

June 11, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a Board meeting on June 11, 2025

Present were:	Lisa M. Driscoll,	Supervisor
	Erik Reeve,	Councilmember
	Patrick F. Funk,	Councilmember
	Donna VanSickell,	Councilmember
	Dwayne C. Hill	Councilmember
Also Present:	Russell Hatch,	Supt. Highways
	Heidi R. Stevens,	Town Clerk
	Thomas Giaguzzi,	Deputy Town Clerk
	Laurie Bedford,	Town Assessor
Others Present:	Liz Page,	Editor of the Mountain Eagle
	Meg Hungerford	Headwaters Board member
	Zaid Hasan	New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
	John Wolham	New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
	Thomas VanSickell	
	Dusty King	Stamford Fire Department
	Tim Powell	Stamford Fire Department
	Henry Browning	
	Stephanie Seminaca	Headwaters Board member
	Eileen King	Headwaters Board member

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Lisa M. Driscoll. Supervisor Driscoll led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if there were any questions, comments or concerns regarding the minutes from May 14th. The Board had no questions, comments or concerns.

A motion to accept the minutes from May 14, 2025, was made by Dwayne C. Hill and seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there was any correspondence.

Heidi Stevens presented a liquor license renewal advisory for Mama Maria's Pizzeria and Restaurant. The Board had no concerns with the renewal for the liquor license.

Heidi Stevens informed the Board that the Town of Harpersfield had received the new Shared Service agreement from the Village of Stamford.

Heidi Stevens also informed the Board that they had gotten a mailing from NYSEG stating that NYSEG will be changing out the electric meters for the Town. Supervisor Driscoll explained that NYSEG is changing all meters to smart meters.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Equalization Rate and Reassessment. The Equalization Rate is the ratio of a municipality's total taxable assessed value to its total market value. John Wolham and Zaid Hasan from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance have come to give the Town of Harpersfield a better understanding of the benefits and process of this procedure, as well as what it would look like if the Town of Harpersfield was to do a full reassessment. Supervisor Driscoll has spoken with other Town Supervisors in Delaware County regarding this and they are also interested in the information that is going to be presented. Supervisor Driscoll is going to post the information on the Town of Harpersfield website.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is Headwaters. Meg Hungerford and Eileen King along with other Board members from Headwaters have come to speak with the Board.

Meg Hungerford from the Board of Headwaters told the Board that they are aware that the Town of Harpersfield will be in the beginning stages of the 2026 budget very soon, they are requesting for 2026 that the Town of Harpersfield would consider increasing the \$100,000.00 contract to \$102,000.00. Meg went on to explain that a grant that Headwaters received from Robinson Brodhurst to get started is up this year. They did not need to use all the grant money last year and do not anticipate using all the money this year. Their hope over time is to increase the amounts that they receive from the Towns at a reasonable pace. Supervisor Driscoll asked Headwaters if what they are looking for is a 2% increase? Meg answered yes, they are trying to comply with the 2% tax cap. Meg has made the same request from the Town of Stamford and is planning to make requests with another Town this following Monday. Supervisor Driscoll informed Headwaters that she would like to get together with them and go over what has come

in and what the Town of Harpersfield has paid them at this point. Meg told Lisa Driscoll that it has been a bit of a struggle getting all the information because they are not seeing all of the information as it comes in. They are getting better information from their billing company now, but there are still timing issues that they are trying to work out. Supervisor Driscoll is going to email Meg with information that she has.

Patrick F. Funk asked how many payments the Town of Harpersfield has made to Headwaters to date. Meg answered the Town has made two payments so far. Mr. Funk asked what if one of the other Towns do not agree with the increase? Meg answered that they all would need to think about that, not looking to go in that direction in the future, they would like other Towns to be involved in Headwaters. She mentions Davenport possibly being a Town they would approach. They have not done so at this point. The Board is going to discuss the 2% increase that Headwaters is requesting for 2026.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Robinson Brodhurst grant money. The Town received \$30,000 for the new Truck and nothing for the Transfer Station.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Fireworks Permit Application. The Town of Harpersfield has received a permit application from American Fireworks Display Company, LLC. The permit is for May 14th, 2025, at Eklunds Family Farm Machinery. Tim Powell from the Stamford Fire Department explained to the Board that the fireworks display is put on by a professional company that follows all State and Federal requirement.

