

Town of Alfred
PUBLIC HEARING
Regular Monthly Meeting
July 9, 2026

The Public Hearing on Local Law #5-2026 for a Moratorium on Large Battery Energy Storage Systems was opened at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag. All Board members were present along with Town Clerk Janice Burdick. Guests included Scott Torrey of Allegany County Soil and Water and Mayor Jim Ninos. Mr. Ninos commented that the Allegany County Planning Board had Local Laws presented to them for the same issue from several other Towns. Being there no further comments the Public the hearing was closed at 7:02 pm with a motion by Jesse Szalc, seconded by Josh McGraw and carried 5-0.

The monthly meeting of the Town Board was opened at 7:03. Board members present were: Supervisor Jesse Szalc, Brad Burdick, Kathleen Benzaquin, Kate Rogers, and Josh McGraw.

Guests included Scott Torrey of Allegany County Soil and Water and Mayor Jim Ninos along with Town Clerk Jan Burdick.

Approval of Local Law #5 – 2026 – A motion was made by Jesse Szalc to approve Local Law #5-2026 contingent on any comments from the Allegany County Planning Board, seconded by Brad Burdick and carried 5-0.

Guests: Scott Torrey was present to discuss the possibility of a grant for a new salt storage building. Mr. Torrey met with Kathleen Benzaquin and Bob Halsey. Mr. Halsey obtained a quote of \$262,000 for a new building. Mr. Torey presented a budget for a grant but stated that it would probably be two years before a grant could be approved. The State would cover 80% of the cost with the Town paying 20% or about \$65,000.00. Mr. Torrey explained that the grant is a reimbursement so the Town would have to pay upfront and then get reimbursed. Mr. Torrey stated that some Town's either borrow the money or bond it. Site work done by the Town could be considered in kind along with paving. Brad Burdick asked if this is going to be ongoing by the State and Mr. Torrey stated that the contract is a 5- year contract so the grant would be available in the future. Would not be a Tier 1 since the Town already has a salt storage building, Kathleen Benzaquin commented that the Town would have to think about whether they could do this financially. If start process and they say not a priority, at least the process has been started. The cost does not include tearing down the current building. The Town would have to bid the building. It would have a fabric roof and Brad Burdick stated he is not real wild about and asked what the life expectancy is for the fabric. Mr. Torrey stated that the warranty is 15 years and fabric is a little cheaper than wood. Also, prevailing wages would have to be paid. Other comments were: How much would the fabric cost to replace? Application has to be submitted by July 31st. A motion was made by Kathleen Benzaquin to have Mr. Torrey submit a grant for a Salt Storage Building for the Town, seconded by Kate Rogers and carried 5-0.

Police Report: Reviewed the written report. Noted more ATV and UTV activity and increase in calls for Mental Health incidences. Collaborating with State and County Agencies to address illegal sale of cannabis. Kate Rogers asked what training the Police officers have for mental health and was told they have training and established policies.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 2026 were moved for approval with a motion by Kathleen Benzaquin, seconded by Brad Burdick and carried 5-0.

Highway Report: Reviewed monthly report. Have been mowing and weed eating around bridges. Helped Town of Wellsville and Town of Andover. Waiting to work on dirt roads until Brine is available due to new regulations. May have to mix salt and water and make our own. Kate Rogers asked why the Town uses Brine. Jesses Szalc explained that it is used for dust

control on dirt roads and hardens the road to cut down on dust, fair amount of benefits to using it.

MACE: (Municipal Association of Code Enforcement). Reviewed report.

Correspondence: Allegany County Planning Board approval of Local Law #4- 2026.

Monthly Report was reviewed. Bank statements were also reviewed and approved with a motion by Jesse Szalc, seconded by Kate Rogers and carried 5-0.

General Abstract #7-2026 Vouchers #72-80 in the amount of \$6468.90 in the General A Fund; Voucher #10-11 in the amount of \$7337.66 in the B Fund, #7 in the SF Fund in the amount of \$4083.33. These were approved with a motion by Jesse Szalc, seconded by Brad Burdick and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #7-2026 Vouchers #72-84 in the DA Fund in the amount of \$6919.22 Vouchers #19-24 in the DB Fund in the amount of \$10704.81 were approved with a motion by Kathleen Benzaquin, seconded by Brad Burdick and carried 5-0.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Szalc reported that he spoke with Tim Cochran, Chairman of the Planning Board, and informed him about the Moratorium on the Battery Energy Storage Systems and he is good with that. Mr. Cochran is out of Town but when he returns the Planning Board will work on laws that will be as restrictive as possible to protect the Town in regards to Data Centers and Battery storage.

Received a call from Chief of Police Josh VanSkiver related to clarification of the contract with the Hornell Humane Society and if we are enforcing licensing of dogs. Jesse Szalc responded that is a dog is picked up, it must be licensed before the owner can get it back. Chief VanSkiver informed Mr. Szalc that the 1st time he called they said yes, they would pick the dog up but the 2nd time, told him no. Supervisor Szalc told the Chief if that happens again to call him with the date and time and he will contact the Humane Society.

Problem with large pothole on Kenyon Road created by contractors working on Alfred University Sports Complex. Now the shoulders are being broken up by cars trying to avoid the pothole. AU just wants to patch it and Highway Superintendent Halsey told them no, it has to be fixed right and that is in the Special Use Permit.

Town Clerk – reviewed written report. Noted that the only way to enforce dog licenses would be to do a dog census.

Other Business: Mayor Jim Ninos stated that the Town and Village Court have kind of separated since they each now have their own Court Clerk. Feels the Town Court should have a separate phone line. Josh McGraw will look into getting a separate line with Callcentric.

Village Meetings: August – Kate Rogers. September- Kathleen Benzaquin. October – Brad Burdick. November – Josh McGraw. December – Jess Szalc.

Budget Meeting with BBS – tentatively schedule for Thursday, September 17th 8:00 am.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:24 pm by Kate Rogers seconded by Kathleen Benzaquin and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Burdick
Town Clerk