

Town of Alfred
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 19, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge to the Flag. Board members present were: Supervisor Jesse Szalc, Brad Burdick, Josh McGraw, and Kathleen Benzaquin. Absent was Kate Rogers. Others present were Mayor Jim Ninos, Highway Superintendent Bob Halsey and Town Clerk Jan Burdick. Guest was Tim Cochran.

Guests: Tim Cochran, Chairman of the Planning Board. Mr. Cochran update the Board on the progress the Planning Board has made on revisions to the Solar Law. They have come up with some wording on 4 sections that could be changed.

- Battery storage and possible new systems. Increase percentage cost of decommissioning, and that Peter Stull is looking at other battery types that may be safer.
- Add dual use with agriculture similar to what Water Chestnut plans. (Sheep grazing)
- Soil and contamination of soil – need a baseline study to see if glass on the panels is damaged, is it leaking into the soil. It was noted, that if Shawn Grasby sees any damage, he requires the company to replace those panels before they can contaminate the soil.
- Add a section for cable to be buried with a 36” clearance above grade. 8’ separation of panel rows and a tracking system.
- Operator submit an annual report to the Town and use as a reminder of anything that might have changed.
- Fire Department – they aren’t overly concerned since they are getting training including ebike battery fires.
- Once they have completed their review, the recommendations will be sent to the Town Attorney for review. Hope to have it completed by the March meeting.

Kathy Benzaquin commented that this is in response to the Moratorium on Solar projects and Supervisor Szalc responded that the purpose of the Moratorium was to update the Solar Law. Once all amendments have been submitted to the Town Attorney, this will amend the current Solar Law. Then submit to County Planning Board, public hearing and then filed with the Department of State. Brad Burdick commented that it sounds like the Planning Board is coming right along on this and Mr. Cochran replied that they have been meeting weekly.

Mayor Jim Ninos – Comprehensive Plan Committee needs to start to organize and meet. Have to address primary goals and what do we want to accomplish after 5 years. Allegany County Planning Department will be helping. Mr. Ninos added that when applying for grants, they Ask if this project is in the Comprehensive Plan.

Police Report: Reviewed written report. Several accidents in January due to the weather. More people paying fines with new parking laws in the Village.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 8, 2026 meeting were moved for approval with a motion by Brad Burdick, seconded by Josh McGraw and carried 4-0.

Highway Report: Reviewed monthly report. Highway Superintendent Bob Halsey reported that they have been busy plowing and sanding and thawing frozen sluice pipes. Heaters in the shop are not working properly. Been difficult to find parts. Suggested at budget time consider budgeting for a new heating system. Equipment – transmission on the 2016 Ram went.

MACE: (Municipal Association of Code Enforcement). Reviewed report and 2025 Annual Summary of permits issued.

February 17, 2026

Dog Control: reviewed report. Picked up 2 dogs and returned to owners.

Monthly Report: All Town tax levy has been collected. Anything collected now is sent to Allegany County. A motion was made by Jesse Szalc to move \$170,000 from the DB Money Market to NY Class. Seconded by Brad Burdick and carried 4-0.

Correspondence: PILOT for Water Chestnut Solar project. NYMIR – inspection of town buildings March 12th at 11:00 am.

General Abstract #2-2026 Vouchers #12-26 in the amount of \$6733.65 in the General A Fund; Voucher #3 in the amount of \$3710.66 in the B Fund, #2 in the SF Fund in the amount of \$4083.33. These were approved with a motion by Brad Burdick, seconded by Kathleen Benzaquin and carried 4-0. Supervisor Szalc commented that he had seen where other Towns had passed a resolution to hold NYSEG accountable for the increase in bills. Would like Town to sign on to this. Will do more research to find the resolution.

Solar Abstract #2 – Vouchers #1-2 in the amount of \$3822.50 were moved for approval by Jesse Szalc, seconded by Josh McGraw and carried 4-0.

Highway Abstract #2-2026 Vouchers #10-24 in the DA Fund in the amount of \$34500.00 were approved with a motion by Kathleen Benzaquin, seconded by Josh McGraw and carried 4-0.

Supervisor's Report: Proposed Local Laws: The following proposed Local Laws were introduced for review and scheduling of a public hearing March 12th:

- Local Law #1-2026 – A Local Law to impose a 12-month Moratorium on the Issuance of Land Use Approvals and Building Permits for Data Centers. Kathy Benzaquin commented that the Governor is concerned about these and may place a 3-year moratorium statewide. Jim Ninos commented that they are trying to take advantage of smaller areas and they do consume a huge amount of water.
- Local Law #3-2026 A Local Law to Increase the Term of Office of the Town Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years.
- Local Law #2-2026 – A Local Law for Regulation of Highways During Logging Operations.
- Kate Rogers attended the Village Board meeting. Supervisor Szalc stated that when a Town Board member attends the Village meeting, if there is something going on in the Town that affects the Village, they should share that with them.

New Business: Kathy Benzaquin expressed concern that waste pits were going on in the County. Jesse Szalc commented that if there is one, it has to be reported to the NYSDEC and not aware of any illegal ones in the County. The Town of Belfast is passing a Moratorium on them. Supervisor Szalc added that Tom Windus, Allegany County Department of Public Works Department head, informed him that DEC is on top of it.

Bus Stops: Ms. Benzaquin asked if it was ok for her to look into this further and see where it stands? Jim Ninos commented that the original plan was to put one at Tinkertown Hardware and one at Dollar General on State Rt. 244. Jesse Szalc added that when the sidewalks were discussed, the residents were against it. May be ok with the bus stops. The project now has the sidewalk stopping at the Village line.

Ms. Benzaquin reported that she sat in on a ZOOM meeting with the Association of Towns and is trying to find money for the Highway building.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:28 by Brad Burdick, seconded by Kathleen Benzaquin and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice L. Burdick, Town Clerk