

October 8,2025

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a Board meeting on October 8, 2025.

Present were:	Lisa M. Driscoll,	Supervisor
	Erik Reeve,	Councilmember
	Patrick F. Funk,	Councilmember
	Donna VanSickell,	Councilmember
	Dwyane C. Hill,	Councilmember
Also Present:	Russell Hatch,	Supt. of Highways
	Heidi Stevens,	Town Clerk
Others Present:	Thomas Giaguzzi,	Deputy Town Clerk
	Laurie Bedford,	Town Assessor
	Russell Bedford	
	Thomas VanSickell	
	Narvin Badal	
	Pierre Bessez	
	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 asked the Board if there were any questions, comments or concerns regarding the minutes from September 10, 2025. The Board had no questions, comments or concerns.

A motion to accept the minutes from September 10, 2025, was made by Dwayne C. Hill and seconded Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Town received one Bid for the Snow Removal Proposal for the 2025-2026 season.Ted’s Grading and Landscaping has put in a bid for \$50 for the Upper parking lot at the Town Hall, \$50 for the lower parking lot at the Town Hall and \$50 for the plowing of the Post Office.

A motion was made by Patrick F. Funk to accept the snow removal proposal and seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the 2026 Preliminary Budget. Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board to go to the last page of the Budget to see a couple of changes from the Tentative Budget to the Preliminary Budget. She explained that the health insurance needed to increase due to a status change of one of the Towns employees. This will go up to the amount of \$47,800; Supervisor Driscoll did receive this amount from the insurance company. To help alleviate the change of about \$12,800 for the health insurance she did add another \$5000 in the Appropriated Fund balance. She also increased revenue on penalties and taxes to cover cost for health insurance by \$1000. On the Historian side she has added another \$500, this is for the County which we give \$450 to, and they have asked for \$500 in 2026. State Aid Per Capita \$90 has been added, Budget PS has been reduced by \$100, Highway Superintendent Equipment line was reduced by \$500 and the Attorney Contractual was reduced by \$4000. The Town was at 3.7% for the Tentative Budget and now for the preliminary Budget is at 3.9%. Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if there were any questions on the Preliminary Budget.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk stated that everything else has gone up more than 3.9% so keeping the Budget at 3.9% is not so bad.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that those changes will be kept with the Preliminary Budget at the Town Hall if anyone would like to look at it. She has also added an adopted line in case anything changes from Preliminary to Adopted. She does not foresee any changes, but those changes need to be documented if they are to take place. Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions about this. There were no questions.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Resolution to go over the Tax Cap. Right now, the Tax Cap is 1.07%.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD

RESOLUTION NO. 010 OF THE YEAR 2025

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

TITLE: RESOLUTION OF THE HARPERSFIELD TOWN BOARD ACCEPTING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 3-c AND SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SAME.

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2011 the New York State Legislature Enacted Chapter 97 of the NYS Laws of 2011, hereinafter referred to as the “General Municipal Law § 3-c”; and

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law § 3-c expressly authorizes local governments to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of at least sixty percent (60%) of the total voting power of the governing body (in this case, the Harpersfield Town Board”); and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Attorney has prepared a proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed and modified the proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board shall hold a public hearing for consideration of the Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c on November 12, 2025, at 7:15 PM at the Town Hall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said hearing in The Mountain Eagle, and to post copies of such notice in the manner provided by law.

Whereupon, Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill seconded, and the resolution 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.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that there is also a Resolution for the Public Hearing that will take place next month for the Preliminary Budget.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD
RESOLUTION 011 OF THE YEAR 2025

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

TITLE: Resolution of the Town of Harpersfield Town Board to hold a public hearing for the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Harpersfield.

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the Tentative Budget and moved it too Preliminary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board shall hold a public hearing for consideration to hear comments on the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Harpersfield for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, on November 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall; and

Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law, proposed salaries of the elected Town Officers are specified as follows:

Supervisor	\$13,500.00
Justice	\$10,500.00
Councilmember/Deputy	\$ 2,500.00
Councilmember/Each	\$ 2,000.00
Town Clerk/Collector	\$45,800.00
Assessor, Chairman	\$13,250.00
Assessor	\$ 6,000.00
Supt. of Highways	\$64,771.00
Planning Board Chairman	\$ 3,450.00
Planning Board Member	\$ 250.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said hearing in The Mountain Eagle, and to post of such notice in the manner provided by law.

Whereupon, Councilmember Donna VanSickell seconded, and the resolution 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.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that there is also a Resolution for the Robinson Broadhurst grant. This was done at the last meeting, the Town needed to revise Resolution number 009 of the year 2025 due to the dollar amount needing to be changed. The Town is selling a piece of equipment and is expecting about \$40,000 which will be used to help purchase the excavator. The Town will ask for the grant to be in the amount of \$80,000.

TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD

RESOLUTION NO. 012 OF THE YEAR 2025

Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill offered the following resolution and moved to its adoption:

TITLE: REVISED RESOLUTION NO. 009 OF THE YEAR 2025 FOR REQUESTING A GRANT FROM ROBINSON-BROADHURST FOUNDATION, INC. FOR THE APPLICATION OF A 20,000LB EXCAVATOR.

WHEREAS, the Town of Harpersfield, a municipality in Delaware County, New York, will request a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, Inc. for \$80,000.00 to purchase a 20,000LB Excavator.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield authorizes the Town Supervisor to apply for a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, Inc., for the 20,000LB Excavator.

WHEREUPON, Councilmember Patrick F. Funk seconded the motion and Resolution No. 012 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 VanSickell	Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the changes to the website. The Town received a letter stating that if you have more than 1,500 people living in your Town you would have to have a .gov website. Supervisor Driscoll had investigated this because the Town is right around that number for its population. She was informed that yes, the Town of Harpersfield needs to have a .gov website. The Town of Harpersfield has started this change. The website is now a .gov. There are requirements that the Town has for the .gov website. The Town would need to post all budgets, financial information, Resolutions and Local Laws. This will provide more information to the public. The public may still come into the Town Hall and request this information but having it on the website will provide easier access to this

information. The Town has made a request to make some more changes to the website as well. We are going to have a Town information folder and underneath that folder will be the financial documents, Legal and regulatory documents and public notices. Also, a privacy policy that Supervisor Driscoll is still looking into.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Transfer Station. The Town has been getting positive feedback and negative feedback on the new traffic pattern. The Town Board has been sent all feedback this far for them to review. Supervisor Driscoll has also received several phone calls giving her positive reviews, they told her that they are very happy that the Town has stopped the chaos with the traffic at the Transfer Station. The public is still getting use to the change and the Town will get much more feedback until then. It is just going to take some time. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Town had a Deputy Sheriff come to the Transfer Station. The Deputy gave some suggestions as to how to place the cones for the new traffic pattern.

A comment from the audience was that the new pattern is not made for old people. This resident liked to be able to back into the garage where the compactor is to unload his truck. He stated that Luis did come out to help him, and he was grateful for that. Luis always comes out and helps him even when he tells him not to worry about it. Luis is pretty good to him. On the other hand, on the Town's website, it states that the attendants are not supposed to help unload residents' vehicles.

Supervisor Driscoll responded that on the Town's website it states that it is not the job of the attendants to unload people's vehicles. The Town does not mind that the attendants help the residents with their garbage. They do that as a courtesy. The attendants' jobs are to run the Transfer Station and keep it safe and organized. In the past residents would come to the Town Hall and put in a complaint that there was no one there to help them unload their garbage. By making the public aware of the fact that unloading garbage is not the attendants' job, it has helped with the expectations of the people. If someone needs help and waits for one of the attendants to assist them the Town has no problem with that. The Town is limiting who can back into the garage because there have been many times when people have almost been hit. Some people do not pay close enough attention. The Town limiting who can back into the garage will make it a safer environment for the public and the Town employees. If someone does need to back in they can go find an attendant who at that time will remove the cones and allow them to back in and pull back out while the attendant is there watching for oncoming pedestrians or vehicles.

Supervisor Driscoll also informed the Board and those in attendance that there has been discussion about putting handicap spots by C&D. The problem with that is the space would be very limited because of the size of a handicap parking area is required to be. That would make

traffic back up in a line waiting to back into the C&D area. Another issue is there is a little lip that you must step over to enter the Transfer Station on that side of the building. Which would be a hazard for a handicapped person. These are all things that the Town is still working on. At this time there will be no lines painted for parking at the C&D.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Town would like to put a motor in the garage door to make it easier for the attendants to put it up and down. The fan has also been installed at the Transfer Station.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any items that the Councilmembers would like to address with the Board.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk noticed that the Association of Towns is pushing the NY Government to start amending the laws so that the Towns do not have to publish public hearings and other public notices in the local newspaper. Due to the lack of circulation and costs. Towns would need to post on their website.

Patrick F. Funk also said that he had heard that there was a meeting about the River Street bridge. He asked the Board if anyone had heard anything about the meeting. Russ Hatch said the last he had heard is that they are still in the design stage. The bridge needed to retain its historical value. Supervisor Driscoll said that designing the bridge and being that it is historical has added a large cost to the rebuilding of the bridge. The village does not have the funds, so it has been put on hold. Russ added that some of the funding was coming from Bridges New York.

Erik Reeve asked if the bridge had failed. Russ answered no. When the frost was coming out last spring the bridge got a big bulge in it. The frost was pushing the stones out which made the Village worry about it collapsing.

