

**TOWN OF HORSEHEADS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Horseheads was held on the above date at 5:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, 150 Wygant Road, Horseheads, New York.

Members Present: Donald J. Fischer, Town Supervisor; Gary H. Riopko, Carl R. Lewis, Sr. Arthur Laurey and Joseph C. Brennan, Councilmen.

Absent:

Others present: John P. Mustico, Town Attorney; Cathy R. Wood, Town Clerk; Amanda Hillman, Deputy Town Clerk; Steve Cronin, Mark Cronin, Joseph G. Savino, Kevin Adams, Village of Horseheads Mayor and Walt Crooker.

Supervisor Fischer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

On motion by Mr. Lewis, and seconded by Mr. Brennan, it was moved that the minutes of January 14th and 28th, 2026 meetings be dispensed with and the same stand approved as entered by the clerk.

Ayes: Riopko, Lewis, Laurey, Brennan and Fischer. Nays: None.

Resolution #60 of 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Resolution by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Laurey

WHEREAS, this matter has been duly considered by the Town Board of the Town of Horseheads.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to pay the audited claims, in all funds, in the amount of \$366,383.20 as follows:

Fund A:	\$ 202,920.13	Fund H:	\$ 734,750.85
Fund B:	\$ 21,049.37	Fund SF/SL/SW:	\$ 2,021.13
Fund DB:	\$ 138,706.11	Fund TA:	\$ 1,686.46

Ayes: Riopko, Lewis, Laurey, Brennan and Fischer. Nays: None.

Questions/comments/concerns from the Board members included; not holding up a vendor payment however, the amount of the 2 invoice(s) and following procedure were questioned, did these invoices fall under emergency purchases, procurement policy must be followed, repairs were needed to a vehicle not sure which one, what is covered under warranty, when auditing the

bills if one is in question set it aside to get answers, department heads need to provide proof of following procurement policy and reason for service with the invoice submitted.

Resolution #61 of 2026

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS

On a motion by Mr. Riopko, and seconded by Mr. Brennan, it was moved that the 2026 February reports of the Supervisor in the General and Highway Funds, reports of the Town Justices, Code Enforcement Officer, Assessor, Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk be received and placed on file.

Ayes: Riopko, Lewis, Laurey, Brennan and Fischer. Nays: None.

Questions/comments/concerns from the Board members included; discussing mailboxes hit when plowing, Town policy states replace the mailbox but not necessarily to what it was, a decorative brick pillar on Ambrose Drive was hit and the resident was advised to submit a contractor quote and is there an amount in the budget for this type of repairs.

Correspondence:

- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy – Stuart A. Baldwin & Harriet C. Baldwin (01/13/25).
- Charter Communications – Upcoming Changes (01/21/26 & 02/05/26).
- Local Govt. Historian’s Annual Report (01/26/26).
- Letter from Supervisor Fischer (02/03/25).
- Sheriff of Chemung County January Residential Statistics (02/04/26).

On a motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Riopko, it was moved that the correspondence be received and placed on file.

Ayes: Riopko, Lewis, Laurey, Brennan and Fischer. Nays: None.

Supervisor Fischer explained audience participation. Anyone wishing to speak can talk about anything that is not on the agenda and to please step forward to the podium stating name and address. The Town Board does not participate at this time.

During the audience participation portion of the meeting, the following resident(s) came forward to speak:

Joe Savino, 175 Florence St., discussed his situation resulting in the purchase of a parcel of land on Carrol St. from a Mr. Masi. A parcel behind what he purchased was missing from the tax roll until this year. Mr. Masi received the tax bill. After much discussion with Mr. Masi, Mr. Savino stated, Mr. Masi is willing to get it to him.

It was explained to Mr. Savino, the Town had nothing to do with his first purchase from Mr. Masi and this transaction has nothing to do with the Town as well.

Kevin Adams, Mayor of Village of Horseheads, 202 S. Main Street. Mayor Adams was happy to announce the Village was awarded \$4,000,000 dollars from the NY Swims Grant for pool and pool house repairs at Thorne St. Park. The Village share for this grant is \$1,000,000 dollars. Demo will begin at the end of the season this year. No swimming in 2027 and the project is expected to be completed in 2028. The Village is also applying for the MRP Grant in

the amount of \$1,900,000. Mayor Adams proposing moving toward a united Horseheads. He is asking the Town contribute \$500,000 toward this project. In exchange, Town and Village residents would pay a Horseheads fee to swim.

Questions/comments/concerns from the Board members included; what is the estimated amount collected annually from Town residents' vs Village residents', this difference is minuscule, this is a Village project, what are the expenses associated with running the pool, the Town contributing would look good for the community, the grant saved the pool, would the Village come back to the Town for more contributions to cover expenses to operate the pool, more people will frequent a new pool and it was asked that Mayor Adams present in writing more statistical information and what he is proposing.

The Planning Board requested to change the start time of their meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Town Board acknowledged this request. Beginning March 4, 2026, the Planning Board meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Assessor requested to perform a Town-wide revaluation in 2027.

