

November 12, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a Board meeting on November 12, 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. of Highways
	Heidi Stevens,	Town Clerk
	Thomas Giaguzzi,	Deputy Town Clerk
Others Present:	Thomas VanSickell	
	Henry L. Browning	
	Liz Page,	Editor of the Mountain Eagle

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

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that first on the agenda in the Public Hearing for the 2026 Preliminary Budget. Supervisor Driscoll opened the Public Hearing at 7:01pm. Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Preliminary Budget. There were no questions or comments.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk asked if the Board should leave both Public Hearings open simultaneously? Supervisor Driscoll answered yes.

Supervisor Driscoll opened the Public Hearing for Overriding the Tax Levy at 7:02pm. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board and those in attendance that the 2026 Preliminary Budget is at 3.9%. The Town of Harpersfield Tax Levy is 1.07%.

Supervisor Driscoll Informed the Board that she will leave the public Hearings open and continue with the meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns regarding the October 8, 2025, minutes. There were no questions, comments or concerns. A motion to accept October 8, 2025, minutes was made by Patrick F. Funk and seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is Positive Pay. The Town had already made a motion for this program. Ms. Driscoll has had several conversations with NBT bank. The cost for Positive Pay is \$75 per bank account; the Town has 10 bank accounts. NBT tries to work with Municipalities to give them the best price they possibly can. NBT is charging the Town \$126 a month for all bank accounts. Patrick F. Funk asked for a quick recap of what exactly Positive Pay is. Supervisor Driscoll explained that the bills that the Town pays through QuickBooks we can put into an excel sheet. That sheet is uploaded to NBT bank. The bank looks at all the checks that we show on the report and compare them to any checks that are getting cashed. If the checks do not match the report that the Town has sent the bank, the bank tags them and the Town will have to go in and approve or disapprove them before they can be cashed. This is going to help protect all the Towns bank accounts against fraud. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that there is a Resolution for the Energy Choice Act from Congressman Nick Langworthy.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD

RESOLUTION NO. 015 OF THE YEAR 2025

Councilmember Erik Reeve offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY'S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration’s climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945), federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Harpersfield strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Harpersfield urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

Seconded by Councilmember Patrick F. Funk with the votes as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.
Councilmember	Donna M. VanSickell	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the changes to the website. The Town now has a .gov website. The website has required the Town to post financial documents, legal and regulatory documents, public notices and to have a privacy policy. We are

putting the Local Laws and Resolutions from the last 10 years on the website. There will be an index for the Local Laws and Resolutions. Supervisor Driscoll would like to start looking through all of them to make sure they are not outdated. If they are outdated the Town will need to bring them back to the board for updating. The privacy policy will be worked on with the Towns Attorney as soon as that is done that will be posted on the webpage as well. Supervisor Driscoll asked Heidi Stevens, Town Clerk, if she had anything to add regarding the website.

Ms. Stevens informed the Board that the Resolutions and Local laws for the last 10 years have been put on the website along with the indexes. If the Board would like they can go to the website now and start reading them. They are located under the Town Information folder on the website. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the Transfer Station. The town Board has previously discussed selling the Skid Steer and the Backhoe. The Town would like to move forward with this.

A motion to sell the Skid Steer and Backhoe at auction was made by Patrick F. Funk and seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

A motion was made to purchase a new Backhoe at auction by Patrick F. Funk and seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Councilmember Erik Reeve asked how old the Skid Steer was and if the Town is expecting to get decent money for it. Russ answered the Skid Steer is not really in that bad of shape but it's old. The Skid Steer has maybe 2,000 hours on it. The Town is hoping to get \$8,000 to \$10,000 for it. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll closed the Public Hearing for the Preliminary 2026 budget at 7:13pm.

Supervisor Driscoll closed the Public Hearing for the Overriding of the Tax Levy at 7:13pm.

The Board was presented a resolution for overriding the Tax Cap.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD

RESOLUTION NO. 013 OF THE YEAR 2025

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 002 OF 2025 ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 3-c".

WHEREAS, in accordance with Subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law § 3-c of the State of New York which provides municipalities with the express authorization to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law § 3-c by passing a Local Law approved by a vote of at least sixty (60%) of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law was presented to the Town Board at least 11 days prior to the Town Board meeting on November 12, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted a resolution on October 8, 2025, scheduling a public hearing on the proposed Local Law for November 12, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the proposed Local Law was held on November 12, 2025, at the Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board reviewed and considered all public comment received on the proposed Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law was on file for inspection at the Town Clerk's office prior to the public hearing and during the public review process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK:

The Town of Harpersfield Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in Municipal Law § 3-c, being Local Law 002 of 2025, is hereby adopted and the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file said Local Law with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with State Law.

