

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

The Town Board of the Town of Newfane, Niagara County, New York, met at the Town Hall, 2737 Main Street, Newfane, New York, on February 25, 2026.

The following Board Members were present:

- Supervisor: John Syracuse
- Councilwoman: Jessica Reinhardt
- Councilman: Peter Robinson
- Councilman Horanburg: Absent
- Councilman Conrad: Absent

Others present: Cory Weber, Attorney for the Town, David Schmidt, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Nick Irr, Chief Wastewater Plant Operator, JoAnn Harig, Assessor, Jeffrey Newman, Chief Dog Control Officer/Constable, Joseph Flagler, Assistant Dog Control Officer/Constable, Mary Zeller, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, and 3 residents.

The Supervisor opened the Public Hearing at 6:50 p.m. by welcoming everyone and introducing the purpose of the public hearing was to consider the adoption of a Resolution to adopt a proposed Local Law enacting a Temporary Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities. The Supervisor read the Notice of Public Hearing which was published in the Union Sun & Journal on February 13, 2026, as evidenced by the Affidavit of Publication provided by the Town Clerk as follows: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Newfane will hold a public hearing on February 25, 2026, at 6:45 p.m., at the Town Hall, 2737 Main Street, Newfane, New York, to hear and consider a proposed local law entitled: "2026 Temporary Moratorium Law on Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities." The proposed local law would enact a temporary moratorium on the acceptance, processing, consideration, or approval of any application, permit, site plan, special exception use permit, variance, building permit, or other approval relating to the construction, installation, or expansion of any Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility within the Town of Newfane, in order to allow the Town Board additional time to evaluate land use, public safety, emergency response, and regulatory considerations associated with such facilities. All parties of interest and citizens will be heard at the public hearing to be held as aforesaid. BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF NEWFANE

The Supervisor opened the floor and invited anyone wishing to speak to come forward to the lectern. We ask that you simply state your name and address for the record please. No one came forward. The Supervisor again asked if anyone was wishing to speak regarding the proposed Resolution and Local Law. There was no one.

The Supervisor Closed the Public Hearing at 6:53 P.M.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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PRAYER & PLEDGE

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A prayer was read by the Town Clerk and the Pledge to the flag was given. The Supervisor asked everyone to remain standing for a moment in recognition of the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson. He and Pete Robinson had been talking about Reverend Jackson and offered Pete to say a few words. This is a loss of a pioneer who stood with Dr. Martin Luther King, a Civil Rights Movement Activist, and the strides he made in giving

everyone a fair chance. I hope we will celebrate that and honor the sacrifices he made toward that cause. The Supervisor thanked everyone and turned it over to the Town Clerk

FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK

Tourism Committee Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2026
Town Clerk Monthly Report to the Supervisor for January, 2026

APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Town Clerk requested the Town Board to consider the approval of the January 28, 2026 Town Board Meeting. The Supervisor asked for a MOTION to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2026, Town Board Meeting. Moved by Councilwoman Reinhardt, second by Councilman Robinson on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.
All present voted Aye. Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

TOWN/JUSTICE COURT/2025 ANNUAL AUDIT OF RECORDS

The Town Clerk read a letter to the Town Board regarding the Justice Court Audit which was conducted by Councilman Peter Robinson and Councilman Robert Horanburg as follows: Supervisor Syracuse and Town Board Members. On February 12, 2026, we reviewed the 2025 Financial Records of Judge Bruce Barnes and Judge Scott Boudeman of the Town of Newfane Justice Court. During this audit we found all records to be orderly and correct. All deposits and anything dispersed were made in a timely and efficient manner. All records were complete, neat and orderly. The Town Clerk requested approval of the Audit and approval to send the required documentation to the NYS Unified Court System, Director of Internal Audit Services. The Supervisor entertained a MOTION to approve the Audit and to send the required documentation as requested. Motion moved by Councilwoman Reinhardt, second by Councilman Robinson on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.
All present voted Aye. Motion Carried

TOWN/WATER/SEWER/ REFUND WATER OVERPAYMENT 6157 GODFREY ROAD

The Town Clerk read a communication from Cailynn Feeley, Water Clerk as follows: The property at 6167 Godfrey Rd. was mistakenly finalized on paper due to miscommunication of the property address that had been sold. A final bill was issued for the property and was paid by S.A.W. Commission Cutters Realty. The Water Department is requesting the Town of Newfane refund S.A.W. Commission Cutters in the amount of \$91.80 for the payment that was made to the finalized account. The correct account that has been finalized is 6157 Godfrey Rd. Please make check payable to: S.A.W. Commission Cutters in the amount of \$91.80. The Supervisor entertained a MOTION to refund the payment in the amount of \$91.80 to S.A.W. Commission Cutters for the water bill. Motion made by Councilwoman Reinhardt, second by Councilman Robinson on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.
All present voted Aye. Motion Carried

