August 11, 2026 LaFayette Town Board Meeting Minutes

LaFayette Town Board Meeting held on August 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the LaFayette Town Hall, 2577 US Route 11 N, LaFayette, NY.

Present: William McConnell, Supervisor
Melanie Palmer, Town Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Town Councilor
Michele Pirro Bailey, Town Councilor

Absent: Councilor Nate Loughlin

Recording Secretary: Kristin Shute Colburn, Town Clerk

Town Attorney: Jeff Brown

Others Present: Ralph Lamson, Bldg. & Code Enforcement
Sue Marzo, Information Officer
Steve Robson, Highway Superintendent
Tracey Gray Rice, Library Board VP
John Lemondes, Assemblyman
Several other residents

1. Supervisor McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn took the roll; Councilor Loughlin was absent
3. Councilor Pirro Bailey led the pledge to the U.S. Flag.
4. Motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2026
   R-80-26 Councilor Palmer moved, and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to accept the July 14, 2026 regular Town Board meeting minutes as submitted by Town Clerk Kristin Shute Colburn. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

5. REMINDER THAT THE SEPTEMBER 8th TOWN BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE LAFAYETTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
6. BOARD ACTIONS
   A. Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update -
   The town board reviewed the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan update, which identifies and includes potential hazards and mitigation strategies for the town.

R-81-26 Councilor Marzo moved, and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to accept the updated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as submitted by Onondaga County. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

B. Eastern Security additional camera OR new security system review -
The board approved purchasing an additional security camera from Eastern Security Services for $1,493 to improve coverage in the back parking lot and hold off on updating the old system.

R-82-26 Supervisor McConnell moved, and Councilor Pirro Bailey seconded the motion to approve the additional camera to the rear parking lot and library entrance at a cost no greater than $1,493.00.

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

C. Syracuse Haulers Waste Removal Contract 3-year Renewal

R-83-26 Councilor Marzo moved, and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to approve the Syracuse Haulers Waste Removal, Inc. 3-year service agreement for trash pickup at the Town Hall, Stafford Park and the Toolon Field. Motion carried 4-0.

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

D. Climate Smart Communities Grant – This is a grant to implement projects focused on climate change, adaptation, greenhouse gas mitigation, and a subset of planning & assessment projects that are part of the Climate Smart Communities Certification program.

R-84-26 Supervisor McConnell moved, and Councilor Pirro Bailey seconded the motion to authorize Supervisor McConnell to send a letter in support of the Climate Smart Community Grant initiative.
Motion carried 4-0.

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

E. Cardiff Water District Operational Cost Jan-June 2026
Attorney Jeff Brown presented the operational costs for the Cardiff Water District, noting that $7,500 was spent from the Town of LaFayette and $12,419 from Tully. It was explained that OCWA, which took over the system in 2021 under a 10-year contract, has used approximately $300,000 of a $500,000 fund

from Honeywell, leaving about $35,000 for the final 5 years of the contract. The next steps discussed included meeting with OCWA, Tully, and the village of Tully regarding the water source and pricing, with B&L as the engineering team, and plans to break ground in about a year.

7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – 3-MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER
    - Assemblyman John Lemondes took a brief moment to inform the Town Board about some upcoming SAM Grants that will become available soon. He advised that there is (1) $150k, (2) $75k and (3) $50k. Information will be coming soon with a due date of October 1, 2026.
    - A resident inquired on 2 different topics: (1) How long would the implementation of the Cardiff Water System take? It was explained that it would be approximately 2 seasons, although they hope to have it done faster. (2) What is the ambulance schedule? It was explained that they work on a rotating schedule.
8. MONTHLY REPORTS –
    A. Town Supervisor – Report from Jim Pompo
    - Budget requests for 2027 have gone out to all department heads earlier this week. I've only received a few back so far.
    - The Town received its first installment of mortgage tax from the county, $36,962. The Town budgeted $70,000 for the year, so we're on track to be slightly higher than budget.
    - Attached is a budget transfer for approval. In 2025, a check was received from a Lacrosse club for field rental for $6,350. This was deposited into the town's accounts. It never should have been; the money should have been paid to the LCC. Earlier this year, the money was paid back to the LCC, and the expense was posted to the LCC's contractual expense account. Doing so reduced their remaining budget by $6,350. In order to restore their budget to where it should be, I am proposing a transfer of $6,350 from Unassigned Fund Balance to their expense line.

    Also included in the budget transfers is $3,000 from contingency to Attorney Contractual to fund ongoing Dish eviction proceedings. I would expect further budget transfers for this account in the coming months.

    - Everything looks good at this point, budget-wise, in the expense report. There are a few minor issues that will be addressed in the future, but nothing that requires adjustment at this point.
    - A submission has not been made to NYSDOT for Clark Hollow expense reimbursement. No invoices have been received for June or July yet (if any).

