

Town of Alfred
Public Hearing – Local Laws #1, 2, and 3 -2026.
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 12, 2026

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:00 pm. Board members present were: Supervisor Jesse Szalc, Brad Burdick, Josh McGraw, Kathleen Benzaquin, and Kate Rogers. Guests were Tim Cochran, Dawn Wildrick-Cole and Mark Bloxsom. Others present were Highway Superintendent Bob Halsey and Town Clerk Jan Burdick.

Supervisor Szalc reviewed the three local laws to be addressed. 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.

Local Law #2-2026 – A Local Law for Regulation of Highways During Logging Operations
Local Law #3-2026 A Local Law to Increase the Term of Office of the Town Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years.

Mark Bloxsom asked if there has been any concern or active Data Centers in Alfred and was told no but interest has been shown in a surrounding Town. Since there was no further public comment on these Local Laws the Public Hearing was closed at 7:05 pm with a motion by Brad Burdick, seconded by Kathleen Benzaquin and carried 5-0.

The monthly meeting of the Town Board was opened at 7:05 with the Pledge to the Flag. Board members present were: Supervisor Jesse Szalc, Brad Burdick, Josh McGraw, Kathleen Benzaquin, and Kate Rogers. Guests were Tim Cochran, Dawn Wildrick-Cole and Mark Bloxsom. Others present were Highway Superintendent Bob Halsey and Town Clerk Jan Burdick.

Approval of Local Laws: A motion was made by Kathleen Benzaquin to adopt 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, contingent on any recommendations from the Allegany County Planning Board, seconded by Kate Rogers and carried 5-0.

Local Law #2-2026 – A Local Law for Regulation of Highways During Logging Operations was adopted with a motion by Brad Burdick, seconded by Jesse Szalc and carried 5-0.

Local Law #3-2026 A Local Law to Increase the Term of Office of the Town Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years was adopted with a motion by Jesse Szalc, seconded by Josh McGraw and carried 5-0. This will be sent to the Board of Elections to be placed on the ballot in November.

Guests: Dawn Wildrick-Cole was present to introduce herself and explained that she is running for County Judge. She is currently the Court Clerk for Judge Brown.

Mark Bloxsom - Professor at Alfred State College and running for School board.

Tim Cochran, Chairman of the Planning Board. Mr. Cochran reported that the clock is ticking on the Solar Moratorium. The Planning Board has come up with some proposals to amend the Solar Law. What they are looking at won't prevent future solar projects but make them think more about it. Mr. Cochran has been in touch with Town Attorney Dwight Kanyuck for his advice. Want to encourage the dual use and putting in some provisions for that. Limited on what you can do with anything over a Tier 3 due to those being regulated by ORES. Not sure you can say they have to use as dual use. One section addresses what the intent of this is and enhancing the ag. use. The wording would bring this to the forefront. Jesse Szalc added that Northland did meet with the fire department in regards to the width of the road. Questioned if a dual use is used, should something be put in the amendment in regards to road width. Mr. Cochran added that the Town has a Solar Law, purpose of this is to amend it and preserve green space and possibly avoid contamination of the soil. Town Attorney Kanyuck advised

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them, that suppose the soil is tested and shows contamination of the soil. Solar isn't going to take responsibility. Mr. Cochran added problem is if a panel is damaged, Solar Codes Inspector needs to be on top of that. Inspector should probably check the panels after a hail storm, etc. Battery storage – concern with lithium and fires. Wanted to put something that may discourage use of lithium, there are some newer systems that don't include lithium. May want to increase the bond if using lithium. Right now, Northland is planning on using lithium batteries. Kathy Benzaquin asked if the current projects are grandfathered and was told yes. Mr. Cochran added that they will send what they have done to Dwight Kanyuck. Supervisor Szalc thanked Mr. Cochran and the Planning Board for all the work they have done on this.

Police Report: Reviewed written report. Reported they have had 7 DWI and 90 traffic tickets in February. Preparing for Hot Dog Day. Nominated by NYSMADD (New York State Mothers Against Drunk Driving) for Police Department of the Year award.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 17, 2026 meeting were moved for approval with a motion by Kate Rogers, seconded by Brad Burdick and carried 5-0.

Highway Report: Reviewed monthly report. Highway Superintendent Bob Halsey reported that the new truck chassis is done. Will have to pay \$169,000 within 60 days so will appear on the April vouchers.

MACE: (Municipal Association of Code Enforcement). Reviewed report. They need to be contacted in regards to the dead trees at Alfred University Saxon field. Shawn Grasby needs to be contacted in regards to the dead trees at the Delaware River Solar project.

Dog Control: Supervisor Szalc received a call from Town of Almond Supervisor regarding the kennel in Almond. Their Dog Control Officer is resigning and they aren't sure what they are going to do. The kennel did pass the last inspection.

Monthly Report: All ok.

Correspondence: Report from NYS Ag and Markets stating that the Kennel passed.

General Abstract #3-2026 Vouchers #27-38 in the amount of \$4461.10 in the General A Fund; Voucher #4 in the amount of \$3710.66 in the B Fund, #3 in the SF Fund in the amount of \$4083.33. These were approved with a motion by Jesse Szalc, seconded by Josh McGraw and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #3-2026 Vouchers #24-38 in the DA Fund in the amount of \$80168.37, Voucher #1-2026 in the DB fund in the amount of \$1200.00 were approved with a motion by Brad Burdick, seconded by Kathleen Benzaquin and carried 5-0. This includes the truck payment. Brad Burdick asked what the status is on the closing of the land and was told that the Town Attorney reported that it is very close.

Supervisor's Report: No Village meeting this month due to not having a quorum. NYMIR building inspection was conducted today and all was ok.

New Business: Kathy Benzaquin asked if something could be put in the *Alfred Sun* and was told if she wanted to write something that would be fine.

Grievance Day is May 28th.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:11 pm by Brad Burdick, seconded by Josh McGraw and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Burdick, Town Clerk