Councilmember Erik Reeve brought up the tractor trailer that is being parked on Truesdell Rd. He knows that this complaint has been brought up to the Town a couple of times, and he has also been questioned about it. Erik asked Russ Hatch if there was a date that the owner was given to remove it by. Russ answered that he had driven by and noticed that the tractor was not parked on the road it was parked in the driveway. He figured that the owner was complying. Russ asked if it was still being parked on the road. Erik answered that it is parked there tonight. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Town has a Resolution that states there can be no large trucks parked on Truesdell Road. Resolution No. 008 of the year 2010.

Russ added that during the construction that took place on State Hwy 23 in the year 2010 the Town had passed that Resolution due to the truck traffic to avoid the construction. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she is looking at some more training on how to deal with difficult people and or situations. This training will be assigned to every employee of the Town of Harpersfield to take. This training will most likely be online training. She feels that it will be very beneficial for the Town to train in conflict resolution and zero tolerance.

Donna VanSickell asked if there were any updates on the dog that is on Odell Lake Rd. Supervisor Driscoll answered that Jeff had gone there along with the Sheriff's Department. The dog is not there when they arrive. That was the last update the Town has been given. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the garage doors. Russ Hatch said as Lisa had mentioned the Town would like to get a motor put on the garage door at the Transfer Station. When the Town's insurance company came to do the walk through, he had questioned Russ about a service plan with all the doors. The Town would like to have a door company come in and service a couple of doors a year to make sure that all the doors are operating properly. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll mentioned that the Town was able to fit 3 parking spots and 1 handicap spot in front of the Town Hall. We had many complaints about there not being enough parking there. So hopefully that will help with the parking issue. A discussion was had.

The Town Clerk's report for the month of September was issued to the Board. The amount the Town received was \$448.71.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the abstract and vouchers. Supervisor Driscoll wanted to point out that the Highway Department had done all the work at the Transfer Station, including the seal coating. The Suit-Kote invoice for that was \$54,541.69. The Highway Department has billed the Transfer Station for \$24,000 this is for the Highway employees time and for the use of the Highway Department's equipment. That is also shown on the abstract being taken out of Transfer Station. That will be added to the DA and DB lines in the Highway Department. Russ Hatch added that the \$54,541.69 invoice also included a couple of roads. The actual bill for the Town Hall, Post Office and Transfer Station was a combined total of around \$15,000. Supervisor Driscoll mentioned that once we get our canceled checks back, we can submit that to C.H.I.P.S to get the money back from C.H.I.P.S. Supervisor Driscoll also informed the Board that the yearly inspection of the fire extinguishers was carried out. The Transfer Station had a load of tires go out and she expects that the next bill for C&D will be about \$7,000. Residents have been bringing in truckloads of C&D, and they have been turned away. Contractors cannot bring in truck loads to the Transfer Station. It fills the C&D and then there is no room for residents to dump.

A question was asked, how much does it cost to get rid of a load of tires. Supervisor Driscoll answered \$547. Patrick Funk added that the Transfer Station does not accept large tires anymore because they charge per ply and it is too expensive to get rid of.

A motion to pay the bills that have been presented to the Board was made by Dwayne C. Hill and seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Profits and Losses. For DA and DB some money will be coming back in from the Transfer Station, right now it is showing around \$13,000.

Patrick F. Funk asked Russ Hatch if he had ever gotten the chance to speak with NYSEG regarding the trees that are hanging over the lines on mile hill. Russ answered that he has spoken with NYSEG regarding trees, they are just not doing maintenance. Mr. Funk also mentioned a tree on Gun House Hill Rd that is really leaning over the lines.

Supervisor Driscoll gave an update to the Cell Towner. Supervisor Driscoll spoke with Verizon, and they have informed her that they are trying to get the Cell Tower completed by the end of October.

There is interest in the slaughterhouse purchasing Catskill Craftsmen. The plan would be to turn it into a USDA poultry packaging plant. Supervisor Driscoll informed them to contact the Village of Stamford. Even though that resides in the Town of Harpersfield, it falls within the Village, and she is unsure of the zoning. There will also be more than likely state entities that they would have to contact. A discussion was had.

There was concern with the amount of salt used on the roads during the winter. It is reducing the longevity of cars. What can be done to change this? Russ responded that on the roads in Harpersfield they use very little salt. The State uses straight salt. Is there something that can be done to change the amount that the State uses? The State has a bare road policy; the county is going to a bare road policy. The objective is to keep the roads bare. A discussion was had.

Dwayne C. Hill asked Supervisor Driscoll if there were any updates on the racetrack. Supervisor Driscoll answered that they have not had a court hearing, right before the last court date the owners contacted the DOH and asked to settle outside of court. The DOH is working on settling out of court. As of right now Supervisor Driscoll is waiting on a signed copy of the settlement. A discussion was had.

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

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on November 12, 2025, at 7:00pm.

