

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
February 16, 2026

OPENING of Town Board meeting by Supervisor Cammarata 6:30PM

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

Supervisor John Cammarata
Board members:
Karen Cammarata
Chris LaCotta,

ALSO: Alison Owens, Town Clerk
Bob Whitmore, Hwy Supt.
Bruce Kinney, Code Enforcement Officer
Kenny Whitmore, Planning Board member

Fred Heisler, absent
Dakota Warren, absent

Pam & Steve Lucas, residents of Stone Quarry Rd.

PROPOSAL FOR 2026 INSURANCE: by Joanne with Gates/Cole/HighStreet 6:35PM

Joanne was not available for the meeting but had provided Mr. Cammarata with the information need, Due to the accident with the 2002 Volvo, it being totalled, and replacing the windshields on 2 other vehicles, the cost of the annual insurance policy for 2026/2027 has risen over \$9K for the year. An estimated amount is in the \$31K range. Mr. Cammarata said no other insurers had quoted a policy for the Town this year and he recommended the Board approve the policy for this year.

RESOLUTION # 6 (2026): TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF THE 2026/7 TOWN INSURANCE POLICY

On a motion by Mr. LaCotta, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED

AYES: K. Cammarata, LaCotta, J. Cammarata
NAYES: 0
ABSENT Heisler, Warren

RESOLVED to authorize payment of the 2026/7 Town Insurance policy provided by Gates-Cole/High Street Insurance at a cost of \$31K+, the exact amount to be verified later.**

The 2002 Volvo has been totaled; the rear end was broken and the Town was offered \$36,800 for it. After negotiations, the final selling price for the totalled truck was \$38,842.00. John's Towing, who purchased the truck will also get the plow and wing after all is settled.

CORRESPONDENCE 6:50PM

C1) Notification from WoollyBear that the website domain renewal of Smithvilleny.com will be \$15 and will happen next month

Pam & Steve Lucas
Stone Quarry Hill Rd

Were given the floor and asked some Code Enforcement questions. They were concerned that some of the Local Laws are not being enforced, questioned whether it was legal to live in a camping trailer, and whether household trash can be stored outside without being taken care of. Mr. Lucas feels he has made several attempts to help identify properties that have offenses but no one does anything.

Supervisor Cammarata said he can refer problems to the County and hopefully the County will give the offending owner a citation. The Town has not been able to find an acceptable way to deal with some of these Local Laws. As of this time, the Town Code Enforcement Officer only deals with septic requirements and building permit applications. Supervisor Cammarata said the Chenango County Code Enforcement or the Board of Health can help a complainant deal with these situations.

NEW BUSINESS

6:55PMNB1) Supervisor

Cammarata is asking for a 4 part Resolution for NBT to: Remove names no longer associated on NBT accounts as Board members, add the new Deputy Supervisor's name to the accounts, have the Supervisor as the Financial Officer maintain sole responsibility to open NBT accounts, and require 2 signatures on checks over \$18K and 1 signature on a check under \$18K. This was so moved in the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION # 7 (2026): TO AUTHORIZE A 4 PART RESOLUTION FOR NBT BANK FOR ACCESS TO BANK ACCOUNTS

On a motion by Ms. Cammarata, 2nd by Mr. LaCotta, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

AYES:	K. Cammarata, LaCotta, J. Cammarata
NAYES:	0
ABSENT	Heisler, Warren

RESOLVED to:

- 1- remove Shane Butler and Pam Holcomb's names from NBT Bank accounts
- 2- add Fred Heisler's name as the Deputy Supervisor to the General and Highway checking accounts..
- 3- have the Supervisor as the Financial Officer be the only person who can open up an account at NBT for the Town of Smithville (and)
- 4- require 2 signatures for checks over \$18K, 1 signature for checks under \$18K

An additional Resolution was also needed for this month's checks to have 1 signature on checks to the Genegantset Fire Company, the Oxford Fire Company and Palmer's Truck.

RESOLUTION # 8 (2026): TO AUTHORIZE ONLY 1 SIGNATURE ON 3 CHECKS FOR THIS MONTH

On a motion by Mr. LaCotta, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED

AYES:	K. Cammarata, LaCotta, J. Cammarata
NAYES:	0
ABSENT	Heisler, Warren

RESOLVED to allow a 1 person signature on three checks for the Genegantslet Fire Co, Oxford Fire Co., and Palmer's Truck for this month alone.

