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TOWN OF NEWFANE

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Newfane, New York 14108

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OCTOBER 9, 2025

TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION

The Town Board of the Town of Newfane, Niagara County, New York, met at the Town Hall, 2737 Main Street, Newfane, New York, on October 9, 2025.

The following Board Members were present:

Supervisor: John Syracuse
Councilwoman: Susan Neidlinger
Councilman: Peter Robinson
Absent: Richard Coleman
Absent: Robert Horanburg

Others present: James J. Sansone Town Attorney, David Schmidt, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Mary Zeller, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor and 3 residents.

CALL TO ORDER

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

The Supervisor requested a MOTION to approve the Meeting Minutes of the September 11, 2025 Town Board Work Session. Moved by Councilwoman Neidlinger, second by Councilman Robinson on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.

All present voted Aye

Motion Carried

2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Supervisor confirmed that he presented the 2026 Town of Newfane Tentative Budget to the Town Clerk on September 29, 2026, and simultaneously provided digital copies to the Town Council Members as well. The Town Clerk verified for the record that she prepared a Certification stating that she received and filed the Tentative Budget on September 29, 2025, and further certified that digital copies were provided to all Councilmembers. The Supervisor provided the Board with an extensive explanation of the increases and the impacts that those are having on the current Budget. This included items such as water, sewer, refuse, etc. The 2026 Budget exceeds the 2% tax cap by the amount of \$143,000.00 due to the Capital Improvement Project at the Wastewater Treatment

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TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION cont.

Plant. The Supervisor asked the Board Members if there were any questions or anything that we should open up for discussion. There were no questions. The Supervisor asked if anyone in the audience had any questions that they would like to discuss. There were no questions.

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/RESOLUTION #32-2025/SALARY FOR ASSESSOR/HOURLY RATE FOR CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO SUPERVISOR

The Supervisor brought forward RESOLUTION #32-2025A RESOLUTION SETTING THE 2026 SALARY FOR THE TOWN OF NEWFANE ASSESSOR AND THE HOURLY COMPENSATION FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Newfane has appointed a new Town Assessor effective 10/01/2025; and WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the need to adjust the annual salary of the Town Assessor from Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in order to fairly compensate said position; and WHEREAS, the Town Board further recognizes the need to adjust the hourly rate of pay for the Confidential Secretary to the Town Supervisor from Twenty-Four Dollars and Ninety-Eight Cents (\$24.98) per hour to Twenty-Six Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents (\$26.73) per hour; and WHEREAS, these adjustments are to be reflected in the 2026 Town of Newfane Budget; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Newfane, Niagara County, New York, that the 2026 Town of Newfane Budget reflect the following: 1. The salary for the Town Assessor is increased from \$45,000.00 annually to \$50,000.00 annually. 2. The hourly rate of pay for the Confidential Secretary to the Town Supervisor is increased from \$24.98/hour to \$26.73/hour. This resolution shall take effect 01/01/26. The Supervisor also advised that, for transparency, the Budget includes a three (3%) percent wage increase for all employees. We are asking to change the annual salary for the Assessor from \$45,000.00 annually to \$50,000.00 along with the hourly rate for Mary Zeller an additional \$1.00 more on top of the three (3%) percent than the rest of the employees. The Supervisor requested a MOTION to approve the Resolution. Moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Neidlinger on the question. Hearing no questions, the Supervisor requested a Roll call vote.

Councilwoman Neidlinger: Aye
Councilman Robinson: Aye
Supervisor Syracuse: Aye
Councilman Coleman: Absent
Councilman Horanburg: Absent

Aye: 3 Nay: 2

Motion Carried

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/PRESENT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVER-RIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR 2026

The Supervisor presented the Board a proposed Law as follows: LOCAL LAW NO. 3 TO OVER-RIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal law Sec 3-c. Section 1: Legislative Intent, It is the intent of this local law to allow the Town of Newfane to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal law Sec 3-c. Section 2: Authority. This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of the General Municipal law Sec 3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body. Section 3: Tax Levy limit

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TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION cont.

Override. The Town Board of the Town of Newfane, County of Niagara , is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law Sec 3-c.