WHEREUPON, Councilmember Donna VanSickell seconded the motion and Resolution No. 014 of the Year 2025 was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.
Councilmember	Donna M. VanSickell	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPN DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll told the Board that there have been no changes to the Preliminary Budget. She had looked over it again today.

The Town Board was presented the Resolution for the adoption of the Town Budget for 2026.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD
RESOLUTION NO. 014 OF THE YEAR 2025

Councilmember Erik Reeve offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: ADOPTION OF THE TOWN BUDGET FOR 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, at the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held on November 12, 2025, the Town Board adopts the 2026 Town budget as presented.

Seconded by Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill with the vote as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.
Councilmember	Donna M. VanSickell	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll saw with the election that just occurred last week, there were a lot of social media postings. The posts were saying how Highway Superintendents just come to the job assign work and be done with their day. Supervisor Driscoll would like to recognize Town of Harpersfield Highway Superintendent Russell Hatch at this time. Russ works very hard for the Town of Harpersfield. He does assign work to the Highway employees. Russ is out there every day as well as being on call 24 hours a day. He does an outstanding job for the Town of Harpersfield. The Board members agreed.

Supervisor Driscoll has found 2 training courses that the Town employees will need to take. The trainings are to give the employees technics on hoe to deal with difficult people and how to deescalate a difficult situation. That will be assigned in a few weeks.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if any Councilmember had any items to address with the Board.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk asked how the overall Transfer Station new driving pattern has been going. He did have someone that had posted something on social media that he had a conversation with regarding the new pattern. Supervisor Driscoll answered that the Town is getting good and bad reviews. Mr. Funk did want to mention that the Transfer Station Attendees

have been doing a nice job with keeping the Transfer Station clean. Their hard work up there is defiantly being noticed. A discussion was had.

Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill asked if there are any updates on the racetrack. Supervisor Driscoll has heard from DOH that the racetrack is interested in putting a campground there. DOH has informed them that they would need to contact the Town of Harpersfield and have that approved by the Planning Board. The Town of Harpersfield has not heard anything regarding this at this time. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Highway Superintendent. Russ told the Board that the garage has called about the new truck that is on order. The truck is in Little Falls where they will start to install the equipment. Joe and Russ would have liked to get up there this week to talk with them, but with the weather that is just not looking like it will happen. The new truck that the Town had just received had been shipped back to Binghamton for some items that they had missed. The truck is now back and was used yesterday and today there were a couple of minor issues but nothing serious. Russ also had forgotten to put that truck into C.H.I.P.S. He is going to be putting this in so the Town will be reimbursed in March. This will still be towards the 2025 budget.

Patrick F. Funk asked Russ where the Town was at with the Gun House project. Russ explained that the Town still does not have a contract with the state. Russ had a meeting today and he was hoping to speak with Soil and Water. Unfortunately, they were not at the meeting. He will be reaching out to them to find out where the Town stands with this project. The project is approved but the state has yet to sign the contract with Soil and Water. Russ would have liked to be able to put the structures out to bid now so they could construct them over the winter, and they would be ready when the Town had the clearance from DEC to work in the streams. DEC only allows a small window of time for this. A discussion was had.

The Town Clerks report for the month of October was issued to the Board. The amount the Town received was \$510.30.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Abstract and Vouchers. There is one voucher for the attorneys on the abstract that may need to be changed to a different account. Young and Sommer never received their July payment; the Town just had gotten that returned to them in the mail. The voucher presented to the Board has July and October's payments for them.

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

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Profits and Losses. General A the Town has spent \$487,648.17 through October and total revenues are \$579,451.57

which does not include the Appropriated Fund Balance. DA total revenues are \$212,372.80 the Town has used \$184,248.77. DB just bringing to the Boards attention that C.H.I.P.S \$179,878.15 is what the Town has received and spent \$391,223.37. Keep in mind that Russ is putting in about \$200,000 in for the truck and the paving of the roads. That number will go up when the Town receives that. Transfer Station has a check that will show coming out of NYS Retirement system. That amount is not showing up on this report. There has been a call to the Towns accountant to see why that amount is not there.

Patrick F. Funk asked about Headwaters. Where the Town stands. Supervisor Driscoll has asked them to come to the Town and do an audit with her. A discussion was had.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm by Patrick F. Funk and seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on December 10, 2025 at 7:00pm.