    1. Budget Modification:
        General Fund:
        a. Purpose: To increase LCC budget for payment of lacrosse field rental. Rental income of $6,350 was paid to the Town in 2025 in error and was repaid to LCC in 2026. This modification reduces fund balances by the $6,350 of income that should not have been recorded in 2025. The repayment to LCC was posted to Youth-

Contractual, which is being increased by $6,350 to restore its budget to the original amount before repaying the 2025 income.

To:	A7310.4	Youth Program-Contractual	$6,350.00
From:	A917	Unassigned Fund Balance	($)6,350.00)

b. Purpose: To increase the budget line for outside attorney expenses related to DISH eviction proceedings.

To:	A1420.4	Attorney Contractual	$3,000.00
From:	A1996.4	Contingency	($3,000.00)

R-85-26 Supervisor McConnell moved, and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to approve the above-referenced budget modifications. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

c. Supervisor McConnell also advised that Codes Officers Ralph Lamson and Nick Kirby will be acting safety officers, along with Jerry Marzo for our parks and Dave Prince and Tom Kurtz for the Highway Department.

R-86-26 Supervisor McConnell moved, and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to approve the above-referenced individuals to act as the Town Safety Officers for the specific locations as indicated above. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

d. Supervisor McConnell gave a brief update on the Hometown Hero Banners. He advised that they have been ordered and should be here in approximately 3 weeks. With the assistance of residents Doug Amidon, Rebecca Dupuis, and our Highway Department, the flags will be hung soon after they are received.

B. Attorney – Attorney Jeff Brown stated that he is continuing to work with the out-of-state attorney regarding the ongoing issues with DISH Network and the monies still due to the Town.

C. Highway Dept. – Roads: Miscellaneous general maintenance to our roads, mowing, shoulders, ditches, and culverts will continue throughout the summer. Surface treatments on Colton Rd, Markland Rd, Bella Vista Dr,

and Pioneer Rd should be completed by the 8/11/26 Town Board meeting, barring any weather delays. The Persse Rd & Ashburn Dr "Cross Culver Pipe Replacement" should be completed by late August. It has been almost a year since our last search for a potential "New Highway Employee" to fill a vacant position. The highway requirements will be posted on the Town webpage for approximately 2-3 months, seeking qualified applicants. Deputy Superintendent Skinner and I will also be reviewing past applicant applications.

D. Town Clerk – Monthly report is on file.

E. Building & Zoning Code Enforcement / SPDES – Monthly report is on file. Ralph Lamson also advised that 2 additional properties in Town need their lawns mowed; letters have been sent to advise of their non-conformity. He requests permission to contract out to have these lawns taken care of after the 7-day waiting period has lapsed. The properties are located at 2855 US Route 11 and 4151 Apulia Road.

R-87-26 Councilor Marzo moved, and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to authorize CEO Ralph Lamson to contract to have these non-conforming properties addressed by the Town after the allowed 7 days and add these costs to the property owner's tax bills. Motion carried 4 - 0.

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

F. Justice Court

Judge Perrin had 309 cases and turned over $14,667.00 to the Town of LaFayette for July 2026.

Judge Shute had 327 cases and turned over $14,109.00 to the Town of LaFayette for July 2026

G. LCC – Monthly report is on file

H. Library – Monthly report is on file. Library Board Vice President Tracy Gray r presented information about the successful summer story time program that served 9-15 children three days per week.

I. LaFayette Fire Dept – Monthly report is on file

J. LaFayette Ambulance Dept. – Monthly report is on file.

K. LACC – Monthly report is on file.

9. New Business – Councilor Marzo presented updates on various community improvement projects. He detailed completed work at Bailey Park, where Optimist members and volunteers installed a border and mulch with help from B&B Lumber and Doug Hoover, and added a new fountain in the town park powered by a 5-horsepower pump, with a bubbler to be installed soon, funded by an Onondaga County grant. This project was done by several Optimist members and by DJ Mahar of Fisk Electric. He also reported on the installation of dog exercise equipment at Stafford Park by Grant Gates for his Eagle Scout project and

improvements to drainage at the pavilion, with Optimist Steve Bort and former Optimist Rich Roorda leading those efforts

10. Motion of Audit & Pay Bills

R-88-26 Councilor Pirro Bailey moved, and Councilor Marzo seconded the motion to audit and pay bills. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

11. Motion to Adjourn

R-89-26 Supervisor McConnell moved, and Councilor Palmer seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:41 pm. Motion carried 4-0

William McConnell	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Melanie Palmer	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Jerry Marzo	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Michele Pirro Bailey	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shute Colburn
Town Clerk