

Regular Board Meeting
Of the Town Board of the Town of Cuba

Held at the Cuba Town Hall, 15 Water Street, Cuba, NY 14727

Present:

Supervisor: Lee James

Council Persons: Melodie Farwell, David Decker, Jonathan Enzinna

Also Present: Allesia Heslin, Town Clerk, Dustin Burch, Chief of Police, Aaron Appleby, Ambulance Administrator, Trevor Hollenbeck, Dog Control Officer

Absent: Chad Smith, Highway Superintendent, Bill Beck, Council Person

Supervisor James called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7pm.

Supervisor James asked Heslin to perform a roll call of present members: Aaron Appleby, Dustin Burch, Jonathan Enzinna, David Decker, Lee James, Melodie Farwell, Trevor Hollenbeck

Board Comments: Decker stated that Dairy Days went well and hats off to everyone who puts time into that. Farwell commended the Fire Department on their cool down event at Chamberlain Park. It was a lot of fun for the kids.

Supervisor Comments: James was impressed by local celebrations for the United States' 250th anniversary. James heard the Cuba Lake fireworks were spectacular and thanked the Cuba Lake Cottage Owner's Association for that. James deferred the rest of her time to Tina Dalton, Cuba Circulating Library Director.

Dalton presented information about welcome bags that the library and chamber of commerce will be handing out to new community members. The bags include information about the library and chamber, a map of the village, a brief history of Cuba, information about Allegany County tourism and some swag.

Dalton asked that when people come to the town to set up services and they are new to Cuba, to come to the library or chamber to get their welcome bag.

The bags were donated by White Imprints and the magnets and pamphlets were made possible through a grant by the Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries.

Minutes for 06/10/2026, Supervisor's Report for June & General, Highway and Assessor Abstract #7:

When asked, board members responded yes, they had reviewed the minutes, reports and abstracts.

Heslin will correct one typo on the last minutes.

The Supervisor's Report showed the general fund received \$73,189.05. The highway fund received \$49,396.86. The assessor consortium received \$126,634.12. Disbursements include \$181,899.77 for general, \$32,671.25 for highway and \$16,295.32 for assessor consortium.

The July Abstract #7 dispersed \$131,806.10 from the General Fund, \$57,034.37 from the Highway Fund and \$1,221.42 from the Assessor Consortium.

On the motion of Decker and seconded by Enzinna the reports were accepted as presented.

Farwell asked James about the prior CRCS legal bills. James is still reviewing everything.

Clerk Comments:

- The planning board is down to 4 members; the board should brainstorm someone for the fifth position.
- The Office for the Aging will be holding their annual senior picnic on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 from 11am-3pm at the Angelica Fair Grounds. Information is on the town's website and on the clerk's bulletin board.
- The Office for the Aging is offering farmer's market coupons for seniors. Information is on the town's website and on the clerk's bulletin board.
- Heslin received information from the New York State Association of Tax Receivers and Collectors regarding the responsibility for rounding cash payments. Heslin asked the board for support to send a letter to our senator to not advance Senate Bill S9541 in its current form. The board approved.

Police Department Comments: In the month of June, the department conducted 67 traffic stops. There were 403 calls for service. The full report is on the website.

- E-bikes continue to be a problem. Officers have given out several warnings and will now be transitioning to enforcement.
- There has been chatter on-line recently about a recent arrest. The department has gotten mental health help to the individual in the past. One of the things the department does when they charge people, they have gotten mental health help for in the past, is contact the DA's office and use that as a vehicle to hold them to a position where they are mandated to get mental health help. The department has a lot of different types of training to deal with situations like this. Burch also stated that when the governor pushed out reform, one of the things they pushed for was transparency. Due to that, the mug shot laws were altered and must serve the public interest. If someone is having an issue and has been going into businesses, etc. the information will be supplied to the public.
- There were two citizen complaints last month. After reviewing the body cam footage and having a conversation with the complainants, the citizens were satisfied. Burch stated that the body cams are worth their weight in gold.
- Burch reminded everyone to safeguard their property. There have been arrests recently that dealt with individuals charged with serious crimes in the past and the department recently solved a case where two people were stealing from vehicles and using skimmers to steal money. Eight credit cards and car keys were recovered.
- There is \$3,500 worth of damage to the police car involved in the mental health arrest. The claim has been submitted to the DA's office to see if insurance will cover it.