A motion was made by Patrick F. Funk to accept the Fireworks application for Eklunds Family Farm Machinery on June 14th, 2025, and seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Summer Youth program. This is a program run by the County. The Town of Harpersfield used this program last Summer. The Town of Harpersfield is hiring a youth for the Town Hall and one to help at the Transfer Station. The youth that they hire for the Town Hall will be involved with the new Code Enforcement software. He or she will help with the transferring of information from paper form into the software.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that in their folders is the funds transfer balances. She also would like to give an update on the Transfer Station. The Town is going to be putting down a concrete pad in front of the metal bin and another one where the skid steer sits and one in front of the C&D containers. The Town is also going to sealcoat the entire lot and change the traffic flow. In addition, the Town will add parking spots for people who are unloading their

garbage. The Town will have this all written up and put in the Mountain Eagle also post this on our website. The public will have plenty of notice before the work begins.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the council members if there was anything they would like to discuss with the Board. Dwayne C. Hill mentioned that there is a Potluck dinner at the Grange on the 1st of July at 6 PM.

Superintendent of Highways Russ Hatch informed the Board that some of the sealcoating is scheduled for next week. This may get kicked back because of the weather. The sealcoating is for some of the roads as well as the Post Office, the Town Hall and Highway Garage.

Patrick F. Funk asked how much damage the Town roads received from the last storm. Russ said he does not think that there is any real structural damage. There were repairs that needed to be done on Terry Road, Peters Road, Whiskey Hollow Road, Gun House Road and Reed Road. Some of the damage to Gun House Road was to the structures that they are waiting to replace. Russ is still waiting on the DEC for a signed contract before that can go out to bid.

Russ has no updates on the new truck.

The Highway Department did get the grant of \$30,000.00 for the medium duty truck. He would like permission to put things together and get the bids started for that.

A motion was made by Patrick F. Funk to start the bid process for the new medium duty truck and seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

The Town Clerks report for the month of May was issued to the Board. The amount the Town received was \$4,964.50.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Abstract and Vouchers. Supervisor Driscoll told the Board that the Town was billed for C&D \$957.00 and \$547.00 for tires. The Highway Department has bought a new steam genny. There are three quotes included in that voucher which was for \$10,361.00.

Russ explained to the Board that the steam genny is portable so in the wintertime when there are problems with culvert pipes freezing up, they can use the steam to help thaw them out.

A motion to pay the bills that were presented to the Board was made by Donna VanSickell and seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Profits and Losses. Supervisor Driscoll has looked this over; she has no concerns with this report. Supervisor

Driscoll informed the Board that the Town has received the first lease payment from Verizon for the cell tower in the amount of \$900.00.

Patrick Funk asked if the amount from Verizon was negotiable when the lease is up. Supervisor Driscoll answered that she will need to go back and reread the lease agreement and that she has spoken with the Village of Stamford Mayor who had hired a firm to do this for the Village of Stamford. She will be speaking with him again to see if this is something that the Town should look into doing given the cost of the process and the pay that the Town would receive. The Town will only have one Tower she would like to make sure that it would be cost effective.

The Towns Assessor Laurie Bedford informed the Board that there is a report from the Board of Assessment Review. There were five parcels that were looked at. None of these parcel's assessments were adjusted. Three of which were businesses, Tractor Supply, Walgreens, and what is called 1 Grand Place formally known as Vasta's. BAR felt because we haven't changed our assessments there was no reason for us to reduce them. Some of the other assessors from the County have advised us to get appraisals for those parcels in case they come and attest those via litigation or a small claims court. Laurie has gotten quotes from two different appraisers. The KLV group gave \$5,700.00 for all three parcels and Ridgeway gave \$9,000.00 for the parcels. Ms. Bedford does not feel that we are going to need the appraisals because of the way the report was submitted to the Town. For instance, one of these businesses was sent to us as a residence. Ms. Bedford contacted the Village Assessor to make sure that this wasn't being zoned as a residence and he answered with no it is still classified as a business. The Board has agreed that the Town will not do the appraisals at this time.

A motion was made to go into an executive session for personnel matters by Donna VanSickell and seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Dwayne C. Hill and seconded by Erik Reeve.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Donna VanSickell and seconded by Dwayne C. Hill at 9:40 PM. All voting Aye.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

