

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
January 19, 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,
Fred Heisler
Dakota Warren

ALSO: Alison Owens, Town Clerk
Bob Whitmore, Hwy Supt.

CORRESPONDENCE 6:35PM
C1) none

NEW BUSINESS 6:35PM

NB1) Discussion to change the status of the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed:

There has not been a candidate on the ballot for this position in 2 years and it has been very difficult to find someone who wants to fill the position. To change the position from elected to appointed requires a mandatory public referendum, or a majority vote in November from the electorate in the Town of Smithville. It also requires a Local Law be passed by the Town Board prior to the referendum stating the change of the position from elected to appointed.

The change from elected to appointed still retains that the position be appointed from candidates who live within the Town of Smithville. An additional statement within the Local Law and Resolution would have to be written saying appointed candidates must live in Chenango County. It was suggested to put a notice in the office to taxpayers indicating that the process for this change has begun and also recommending this notice to residents include the statement the referendum is coming in November 2026.

RESOLUTION # 2 (2026): Start proceedings to change the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector from elected to appointed in the Town of Smithville

On a motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata, all five Board members in favor, motion carried.

RESOLVED to begin proceedings to change the status of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector position from elected to appointed in the Town of Smithville. RESOLVED to establish a Local Law changing the status of an elected Town Clerk to an appointed position in the Town of Smithville. RESOLVED also to allow candidates for the position of an appointed Smithville Town Clerk/Tax Collector position to be appointed from qualified candidates in Chenango County.

NB2) Discussion to put to Public Referendum the option to sell the 13 acre parcel between the Post Office and the Fire Station for development:

- The property was originally purchased about 20 years ago by the Town without their knowing the correct procedure for doing so. The latest consideration was for use as a Town holding tank for a hamlet wide water system but this was not put through as intended.
- The town cannot sell, build or lease the property to outside entities as it would generate income for the Town. It could use the land for Town-related projects such as a solar system. In order to sell the parcel, it would have to be put up for vote in a Public Mandatory Referendum in November 2026. If passed by a majority vote the property could be sold. The Geneganstlet Fie Co. is interested in purchasing 100' of the back side to use as a "drive in/out access for fire equipment.

- The parcel is 13 acres and contains a 50' wide right of way deeded to NYSEG, running from the Post Office toward the ballfield. It was previously estimated the value to be about \$35K.

RESOLUTION # 3 (2026): To start proceedings to allow for a Mandatory Public Vote on the 2026 November ballot whether the Town of Smithville property between the Post Office and the Fire Station should be sold.

On a motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata, all five Board members in favor, motion carried.

RESOLVED to begin proceedings establishing a Resolution for the November 2026 ballot as a Mandatory Referendum or Majority Vote by the electorate of the Town of Smithville to sell the 13 acre parcel of land between the Post Office and the Genegantslet Fire Station.

NB3) Additional discussion was heard on the hiring of a part-time Highway person for mowing cemeteries and other potential Highway jobs. Hy Sup't Whitmore indicated there is a requirement that the part-time person be accompanied for any work related activities by another highway employee, which he could not spare. He said he also has no equipment for "small time mowing" or weed whacking of cemeteries. He recommended the position be transferred to the General side of the budget. Town Board members discussed this option to create a position for a 2nd laborer, part-time and to fund it from the General side of the budget, specifically A1620.4 , the additional mowing of cemeteries. Board members asked about a vehicle for him to drive to the cemeteries but it was mentioned he would be paid mileage to drive his own vehicle and would be able to use the Town's equipment or to purchase a small lawnmower. This was put to Resolution.

RESOLUTION # 4 (2026): To create a 2nd position as Laborer, part-time on the General side of the Budget and to issue a position and duties statement.

On a motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata, all five Board members in favor, motion carried.

RESOLVED to create a 2nd position of Laborer, part-time, with the specifics to help with mowing of abandoned cemeteries, to be paid for from the General side of the budget, A8810.4B. Additional small equipment would be purchased as needed, mileage to be paid.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

6:55PM

OB1) status of TV/ computer installation for training purposes:

- Supervisor Cammarat ordered the TV bracket and the outlet for it will be determined when the tv unit has been positioned. Matt White will install the computer.

OB2) Info on addition: Mr. Heisler mentioned the contract for the addition will require more than 1 bid since the total cost will be more than \$20K. A sole proprietor would be used with a May 1st start date.