Questions/comments/concerns from the Board members included; speak with the Assessor to ask why and is it necessary, ultimately this will increase taxes for residents, the last revaluation resulted in some taxes going up, some taxes stayed the same and some taxes increased, currently the value is 88%, it is beneficial for the Town to be at 95%, the rate could be reduced to avoid a tax increase to residents, make the public aware of the revaluation, taxes for some never decrease, yes houses sell for over the assessed value due to supply and demand and create possibly a longevity clause so residents wouldn't have to go through this process, a revaluation maybe won't change the Town rate however taxes could increase through other taxing entities, can a report be created to summarize reflecting the last time other municipalities did a revaluation and is this a time sensitive issue and maybe hold a public hearing or when sending out letters to residents include an explanation for the revaluation.

At the January 14, 2026 meeting it was approved to form a permanent Ad Hoc Committee by Resolution #5 of 2026 for Parks and Recreation. Resolution #55 of 2026 amended the previous resolution to for a Standing Committee. Attorney Mustico explained the resolution necessary and how the committee would conduct itself.

Questions/comments/concerns from the Board members included; have people on the committee interested in all parks not just one and review the list of interested people.

Resolution #62 of 2026

RESOLUTION CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A PARKS COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF HORSEHEADS

Resolution by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Laurey

WHEREAS, the Town of Horseheads has a vested interest in the promotion of parks, recreational areas, and programs to enhance the quality of life, health, and welfare of its residents, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Horseheads finds it desirable to establish a committee to advise on matters related to parks and recreation facilities, and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Parks and Recreation Committee will help ensure that the needs and interests of the community are properly represented in the planning, development, and maintenance of park facilities, and

WHEREAS, such a committee will assist the Town Board in exploring grant opportunities and funding for parks and recreation projects from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and other sources, and

WHEREAS, this matter has been duly considered by the Town Board of the Town of Horseheads.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Horseheads, as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of Committee.

There is hereby created and established the Parks Committee of the Town of Horseheads, to be an advisory body to the Town Board.

Section 2. Purpose and Duties.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Town Board:

- Recommending proposed park rules and regulations & amendments recommended to be adopted, by the Town Board;
- Assisting in public outreach and soliciting community input regarding the parks;
- Prepare and submit recommendations for capital budgets and annual operation funds related to parks;
- Recommend and submit for consideration a proposed parks infrastructure plan for capital projects, building repairs, parks upkeep and maintenance and new playground equipment installation;
- Advise Town Board regarding preparation of a Parks Master Plan, including revisions as the community needs dictate and, after preparation and adoption, review and monitor implementation of the Master Plan;

Section 3. Membership

The Committee shall consist of five (5) members, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, Members shall serve without compensation. The composition of the committee should be as follows:

- All members shall be residents of the Town of Horseheads;
- The members shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Board and be appointed annually at the organizational meeting of the Town Board in January of each year;
- Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Town Board;
- At minimum one (1) member of the Town Board and no more than two (2) members of the Town Board shall be appointed as ex officio members of the committee to serve as non-voting advisors to the committee;

Section 4. Organization and Procedures.

The Committee shall hold regular meetings and shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of business, consistent with applicable New York State Laws, including the Open Meetings Law (Public Officers Law, Article 7). The Committee shall annually elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Ayes: Riopko, Lewis, Laurey, Brennan and Fischer. Nays: None.

Questions/comments/concerns from the Board members regarding updating the Procurement Policy included; removal of verbal quotes, categorize items purchased and assign minimum/maximum spending amounts, purchasing is cumulative over 12 months (ex. copy paper), the Performance Budget Report, distributed monthly to Board Members, reflects previous years and current year expenses, department heads must follow procurement policy, provide documentation, and get approval before making purchase as stated in the procurement policy, how is inventory taken and recorded and a request to review the 284 Highway Report was made.

The discussion regarding updating the Town Procurement Policy will carry to the next meeting.

Resolution #63 of 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REQUEST

Resolution by Mr. Laurey seconded by Mr. Brennan

WHEREAS, this matter has been duly considered by the Town Board of the Town of Horseheads.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Horseheads hereby authorizes Town Clerk Cathy Wood and Deputy Town Clerk Amanda Hillman, to attend the NYS Town Clerk’s Association conference in Albany NY from April 19th through April 22th, 2026.

Ayes: Riopko, Lewis, Laurey, Brennan and Fischer. Nays: None.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Laurey, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Ayes: Riopko, Lewis, Laurey, Brennan and Fischer. Nays: None.

Supervisor Fischer informed all that the plumber will begin replacing the potable hot water system at the Town Hall on February 23 & 24. He also stated he would like to invite the Mayor of the Village of Elmira Heights to the second meeting to discuss Highway Contract. Supervisor Fischer also presented bringing back inspection of roads that Marty would like to work on this year. Mr. Laurey suggested coordinating with Cornell.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy R. Wood
Town Clerk