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO SET LOCAL LAW TO OVER-RIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT AND PRESENT THE BUDGET FOR 2026

The Supervisor put forth a MOTION to set the date for the Public Hearing for October 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. held at the Town Hall of the Town of Newfane, 2737 Main Street, Newfane, New York, to;

1. To consider the adoption of Local Law # 3, to over-ride the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c commencing January 1, 2026.
2. To hear any person in favor of or against the preliminary budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026.
3. Pursuant to §108 of the Town Law, the proposed 2026 salaries of the following public officials, as follows: Council Members (4) \$7,532.00 each, Town Supervisor \$51,656.00, Town Clerk \$ 49,374.00, Receiver of Taxes \$ 10,656.00, Town Highway Superintendent \$85,000.00, Town Justices (2) \$27,016.00.
4. To review the amounts to be raised by taxation in Special Districts, as follows: Newfane Water District \$ 351,664.00, Newfane Sewer District \$ 901,562.00, Newfane Light District \$ 85,000.00, Newfane Refuse District \$ 909,130.00 , Newfane Fire District \$ 1,047,604.00.

Moved by Councilwoman Neidlinger, second by Councilman Robinson on the question. Hearing no questions, the Supervisor requested a Roll call vote.

Councilwoman Neidlinger: Aye
Councilman Robinson: Aye
Supervisor Syracuse: Aye
Councilman Coleman: Absent
Councilman Horanburg: Absent
Aye: 3 Nay: 2

Motion Carried

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/RESOLUTION #33-2025/GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Supervisor put forth the following as follows: RESOLUTION #33-2025 a RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEWFANE AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION FOR NEW YORK STATE'S NY FORWARD PROGRAM AND APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE NY FORWARD COMMITTEE; WHEREAS, the Town of Newfane recognizes the importance of securing external funding opportunities to support community and economic development initiatives; and WHEREAS, the New York State NY Forward Program provides significant resources to revitalize downtowns and enhance the long-term vitality of New York's small towns and villages; and WHEREAS, the Town of Newfane desires to apply for funding under the NY Forward Program to advance local priorities and improve the quality of life for its residents; and WHEREAS, the Town Board has retained a Grant Writing Consultant to assist with the preparation and submission of competitive grant applications on behalf of the Town; and WHEREAS, the Town Board further recognizes the need for a dedicated NY Forward Committee to guide the application process, provide local input, and ensure broad community engagement; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Newfane hereby authorizes the Town's Grant Writing Consultant to prepare and submit an application on behalf of the Town of Newfane for New York State's NY Forward Program; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby establishes the NY Forward Committee and appoints the following members to serve: Melinda Bower. Gina Guido-Redden, Jessica Reinhardt, Jane Voelpel,

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TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION cont.

William Clark and Michael Kearns. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board expresses its full support of this application and authorizes the Supervisor to execute all necessary documents in furtherance of the NY Forward Program application process. The Supervisor put forth a MOTION to approve the Resolution. Moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Neidlinger on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.

All present voted Aye

Motion Carried

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/RESOLUTION #34-2025/ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

The Supervisor put forth RESOLUTION #34-2025 a RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF NEWFANE, NEW YORK as follows: WHEREAS, the Town of Newfane has adopted the New York State Climate Smart Communities (CSC) pledge to promote energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support sustainable community practices; and WHEREAS, the establishment of a Climate Smart Communities Task Force is a key component of the program, serving as an advisory committee to the Town Board in the implementation of the CSC pledge; and WHEREAS the Town Board recognizes the importance of community engagement and collaboration in achieving the goals of the Climate Smart Communities program; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Newfane hereby establishes the Climate Smart Communities Task Force Committee; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby appointed to serve on said committee: Councilman Robert Horanburg, Coordinator, resident and electrician with NYPA, Jeremy Irwin, Member, resident, electrician and member of Town Zoning Board of Appeals and Sarah B. Whorley, Ph.D, Member, resident, Associate Professor of Biology Daemen University. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Climate Smart Communities Task Force shall work in partnership with the Town Board, local agencies, and community stakeholders to advance the Town's sustainability goals, track progress under the CSC program, and make recommendations regarding policies and initiatives that will further the Town of Newfane's commitment to environmental stewardship. The Supervisor put forth a MOTION to approve the Resolution. Moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Neidlinger on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.

