

July 8, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held its regular meeting of the Board on July 8, 2026.

Present were:	Lisa M. Driscoll,	Supervisor
	Erik Reeve,	Councilmember
	Patrick F. Funk,	Councilmember
	Donna VanSickell,	Councilmember
	Dwayne C. Hill,	Councilmember
Also Present:	Heidi Stevens,	Town Clerk
	Russell Hatch,	Supt. of Highways
	Thomas Giaguzzi,	Dept. Town Clerk
Others Present:	Thomas VanSickell	
	Liz Page,	Editor of The Mountain Eagle
	Deborah Ballard	
	Julie Sechrist	

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

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from June 10, 2026, minutes.

There were no questions, comments or concerns regarding the minutes from June 10, 2026.

A motion to accept the June 10, 2026, minutes was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Town Clerk Heidi Stevens informed the board that after speaking with the Towns Attorney, the minutes will not include the full Resolutions, Local Laws or the Agreements. What will be included in the minutes will be the number of which the Resolution, Local Law or Agreement is and if it was passed or agreed upon. The Resolutions, Local Laws and Agreements will be available for the public at the Town Hall or on the town's website.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if there was any correspondence.

Heidi Stevens answered yes. Laurie Bedford, Town Assessor, had sent a thank you card for the flowers that she had received from the town after the passing of her father.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the Local Law for Dog Enforcement Public Hearing. Supervisor Driscoll does not feel at this point that the local law is ready. A couple of things that she would like to point out, there would need to be some clearer language on section 5 – Restrictions, (b) Engage in habitual and loud howling, barking, crying or whining or conduct as to unreasonably and habitually disturb the comfort of any person other than the owner of such dog. Seems very unclear.

Patrick F. Funk feels like this is more for a village setting. Harpersfield is very rural. He also feels the run at large would be for more of the village or residential setting. Many people in Harpersfield let their dogs run on their property, these dogs know the boundaries and stay within them.

Supervisor Driscoll agrees with that statement, stating that her dogs also run on her property and know the boundaries.

Supervisor Driscoll also mentioned the 6ft restriction for the leash. A lot of people have the leashes that extend far past the 6ft. that may need to be changed also. Just a lot of wording that needs to be changed.

Patrick F. Funk asked Supervisor Driscoll what the purpose of a dog license is.

Supervisor Driscoll answered, “If a dog happens to get lost or if someone finds your dog or if someone gets bit by a dog. They can take the tag number and go to the Town Clerk, and they can pull up who has ownership of the dog.”

Erik Reeve asked if it is State Law to have your dog licensed.

Supervisor Driscoll answered yes, she believes that it is State Law.

Patrick Funk stated the reason that he asked what the purpose of a dog license is, is that he thinks this process could be easier on owners as well as on Heidi, he would suggest making the upfront fee higher that would cover the dog forever with the town, when the dog is due for the rabies vaccine they would need to provide the town with the updated rabies vaccine. He also stated that his dogs have tags showing who the owner is, he doesn't see where the owners would need to have multiple tags on their dog to show ownership.

Supervisor Driscoll replied that she would have to look into the Agriculture and Markets State Law to see what the requirements are when it comes to the tags.

Mr. Funk offered to look into it. If everyone is ok with that.

Supervisor Driscoll pointed out the section (8) which explains the fees listed in the proposed local law. This section states that the town would do an enumeration of the dogs in the town. When doing so there would be a \$25 fee assessed to the owner of all dogs found unlicensed or not renewed at the time the enumeration is conducted. She is suggesting that this is not included in the local law.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that there are many things that the town needs to look into before the town can make the changes and pass this local law.

Patrick Funk asked if the Town Board would be ok with coming up with a 2-person committee to work on this local law. To make the changes that need to be made.

Supervisor Driscoll stated that she would be part of that committee along with Patrick F. Funk.

The board agreed to have Lisa Driscoll and Patrick Funk work as a committee on the Dog Control Local Law.

A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll suggested to table the resolution for the public hearing on the local law until a later date.

The board agreed.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is Resolution No. 015, Titled Voluntary Contributions on Dog License Renewals.

A motion was made to accept Resolution No. 015 was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is Resolution No. 016 titles A Resolution In Support of the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights.

A motion was made to accept Resolution No. 016 was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is a resolution that the New York Associations of Towns has asked us to pass delegating a town official to attend the New York Association of Towns meeting that is held September 22-23.

A discussion was had.

This resolution was not adopted at this time.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is Agreement No. 006, the yearly Heart of the Catskills Humane Society Agreement.

A motion was made by Dwayne C. Hill to accept Agreement No. 006. Seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the Transfer Station. Supervisor Driscoll went on to say that she had a meeting with the county regarding the Transfer Station. There will be some more improvements that will benefit Transfer Station employees as well as the county driver. The county did mention that any damage to the containers that takes place at the Transfer Station will be charged to the Town of Harpersfield for it to be fixed.

The equipment that the Transfer Station is currently using to move the containers is causing damage due to placement of the implements on the containers and pushing them to where they need to be placed. The concrete that was poured last year is also being damaged without the use of the proper equipment. The town has started looking at different roll-off trucks to move the containers around properly. There were conversations had with the attendants to make sure that they are doing everything possible to ensure the containers are not being damaged.

Russ had looked at couple of trucks, one in Dutchess County that was a road worthy truck. That truck was around \$22,000. Delaware County has just auctioned off some trucks. Russ did speak with Andrew from the county before the auction ended. He did not recommend them. Russ has seen trucks anywhere from \$4,000 - \$22,000.

