it spans all across New York State. At the end of February we owe the New York DOT, 552 ton of salt. As for our employee over time, I estimate that we are more than 12% higher than the 2024 budget at present date. I have responded myself or with just my deputy multiple times to drifting and light snow events to try and keep my employee over time budget down. From January 1st to February 22nd the Town of Lafayette Highway Department employees worked 53 days consecutively responding to snow and ice operations.

- 4. Town Clerk

a. Monthly report for February 2025 - Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn advised her report is in the packet for review and she had nothing further to report.

5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES

a. February 2025 Building Permit Report - Codes Officer Ralph Lamson advised that his February report is in the packet for review.

b. Resolution - Intermunicipal Agreement with Onondaga Cty for the SWMP (Stormwater Management Program)

R-43-25 Councilor Palmer moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement with Onondaga County for the SWMP (Stormwater Management Program). Motion carried 5 -0.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

6. Justice Court - February 2025 Justice Reports

Judge Perrin had 148 cases and turned over \$12,624.00 to the Town of LaFayette for February 2025.

Judge Shute had 123 cases and turned over \$6,289.00 to the Town of LaFayette for February 2025

7. Library Director - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk's office

8. LCC - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk's office

9. LaFayette Fire / Ambulance Department - No written report was submitted by the LaFayette Fire Dept. and the Ambulance report is on file with the Town Clerk's office

10. Safety Report - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk's office.

B. Committee Reports

1. LACC - Written report is on file with the Town Clerk's office.

R-44-25 Supervisor McConnell moved and Councilor Dwyer seconded the motion to reappoint Mark Distler as a member of LACC for an additional 1-year term.

William McConnell	Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

8 Motion to audit & pay bills