TOWN/WWTP/REQUEST SEIB WWTP PLANT OPERATION CERTIFICATION

The Town Clerk read a request from Nicholas A. Irr, Chief Operator of the Wastewater Treatment Plant as follows: I hereby request permission to send Jason Seib to the New York Rural Water Association Technical Training Workshop in Verona, NY, May 18th – 20th. Total cost is not to exceed \$1,700.00. This training provides credits required to maintain his Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification. Thank you. The supervisor entertained a MOTION to approve the request. Motion moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Reinhardt on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.
All present voted Aye. Motion Carried

TOWN/CLERK/2026 MOBILE HOME PARK LICENSES

The Town Clerk presented the required paperwork to the Board for the four (4) following Mobile Home Parks. Newfane Country Estates, Parkerwood Properties, Donald and Judith Braun and Susan Wolcott that, is needed to issue the Mobile Home Park License for 2026. All being in order she requested approval to issue those four (4) Licenses. The Supervisor entertained a MOTION to issue the 2026 Licenses. Motion moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Reinhardt on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.
All present voted Aye. Motion Carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Nick Irr, advised that the plant is doing well. There is compost available. The new equipment is running well, very thankful for that and the contractors are slowly coming back. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector, David Schmidt, advised the Board that he issued 5 permits and believes the terrible weather conditions have had a lot to do with that. He had one Planning Board Application for this month, there was nothing for Zoning Board. He prepared the Annual Report for 2025 to the State that needs to be completed and submitted that. He has met with Cory Weber, Attorney for the Town, regarding clarifying some of the ordinances in place that we are working on. We had one fire in Town unfortunately, as you all are aware of. He received a few calls from residents regarding the solar solicitors going door to door which he took care of. Shari, the new Part-time Clerk that was recently hired, is doing very well. With her assistance he has been able to get through a lot of older Permits that needed to be taken care of, and she is definitely helping him get things a bit more organized. He has spoken with some of the owners of vacant houses and is hoping that as soon as the weather breaks, they will start taking care of getting things done. He is presently working on a checklist with Wendel for the Solar Project Permits that should be coming soon. Lastly, he will be out of Town from March 9th through the 11th for his yearly educational conference in Henrietta, NY. JoAnn Harig, Assessor reported the following February 2026 town updates. Taxable Status date of March 1st is quickly approaching. Because the 1st falls on a Sunday, we will be accepting exemptions up until Monday, March 2nd. Low-income senior, Low-income disability, Veteran’s exemptions and Agricultural exemptions. In coordination with David, Shari in our office has been reviewing and updating building permits.

Legislative Update: On February 13, Governor Hochul signed two bills into law that directly impact real property tax exemptions. The first (S.8782/A.9458) establishes a real property tax exemption for widows and widowers of police officers killed in the line of duty. The second (S.8803/A.9448) relates to the veterans 100% service-connected disability exemption. A couple of key points: The local option has been removed. The exemption is now mandatory statewide. The effective date of the legislation is October 1, 2026. The exemption will be applicable to the 2027 assessment roll for eligible recipients. The qualification requirements remain unchanged. Chief Dog Control Officer/Constable Jeffrey Newman reported that in early February they assisted the NCSPCA with removing all kinds of animals on Dale Road. The NCSPCA helps us when in need so we do our best to help them when they need our assistance. We received a call from the Post Office regarding a carrier that was blocked in on a porch by a loose dog on Grace Avenue, we responded to find the owner of the dog already grabbed it and it was safely in the house. When we are out on patrol we stop at the various sports programs at the schools and we also were out looking for the solicitors. If people call and we can locate them they will receive a ticket.

NEW BUSINESS

-None-

PAY BILLS

The Supervisor entertained a MOTION to approve the payment of claims totaling \$856,500.44, bills paid in February, 2026, Vouchers #40406-40623, as audited by the Supervisor and Department Heads and as per Abstract Sheets dated 02/25/2026 which will be filed with the official record.

General Fund	\$ 229,102.05
Highway Fund	\$ 252,467.44
Water Fund	\$ 160,079.83
Sewer Fund	\$ 95,824.45
Lighting District	\$ 9,195.73
Refuse District	\$ 71,110.57
Fire Prevention District	\$ 9,306.88
Trust & Agency	\$ 6,154.89
Capital Projects	\$ <u>23,258.60</u>

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

REGULAR BOARD MEETING cont.

TOTAL APPROVED \$ 856,500.44

Motion moved by Councilwoman Reinhardt, second by Councilman Robinson. All were in favor, no one was opposed.

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-None-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

- Next Work Session is Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Next Town Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

7:20 P.M. The Supervisor entertained a MOTION to enter into Executive Session to hold discussions related to proposed pending or current litigation. Moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilman Reinhardt. All were in favor, no one was opposed.

Motion Carried

7:42 p.m. The Supervisor declared the Executive Session Closed. No action was taken.

7:43 p.m. The Supervisor re-opened the Regular Town Board Meeting

ADJOURN

The Supervisor entertained a MOTION to adjourn. Moved by Councilwoman Reinhardt, second by Councilman Robinson. All were in favor, no one was opposed.

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna M. Lakes
Town Clerk