REPORTS

7:05PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted:

- Repairs were completed on several trucks and the gradall
- Grading was completed on all dirt roads before the ground froze. North Tyner Rd. is falling apart.
- Two trees were removed from roads; wood chips and oak logs are available at the Town barn for public use. Brush cutting is ongoing.
- Winter weather: roads have been plowed and sanded multiple times. Despite an ice storm that sent two trucks into the ditch, all roads were cleared by 2pm that day. There have been issues with 1 school district over closure or delay procedure. A drainage/turnaround issue on Williams Rd. was resolved with the Town of Oxford bt using two loads of gravel.

- License plates were obtained for the F600; still waiting on plates for the new dump truck. A new logging system was implemented to track fuel usage.
- The office and break room were cleaned and organized. Locks and keys for all doors were replaced.
- The dumpster was updated and Weitsman took the old one away for recycling
- OSHA compliance: new 1st aid kits were purchased for all trucks and the break room
- 2 trucks need windshields; 3 trucks need inspection. It was suggested to call Gates-Cole for claims on the windshields. The 2015 Volvo has not been totalled but it is not known how much it will cost to be fixed
- **Requesting \$10,110 to purchase a new sander** for the F600. This would allow the Hwy Dept to move the old sander to the F550, to provide better backup during storms. Board members discussed what account this kind of purchase could be taken from. It was mentioned that the earlier \$30K purchase for new tires came from DA5130.2. A decision was made to make the sander from this account.

RESOLUTION # 5 (2026): To purchase a new sander for the F600 from Palmer’s and to use account DA5130.2 for the purchase

On a motion by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. LaCotta all five Board members in favor, motion carried.

RESOLVED to purchase a new sander for the F600 from Palmer’s in the amount of \$10,110. and to pay for it from account DA5130.2.

- Hwy Sup’t Whitmore is also requesting a 20’x20’ addition to the back of the building to create a dedicated, organized work area and tool room.
- It was also noted that the holiday banner clams are broken. There was discussion about upgrading larger 24”x24” banners as the original ones are wearing out.
- Hwy Sup’t Whitmore indicates the desk phone at the Town Barn is intermittent. Supervisor Cammarata indicated this is likely due to the internet provider as the phones are internet based and not dial-up.

POSSIBLE NEW TRUCK PURCHASE: Supervisor Cammarata indicated the truck that was ordered 4 years ago and cancelled by the seller, still has remaining, unused parts: the Tenco wing and plow available for purchase at the 2022 prices if the Town would like to purchase them. At the end of the year the pricing will jump from the 2022 pricing of \$135,000 to over \$200,000.

There were two primary chassis options available: a Western Star (x49) at \$185,368.00 and a Freightline (Level 2) at \$175,887. Both feature the Detroit DD13 525HP engine and D12 automatic transmission. It would be approximately \$305K with the pre-ordered parts. If ordered next year, the total cost would be over \$400K. Mr. Warren noted the Western Star/Freightliner transmission is superior to the current MAC because it offers three modes: Economy, Performance and Off-road.

To finance the purchase of a new truck estimated at between \$305-\$320K total for chassis and equipment, the Board discussed selling several underutilized or older equipment:

- the **2015 Volvo** recently wrecked and awaiting a final determination but probably \$70K
- **John Deere Motor Grader:** Discussion of listing it for **\$22,000–\$25,000** based on comparable market listings for 1997–2006 models with ~10,000 hours.
- **Challenger Tractor:** Identified as an item to get rid of.
- **Method of Sale:** The board is leaning toward using **Auctions International**, as previous attempts to sell or rent to local entities (like German or Solon) have not materialized.
- There is also \$26K in the new truck fund. Additional discussion will be held at next month’s meeting.

- R2) Assessor: report submitted late
- R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted
- R4.) Planning Board: Oct. and Dec. 2025 minutes emailed
- R5.) DCO: no 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. Tax Collections going well, but had to have tax bills reprinted due to County error
- R11) vacant
- R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted.

End of the year report: plus amount of \$8,152. is being carried over to 2026. A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Mr. LaCotta, 2nd by Ms. Cammarata. All 5 Board members in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL for January 5th

7:20PM

The minutes of the January 6th meeting were reviewed and approved in a motion by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. Heisler. All 5 Board members were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

7:25PM

General Warrant # 1, Vouchers # 1- 11 in the amount of \$3,731.32 submitted for payment. These were reviewed and approved for payment in a motion by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. LaCotta. All 5 Board members were in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 1, Vouchers # 1-22 in the amount of \$18,904.72 submitted for payment. These were reviewed and approved for payment in a motion by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. LaCotta. All 5 Board members were in favor, motion carried.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:45PM

No additional business

7:47PM

CLOSE: by Supervisor Cammarata at 7:49pm.

Alison Owens

Smithville Town Clerk