All present voted Aye

Motion Carried

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/MARINA/SEASONAL EMPLOYEES FOR 2025 FOR FISHERMAN'S PARK

The Supervisor put forth a request from Nick Glosser, Facilities Director, to hire the following employees for the 2025 season at the Fisherman's Park as follows: Amanda Higgins, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Isabella Human, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Kevin Noon, \$15.50, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Joe Stein, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Jeff Hill, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Donald David, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Skylar Renz, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Ashley Glosser, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Cassidy Geise, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; Ethan Bronschidle, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025; and Kevin Baker, \$15.50 per hour, 10/01/2025 to 11/28/2025. The Supervisor put forth a MOTION to approve the request. Moved by

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TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION cont.

Councilwoman Neidlinger, 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/SUPERVISOR/FISHERMAN'S PARK FEES

The Supervisor put forth a MOTION to the Board to establish the 2025 fees for the Fisherman's Park as follows: \$3.00 for entry fee; \$1.00 per person for the Kubota ride with an additional \$1.00 per fish. This season typically runs from October 1st to December 1st, depending on the fall salmon season run. All of these fees typically go to enhancing all the fisheries at the park. Moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Neidlinger on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.

All present voted Aye

Motion Carried

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/AUTHORIZE SIGNING OF CONTRACT WITH RELCOM

The Supervisor asked the Board to authorize him to sign the 2025-2026 Contract with Relcom who provides the support for our telephone services. Moved by Councilwoman Neidlinger, 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/SUPERVISOR/SET HOURS FOR TRICK OR TREATING IN THE TOWN OF NEWFANE

The Supervisor requested approval from the Board to set the Halloween Trick or Treating Hours for Thursday, October 31, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Moved by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Neidlinger on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.

All present voted Aye

Motion Carried

TOWN/SUPERVISOR/SET MEETING DATES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

The Supervisor requested a MOTION for the Board to consider the following dates for the November and December Town Board Work Sessions as well as the Town Board Meetings as follows:

- Thursday November 13, 2025, WORK SESSION @ **6pm** – just a time change
- **TUESDAY** November 25, 2025, BOARD MEETING @ **6pm** – **day and time change**
- Thursday, December 11, 2025, WORK SESSION @ **6pm** – just a time change
- **TUESDAY**, December 30, 2025, BOARD MEETING @ **6pm** - **day and time change**

Moved by Councilwoman Neidlinger, 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/SUPERVISOR/UPDATE ON M&T T-BILL INVESTMENT/MARINA TALLY REVENUE

The Supervisor advised the Board that as of the end of September, 2025 the Marina Revenue is \$124,911.12 and the current revenue for the Treasury Bill (T-Bill Investment) is approximately \$25,500.00. The Supervisor requested approval by MOTION of the reporting on the M&T Treasury

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TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION cont.

Bill (T-Bill) Investment and the Marina Revenue. Moved by Councilwoman Neidlinger, 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/SUPERVISOR/APPROVE STIPEND FOR TOWN CLERK WORK SESSIONS

The Supervisor advised the Board that moving forward it will be necessary for the Town Clerk to attend the Town Board Work Sessions. This is an additional duty and was not taken into consideration when establishing her salary. The Supervisor requested a MOTION for her to receive the same stipend for Work Session Meeting attendance as is received by the secretaries for the Town's other Boards, i.e. Planning and Zoning, which is \$80.00. Moved by Councilwoman Neidlinger, 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/SUPERVISOR/DOG PARK/APPROVE RULES

The Supervisor put forth a MOTION to approve the Rules that have been established for Harper's Dog Park. There will be signage at the Park clearly identifying the Rules, our Dog Control Officers/ Constables, contact information is there in the event a call needs to be made, and the Sheriff's Office is aware of the opening of the new Dog Park. "Proudly Moved" by Councilman Robinson, second by Councilwoman Neidlinger on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.

All present voted Aye Motion Carried

COMMENT PERIOD

Councilman Robinson advised the Board that next year will be the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. He was hoping to get everyone on board and have an amazing, better than ever before, one that really rivals Fireworks Display. He told the Board he went out to get some pumpkins and received some small donations to be put toward this idea. He also received some donations while he was down in Olcott he was able to raise \$101.50 which he turned over to the Clerk for deposit.

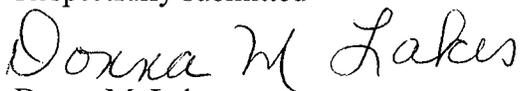
ADJOURN

The Supervisor entertained a MOTION to adjourn the Work Session Meeting. Moved by Councilwoman Neidlinger, second by Councilman Robinson on the question. Hearing no questions, all were in favor, no one was opposed.

All present voted Aye Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Donna M. Lakes
Town Clerk