NB3) letter of complaint from Ray Butts regarding condition of Round Pond Rd. when he had an accident

- Mr. Butts indicated Round Pond Rd. had not been properly maintained on a snowy morning and he was forced into a ditch. The Highway Sup't found him and took him to his house.
- Hwy Sup't Whitmore gave his report on the incident with photos indicating the road had been plowed and taken care of.

NB4) Discuss payment of DCO Roger Barrows 2025 miles

- Supervisor Cammarata spoke to the Board about DCO Barrows claiming 800+ miles from 2025, but there is no start/end point, no record kept to justify the mileage. Supervisor Cammarata would like to hold the check from payment until he speaks with Mr. Barrows and is able to obtain the needed information. There is only \$500 in the DCO contractual, the opportunity for 2025 claims has passed and this amount would use up what there is left in the contractual for 2026. Board members were ok with holding back the payment until justification could be obtained.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:15PM

OB1) status of TV installation: wall mount unit to be installed soon

OB2) continued discussion of new truck purchase: on hold, heard nothing back from Tenco; they company has to know when the chassis has been ordered. Still looking at the Freightliner. Still have to get rid of the other equipment. Need to get the old grader on sale

REPORTS

7:30PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted. Highlights are:

- Pam and Steve Lucas asked about trimming tree limbs on roads
- Highway Sup't Whitmore feels they are spending too much to heat with diesel fuel; can heat with propane much cheaper. Wants to move one of the gas heaters from the truck bay into the bay where the County and 1 of the Town trucks are parked. The cost to do the move was quoted by John Tracy at \$2750.
- He would also like to get a smaller 10 gal hot water heater as the current one is old and not utilized for the size it is. John Tracy quoted that at \$900.
- DEC nuisance beaver permit for 2026 has been obtained
- F350 & 550 have had windshields replaced (through insurance) and vehicles inspected
- County truck nicked the speed limit sign and broke it. Will find out what to do with it. It will probably need battery replacement, and perhaps in all of them.
- An inventory was done on the shop and surplus equipment
- There is a new alternator on the gradall
- F550 is not in good shape, many things need replacement
- Repairs to much of the equipment is way behind schedule
- 2015 Volvo had some parts replaced that still don't work right
- New sander for the F600 but came without a vibrator so one was ordered
- A credit from Milton CAT of \$1038.48 will be applied for repair done on the mini excavator
- The flags on the light poles will probably last another year but new clamps are needed for attaching flags to the poles: 12 @ 16.04 ea or \$192.48,

ACTION:

Move and rehang the gas heater: Superintendent Whitmore would like to move the gas heater located in the middle of the truck bay to the cold bay for heating purposes. John Tracy can do that project for \$2750. This was approved in the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION # 9 (2026): TO AUTHORIZE CHANGE OF GAS HEATER LOCATION AT THE TOWN BARN TO THE COLD BAY AREA

On a motion by Mr. LaCotta, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED.

AYES:	K. Cammarata, LaCotta, J. Cammarata
NAYES:	0
ABSENT	Heisler, Warren

RESOLVED to authorize the change of the gas heated located in the middle of the truck bay at the Town Barn to the cold bay area for heating purposes at a cost of \$2750. Per John Tracy.

Change water heater: Superintendent Whitmore would like to change out the old hot water heater from a 30 gal to a 10 gal as the hot water now is only used to wash hands in the sink and is probably 20 years old. The cost is estimated to be \$900 from John Tracy. This was approved in the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #10 (2026): TO AUTHORIZE CHANGE OF HOT WATER HEATER FROM 30 GAL to 10 GAL

On a motion by Mr. LaCotta, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED

AYES: K. Cammarata, LaCotta, J. Cammarata
NAYES: 0
ABSENT Heisler, Warren

RESOLVED to authorize the change of the hot water heater at the Town Barn from a 30 gal to a 10 gal due to reduced use/need/age of the original hot water heater, at a cost of \$900.

Addition of 20'x20' tool room on the back: Procurement Policy dictates that anything over \$20K would need 3 estimates or quotes.

Surplus scrap steel at the Town Barn with an estimated 3K-10K in value will be collected and prepared for sale. The following items will not be included but will be sold at auction. **

- 2 8' Smith sanders
- 1 9' Smith sander
- 3 pt hitch broom
- Wood chipper
- 1997 JD grader
- CAT challenger tractor boom for mower
- JD 5410 side brush mower

RESOLUTION # 11 (2026): COLLECT SCRAP ITEMS TO BE SOLD FOR SCRAP METAL

On a motion by Ms. Cammarata, 2nd by Mr. LaCotta, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED.

AYES: K. Cammarata, LaCotta, J. Cammarata
NAYES: 0
ABSENT Heisler, Warren

RESOLVED to collect items and ready them for sale as scrap metal. Estimate value for all is -3K-10K..

COMMUNITY FLAGS:

- R2) Assessor: report submitted.
- R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted but a verbal one was given

The Code Enforcement Officer's report focused on a septic property dispute at **2063 County Road 2, Smithville**, involving the installation of a double-wide home on a small, existing building lot. The buyers want to place a double-wide trailer on a lot that previously held a double-wide and then after a fire, the property was used as a camp. The lot has a concrete pad and existing septic/water system. A neighbor is strongly opposed to the project due to the smell of the

disfunctioning septic system. The neighbor had previously tried to buy the land to prevent development but was unsuccessful. The Code Enforcement Officer expressed hesitation to sign off on the permit due to a conflict of interest.

Septic and Legal Standing:

- **Septic Records:** Town Clerk Owens noted there is no official septic application on file for this property dating back to 1985.
- **Expert Inspection:** To resolve the uncertainty, Cook's Septic Services (Mike Wheelock) inspected the site. He found a 1,000-gallon concrete tank and a dry well in "operating order," though a dye test was impossible because the system isn't currently in use.
- **Property Rights:** The board concluded that because it is a **legal building lot** with existing infrastructure, they cannot legally stop the owner from applying for a building permit. The Planning Board has already signaled its approval.

Conclusion & Next Steps

- **Permit Approval:** To solve the conflict of interest, **Supervisor Cammarata** agreed to sign the building permit instead of Code Enforcement Officer, as he has no personal connection to the neighbor and viewed the application as legally sound.
- **Contingency:** The board agreed to move forward with the understanding that if the septic system fails once in use, the county will require the owners to fix or replace it (potentially with a chlorinated system) at that time.
- **Documentation:** The Code Enforcement Officer left the septic inspection letter with the Town Clerk to be included in the official file.

R4.) Planning Board:

R5.) DCO: report submitted

R6.) vacant

R7.) Justice: no report submitted

R8.) Custodian/Groundskeeper: no report submitted

R9.) Playground Committee: no report submitted.

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted.

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted. All budgets are good for both Hwy and General. Sales Check from the County was about \$61K and will be put in the General budget.

The Town of Cincinnatus (Cortland County) has written a letter objecting to the high cost of electricity delivery charges being charged by NYSEG throughout their service area. It has caused financial hardship to everyone including senior citizens and small businesses without clear justification. The letter (with Resolution) calls upon the Public Service Commission to immediately review the rise in these delivery charges and lack of transparency in where these funds are being used. Supervisor Cammarata would like to introduce this at the County meeting this week and see if they would stand by a similar Resolution.

A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Mr. LaCotta, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata. All three Board members in favor, motion carried. Heisler and Warren absent

MINUTES APPROVAL for January 19th

7:45PM

The minutes of the January 19th meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Ms. Cammarata, 2nd by Mr. LaCotta. All three Board members in favor, motion carried. Heisler and Warren absent.

WARRANTS

7:50PM

General Warrant # 2, Vouchers # 12-30 in the amount of \$11,126.92 were submitted for payment. Voucher # 13 to Roger Barrows is on hold until Supervisor Cammarata can talk to him. Voucher # 30 is the cell phone bill for the Town Highway Sup't, not the Town Supervisor. A motion to accept and pay these bills was made by Mr. LaCotta, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata. All three Board members in favor, motion carried. Heisler and Warren absent.

Highway Warrant # 2, Vouchers # 23-58 in the amount of \$36,484.81 were submitted for payment. A voucher to Point Broadband was added, Voucher # 30 for \$59.95 for internet to the Town Barn making the new total \$36, 544.76. A motion to accept and pay these claims was made by Ms. Cammarata, 2nd by Mr. LaCotta. All three Board members in favor, motion carried. Heisler and Warren absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:00PM

There was no additional business.

CLOSE: by Supervisor Cammarata

8:15PM

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk

* actual cost of the Town Insurance + Cyber Policy will be \$32,578.59.

** corrected 3/16/26 items originally listed as being sold for surplus