

August 12, 2025 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

LaFayette Town Board Meeting held on August 12th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the LaFayette Town Hall, 2577 US Route 11 N, LaFayette NY.

Present: Mark Distler, Deputy Town Supervisor
Melanie Palmer, Town Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Town Councilor
Nate Loughlin, Town Councilor
Carole Dwyer, Town Councilor

Absent: William McConnell, Town Supervisor

Recording Secretary: Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk
Town Attorney: Jeff Brown, attended via Zoom

Others Present: Sue Marzo, Information Officer
Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement
Jessica Rice, Library Director
Jay Erickson, Fire Dept
Stephen Pitoniak, Safety Officer
And other residents

1. Deputy Supervisor Distler called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn took the roll, Supervisor McConnell absent.
3. Pledge to our U. S. Flag was led by Councilor Marzo
4. Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of July 8, 2025

R-103-25 Councilor Loughlin moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to accept the July 8, 2025 Regular Town Board meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn. Motion carried 4- 0

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

5. BOARD ACTION

A. LaFayette Fire Dept District Formation Request - Attorney Jeff Brown explained that the Lafayette Fire District formation process is moving forward, with the next step being for the fire department to draft a petition and supporting documentation to convert from a fire protection district to a fire district controlled by commissioners. Once the draft petition and supporting documentation is received from the fire department it will be shared with the Town Board.

B. Resignation of Joint Planning & Zoning Board Member Richard Markoff

R-104-25 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to reluctantly accept the resignation of Joint Planning and Zoning Board Member Richard Markoff effective immediately. Motion carried 4-0.

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
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Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

C. LaFayette Community Council implementation of a non-resident fee - The Community Council proposed implementing a \$50 non-resident fee and a \$10 resident fee for athletic programs to offset costs, as they've seen an increase in non-resident children joining their teams. Councilor Loughlin explained that this fee is still lower than other programs which charge \$75-\$100, and it would help cover expenses like T-shirts while acknowledging that town taxpayers are already supporting these programs. Attorney Jeff Brown advised that it would be good practice for the Town Board to weigh in on this decision since Town funds are involved, even though the change would actually increase incoming funds.

R-105-25 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to accept the fee changes for non-residents participating in LCC activities as described above. Motion carried 4-0.

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

D. Replacement Benches outside Town Hall - Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn explained that for several years the benches outside of the building have been deteriorating and are currently dangerous. The clerk's presented options for replacing the deteriorating benches outside Town Hall, with prices ranging from \$800 to \$1,700 per bench plus shipping costs. The Town Board discussed various bench styles, with a preference for backless benches similar to the current ones, noting that Uline offers free shipping in September, which is why they are looking for approval now. The clerks have also reached out to accountant Jim Pompo to ensure that this expenditure is possible within this year's budget. The Board approved a motion to purchase benches not to exceed \$3,500, with Highway Superintendent Steve Robson helping with the installation.

R-106-25 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to approve the purchase of two new benches for the Town Hall at a cost of no more than \$3,500.00. Motion carried 4-0.

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

E. Library Letter for Construction Grant - Library director Jessica Rice explained that they are looking for a letter from the Town Board supporting them in their endeavor to obtain a grant for approximately \$170k to create an outdoor children's area and an outdoor platform for larger events (i.e. concerts). If approved the grant will cover 90% of the construction cost and the Library Trust will cover the remaining 10%,

R-107-25 Councilor Loughlin moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to support the library’s attempt to obtain a NYS grant for two construction projects and will issue a letter indicating such. Motion carried 4-0.

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

6. COMMUNICATONS FROM THE PUBLIC – 3 MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER –
- A resident spoke thanking the LCC program for all they do and expressed how they enjoy seeing all the “little laxer’s” and coaches playing at the Vinegar Hill Sports complex

7. REPORTS

A. Departmental

1. Town Supervisor - Town Accountant Jim Pompo reported via email that July was a relatively routine month. Some points of interest:

- The Highway Garage bond was paid in mid-July (\$187,550)
- I am continuing to keep after Karin @ NYSDOT for our second reimbursement for Clark Hollow. Her last email to me on 7/17 was:
Apologies for delayed response. We were waiting on a clarification from NYSDOT Main Office regarding format of Payment Request forms and just recently received confirmation.
I will be in touch early next week to clarify.
 I’ve followed up again (for the third time) and am awaiting response.
- Budget requests have been prepared and will be going out to department heads either tomorrow (8/8) or early next week.
- Progress against the 2025 budget continues to look good. I am monitoring a few accounts and will most likely need to make some adjustments in the coming months as the second half of the year progresses. For example, #A8160.4 is over budget currently. There are some fees to OCRAA posted to this account that were not budgeted for. We’d only budgeted for the payment to SOTS.
- NYCLASS interest earned for July was \$8,967, year to date is now up to \$63,638.

2. Attorney - Nothing further to report at this time.

3. Highway Superintendent’s Report is on file

4. Town Clerk Report for July 2025 in on file.

5. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement/SPDES - July 2025 Building Permit Report is on file in the clerk’s office.

6. Justice Court - July 2025 Justice Reports

Judge Perrin had 213 cases and turned over \$18,234.00 to the Town of LaFayette for July 2025.

Judge Shute had 146 cases and turned over \$8,203.00 to the Town of LaFayette for July 2025

7. Library Director -Written report is on file in the clerk’s office

8. LCC -Report is on file; Councilor Nate Loughlin spoke thanking the individuals who have stepped up as LCC board members. The new LCC board consists of: Chris

Baker, President; Crystal Compton, VP; Caitlin Lundy, Secretary; Katie Kautz, Treasurer and Hillary Bevens, Clerk.

9. LaFayette Fire / Ambulance Department - No report submitted by the Ambulance Dept. Fire Dept report is on file in the clerk's office - Jay Erickson of the LaFayette Fire Department advised that their budget request will be submitted by August 29, 2025

10. Safety Written Report is on file in the clerk's office

B. Committee Reports

1. LACC - written Report is on file

2. Community Development - Deputy Supervisor Distler reported on the completed stabilization work under a NYS grant at the end of July at the crossroads building, which was a \$490,000 project funded by state and county grants. The town will continue supporting the Morgans (new owners) by helping them access remaining grants totaling over \$2 million, though the Morgans are currently working through wastewater treatment design details with relevant authorities before beginning their portion of the work. It was clarified that while the Restore New York grant has a deadline by the end of next year, extensions may be possible if progress continues.

8. Executive Session - Not required at this time.

9. NEW BUSINESS - No New Business

10 Motion to audit & pay bills

R-108-25 Councilor Marzo moved and Councilor Loughlin seconded the motion to audit & pay bills. Motion carried 4 - 0

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

11. Motion to adjourn

R-109-25 Councilor Dwyer moved and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:09 pm. Motion carried 4-0

Melanie Palmer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jerry Marzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Carole Dwyer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Nate Loughlin	Councilor	Voted	Yes

The Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:09p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk