
Town board meeting January 13, 2026

From Eleanor Smith <ellierich1950@gmail.com>
Date Fri 2/6/2026 10:24 AM
To rbronner@ntcnet.com <rbronner@ntcnet.com>

The town board meeting was held on January 13, 2026 at the town justice building.

Councilman Valenta led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Bronner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

First item of business was the swearing in of the elected officials from the November election by the town justice, Debra Bronner. Officials sworn in were: Supervisor Bronner, Superintendent Hajczewski, Councilman Voght, Councilman Valenta, Councilman Armstrong, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Smith.

Roll call as follow:

Supervisor Bronner – present	Councilman Armstrong – present
Councilman Valenta – present	Councilman Hubiak – present
Councilman Voght – present	Superintendent Hajczewski – present
Town Clerk Smith – present	

Also attending the meeting: Sue & Nick Jordan, Connie and Ken Richards, and Karen Havens

The town clerk read the minutes from December 16, 2025 meeting. Supervisor Bronner asked if any corrections, additions, or changes to the minutes as read. Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Voght seconded. All approved.

Supervisor Bronner opened the meeting to the public at 7:10 pm. There was a question asked if ever a dumpster for tires. Supervisor Bronner advised that a location has not been found to take them as a town sponsored idea. Also there was a question about the cell tower if working. Supervisor Bronner advised he was told in the very near future but nothing definite. A resident thought it was on as they had no cell service and now have four bars as of late December. Supervisor Bronner needs to confirm. No further discussion and Supervisor Bronner proceeded with the regular meeting.

Supervisor and town clerk's report for the month of December were passed to the town board to review.

Supervisor Bronner asked for the following transfer of accounts:

- 1.) Transfer of accounts: General Fund
 - a.) \$4,287.88 from 2024 fund balance to A1220.4 (CE Supervisor)
 - b.) \$1,118.06 from 2024 fund balance to A1340.4 (CE Paychex PR Service)
 - c.) \$9,243.00 from 2024 fund balance to A1420.4 (CE Attorney) Spec Counsel
 - d.) \$51,325.00 from unanticipated revenue to A1640.4 (CE Sand Salt Barn, Land Purchase, Legal Fees, Surveying, Consultant Fees, etc.)
 - e.) \$8,928.28 from 2024 fund balance to A1910.1 (CE Insurance, Liability, Auto, Contactors Ins., etc)
 - f.) \$180,444.00 from 2024 fund balance to A5140.4 (CE Sand Salt Barn)
 - g.) \$5,138.00 from unanticipated revenue to A9010.8 (CE State Retirement)Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.
- 2.) Transfer of Accounts: Highway Fund
 - a.) \$35,989.08 from unappropriated fund balance to DA5130.4 (Volvo Plow)
 - b.) \$2,156.59 from unappropriated fund balance to DA5112.2 (Chips Funding)
 - c.) \$300,000.00 from unanticipated revenue to DA5130.2 (EQ Volvo, Ban)
 - d.) \$162,7711.00 from unappropriated funds to DA5130.4 (Mack Truck)
 - e.) \$47,300.32 from unappropriated fund balance to DA5130.4 (CE Machinery)Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

The town board audited the Supervisor's records and financial statement and the town clerk's records.

Supervisor Bronner asked for the following resolutions:

Resolution fixing salaries of elected and appointed officials as stated in 2026 adopted town budget. Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Resolution for the following appointments:

- a.) Budget Officer Richard Bronner
- b.) Registrar of vital statistics Eleanor Smith
- c.) Town Attorney Gerry Snyder
- d.) Dog Control Officer David Mayton
- e.) Town Historian James Cook
- f.) Deputy Supervisor (?)
- g.) Deputy Clerk (?)
- h.) Health Officer Laureen Steenburg
- i.) Codes officer Phil Green
- j.) Appointed Assessor James Fresco Herkimer County Real Property

Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

Planning Board: Jeff Crouse (2025-2030), Kay Moyer (2023-2028), Lorna Eaker (2021-2026)
Zoning Board of Appeals: Duties to be performed by the Planning Board

There was a discussion regarding the planning board once again as to having a five member planning board rather than the three member board that we have as of now. There will be another time to discuss.

Board of Assessment Review: Don Sheldon (10/1/24 to 9/30/29), Mike Kennerknecht (10/1/22 to 9/30/27), Edward Mower (10/1/21 to 9/30/26)

Continuation of their appointments: Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

A new item on the agenda is the Town of Stark water board. It is the town's responsibility. There are requirements who can be on the board, and who needs to be represented. Town of Stark Water Board – Bowling Alley (Darlene Bronner), Otsquago Apartments (Victor Weaver), ODY School (Brennan Fahey), Town of Stark (Supervisor Richard Bronner), Harvey Green (resident), Deb Bronner (resident), Erin Hubiak (resident), Robert Hoyt (resident), Lisa Wilber WTP Operator

Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

Resolutions:

- a.) Setting mileage at \$.65 a mile (last change 1/14/25) Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Voght seconded. All approved.
- b.) Establishing meeting day and time (2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm) Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.
- c.) Establishing official town newspaper (Utica OD) Councilman Armstrong made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.
- d.) Official town banking institution NBT Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Voght seconded. All approved.
- e.) Allowing highway superintendent to spend up to \$2,500.00 without special meeting of the town board Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.
- f.) Establishing pay schedule for town employees:
 - a.) Bi-weekly: Highway Superintendent, Highway Department Employees, Attorney, Water Plant Operator, Supervisor
 - b.) Quarterly: Town clerk/Tax Collector, Town Board, Town Justice, Codes Officer, Dog Control Officer
 - c.) Annual Payroll: Board of Assessment Review, Town Historian, Budget Officer, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Health Officer

Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Establishing work day of less than eight hours for elected and appointed officials on state retirement. Hours to be designated at 6 hrs for non-full time employees (Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, and Attorney). New York schedule for each bi-annually to coincide with term of office. Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Establishment of chips roads and approve funding for each project. Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Approving road repairs for non-chips roads with Herkimer County (Total miles allocated) Councilman Valenta made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved.

Resolution: Designation of seasonal roads and minimum maintenance roads Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

Equalization rate for the town of Stark is 41.04%. Superintendent Hajczewski advised that he received an email from the state for leftover chips for the amount of \$46,500.00, which means if we get the same as last year, we will have over \$160,000.00 for this year.

Supervisor Bronner passed paperwork to the town board for the November payment for state snow and a notification from the Department of Health indicating that a water test was not picked up and identified on time, therefore Supervisor Bronner has to notify residents in the water bills.

Worker's Comp Alliance Agreement, Supervisor has not received a bill from that yet. It is three years at \$20,545.00. Next year it will be different.

Information from Wheelock garbage disposal with the new rates was passed to the town board.

Also information was passed regarding the annual Herkimer County Self Insurance plan that the town is still paying. The town hasn't been a member in over 20 years. But because the town had been a member, we only entail to pay off old claims that are still being paid off. Supervisor Bronner advised that the town tried getting out of it but it is still active. The bill is for \$696.00 a year.

Final, Supervisor Bronner advised the Bond Anticipation note is due and requesting authorization to put together the paperwork. The principal payment would be \$60,000.00 for a 5 year payment and interest of \$12,450.00 on the \$300,000.00 note. Councilman Voght made motion to approve and Councilman Hubiak seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes and approved.

The town board reviewed the Supervisor's report. Councilman Hubiak made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

The town board reviewed the town clerk's report consisting of one building permit for the amount of \$197.76. Councilman Armstrong made motion to approve and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

The town board reviewed the General and Highway Fund vouchers to pay the bills. Councilman Hubiak made motion to pay the bills and Councilman Valenta seconded. All approved.

The next town board meeting will be held on February 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Councilman Armstrong made motion to adjourn and Councilman Hubiak seconded. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.