Councilmember Erik asked if there were forks for the front-end loaders to pick up the front of the boxes.

Russ answered that the forks that the town has are not long enough. If they were, they would only be able to pick up an empty box but not a full box, they are too heavy.

Russ told the board that the town had a roll-off truck at one time. It did work nicely, but that truck was not in great condition when it was purchased. It did not last that long.

Supervisor Driscoll stated that she would rather buy a truck that is in good condition so that way they are able to move the containers when needed. Not have the worry of the truck not starting then have to figure out another way to move the containers around. She said that the town doesn't necessarily need one for the road, but it would be nice because then in the future the Transfer Station could get its own containers for the metal and take it to the scrap yard and gain that income. Supervisor Driscoll went on to say that the metal has been a big problem for the Transfer Station. Residents are throwing items in there that do not belong. Walton had emptied one of the containers that had come from our Transfer Station. There were several items that belonged in C&D or in the garbage. The Transfer Station attendants were told today that they needed to be standing by the metal and watching what is going into the container. Their most

important job is to make sure that the items that are being shipped out of the Transfer Station are in the correct containers, and that the containers are ready for the truck when the truck gets to the Transfer Station to pick them up. Helping people carry their trash is a courtesy not their job. The town will be purchasing more signs to make sure people are aware of what items go in what containers.

Supervisor Driscoll asked for a motion to be made so that the town can purchase a roll-off truck for the Transfer Station.

A motion to purchase a roll-off truck with a price limit of \$25,000 was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Erik Reeve. All voting Aye.

A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that in their folders were the Transfer Station Guidelines that were given to all employees of the Transfer Station today. In there it says the date of August 17th for the Transfer Station to start closing off areas while the containers are being switched out or if a container is full and cannot take anymore of whatever goes in that container. We will publish this in The Mountain Eagle for 2 weeks to make sure that the public is aware of these new changes.

Russ added that Harpersfield does not have our own metal box, when the box is full it stays full until the county comes to pick it up and bring a new box. This sometimes takes a couple of days. People throw metal in the boxes even after it is full, then the county will not take the box because it is illegal and unsafe to drive on the roads to Walton with that container.

A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the escrow for the Mountain Top Airfield campground application. The Town has received a check for \$7500. This has been deposited into the town's bank account. Now the Planning Board can start reviewing the application.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Town Clerk to inform the board on what she had just been brought to her attention.

Heidi told the board that at the Delaware County Clerks meeting there was a mention regarding town's Facebook pages. We were told that all comments are FOILable. In order to properly FOIL we would have to employ a metadata storage company so any deleted comments would be recorded. Facebook should only be used as a digital bulletin board. Meeting notices, job postings, safety posts, construction warnings ect. We should not allow comments at all.

Supervisor Driscoll likes the fact that we do use Facebook as a place to get information to the public regarding the town. However, to avoid these possible FOIL requests, would like the comments to be turned off.

Patrick Funk has looked into a place to turn the comments off and is not able to find this.

Heidi told him that every time a new post is made, comments need to be turned off.

A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if any councilmembers had items to address with the board.

There were no items that needed to be addressed with the board.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the cameras for the Highway Garage. She had spoken with Kevin and he told her that the town is next on his list for the camera installation.

Russ gave the board an update on the paving of the roads. Russ is hoping to do the sealing at the end of July. Tentatively scheduled for the 21st and 22nd.

Russ informed the board that the Gunhouse and Reed Road culvert grant has to be in at the end of July. The town has already received \$500,000 for the grant with a 25% match. This grant is to try and get the 25% that the town is responsible for back. This project is planned for next year.

Russ informed the board that next on the agenda is the purchasing of a Bobcat Excavator. The estimate that Russ has received is for \$134,808.12. The price that he received in September was \$123,074.62. Prices have gone up a little bit, but the coupling is different. Dustin, who does most of the excavation, would like the same thing that he has now.

Supervisor Driscoll told the board to keep in mind that the town had received the Robinson Broadhurst grant for the excavator and the rest will go to C.H.I.P.S.

Russ added that the town will also sell the excavator that they are currently using.

Russ added that he did not get the old Transfer Station backhoe on the auction site for this meeting. He will get it on there for next month's meeting. So, the board can approve the sale of that.

A discussion was had.

A motion was made to purchase the Bobcat Excavator was made by Patrick F. Funk. Seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

The Town Clerks report for the month of June was issued to the board. The amount the town received was \$2,198.03.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the abstract and vouchers. Suit Kote was billed to the Highway for paving. That was \$53,000. That will be put into C.H.I.P.S.

Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill asked Tom Giaguzzi how the Delaware and Ulster Railroad meeting had gone.

Tom responded good. They are up and running. They are having difficulty finding manpower to run the trains.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Dwayne C. Hill. Seconded by Donna VanSickell. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the board that next on the agenda is the Profits and Losses. There are a couple of things that she would like to point out. Mortgage tax from the county the amount of that check was \$128,000. This check would be from the mortgage tax on one of the Solar Companies. Retirement still needs to be split. That information is with the bookkeeper. The insurance is showing \$92,000, it is actually \$46,000. They had never received the check in the mail, so the town had to write them a new one. It shows as if they were paid 2 times. That will be fixed. The garage contractual also has an item that should have gone under buildings. That has been moved and will show on next month's Profit and Losses.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm

The next regular meeting of the Harpersfield Town Board will be held on Wednesday August 12, 2026, at 7:00pm.