Ambulance Comments: The Cuba Ambulance Service responded to a total of 38 calls to service in June of 2026. 24 of those calls were taken to Olean General Hospital, 4 were taken to Jones Memorial Hospital and 10 were sign offs, 0 were taken by Mercy Flight and 0 were DOA. 31 of these calls were critical care with Cuba handling 29 and Olean 10/MTS handling 2. 24 of these calls were in the Village of Cuba, 9 were in the Town of Cuba, 0 were on the lake, 0 was mutual aid to Friendship, 1 was mutual aid to Clarksville, 0 were mutual aid to Ischua, 4 were to New Hudson, 0 was mutual aid to Rushford and 0 were on I-86.

- We have been busy doing standbys for Dairy Week, the New Hudson horse pulls, and a 5K run.
- We have one member currently taking his EMT class and one signed up for the one starting in August.
- Joint training scheduled with the fire department on August 11th.
- Of note, for the first 6 months of 2026, we have had 244 calls.
- Jones Memorial will be starting to break ground late this summer or early fall on their new building. I would like to also do the sitework for the ambulance bay at the same time as it would only make sense to tie in utilities, etc. I have not heard anything back from the grant that I wrote. I would like to know where the town stands on the building and be ready to start things when the time comes. I have money in the ambulance reserve account that could be used, and with the increased call volume, the revenue from our billing is increasing. Looking at the current budget, it looks like we have already taken in almost all of the \$130,000 that we anticipated to collect from billing. James stated that the town is getting close to budget season. We need to see where we are and plan. Appleby reiterated that with Jones breaking ground, it makes sense for the town to take care of utilities for a new ambulance bay now.
- James asked when people sign off, does it still get billed through their insurance? The information is sent to Medex and they take it from there.
- Appleby pointed out that Cuba is still one of the lower agencies as far as billing. We haven't raised the rates. James would like Appleby to ask Medex what the reasonable and customary charges are that they reimburse. If Cuba is way below that, the town should look into rates due to rising operating costs.
- Burch asked if the ambulance performs blood draws as an alternative to taking someone to Olean General Hospital if they are driving under the influence. The ambulance currently does not do blood draws to avoid being called into court.

Highway Comments:

- Installed driveway pipes on Summit, Jackson Hill and North Branch

- Mowed roadsides
- Ditched on Summit
- Changed crossover pipe on Jackson Hill

Equipment Repairs:

- Serviced the 2015 and 2019 Freightliners
- Working on Peterbilt wiring issue

- Smith would like to look into another truck to get ahead of emissions and some of the other mandates that are out there. It takes a long time for each truck to be built.

Sewer Committee: Harvey believes that if Jones Memorial can't connect to the village sewer, they could be connected to sewer district #5. Village Superintendent, Kris Krzos says it is probably likely they can connect to the village.

Facilities:

- The flower bed in the front of town hall has been updated.
- The police department is fundraising for a memorial stone in front of town hall. Donations can be made via check made out to "PBA" with "memorial fund" in the memo line. A matching stone will be installed next to the memorial stone with donor's names etched into it.
- The generator will be placed in the front of the building soon and a new electric service will also be installed.
- A law enforcement grant is available and must be used for law enforcement funding, information sharing with the public. Burch will apply to possibly purchase a digital informational board to be installed in front of the generator, for a large printer and to update the cameras in the building among other things.
- Burch is receiving cleaning quotes for the building.
- Burch believes that sleeving the sewer will have to wait until next year. The project will need to be bid out.
- Burch talked with Harvey and he can maintain the tank after it is sleeved.
- There is no heat connected to the town hall anymore. Burch is waiting on one more quote to move forward on getting a new system.
- A canopy and handrail need to be installed in the front of the building. The sidewalk also needs to be looked at. The town needs to get costs and estimates and the issue will be discussed more during budget time.

Dog Control Comments:

- Hollenbeck has had 17 calls in the last couple of months.
- Twelve tickets have been written for dogs on Beebe Hill Road that were running loose and bit a resident. Hollenbeck thanked the police department for their assistance in seizing the dogs. The dogs are now licensed, have rabies shots and have been returned to the owner. The owner will be back in court August 4th for the tickets. Farwell is concerned about exposure to the town. All the people who complained about these dogs and had to deal with them are upset. Hollenbeck is following the Agriculture and Markets laws and doing all he can.
- James has been looking into shelter options. There may be prefab options available.
- Hollenbeck has taken a few dogs to Cattaraugus County SPCA. The SPCA is now charging \$150 per dog to take them. Hollenbeck has tried to get a shelter agreement with them and the SPCA is not interested in doing that.

Code Enforcement Comments: Reed injured his shoulder and requires surgery, but it shouldn't impede on his duties.

Assessor's Comments:

- The revaluation is going well. The lake is complete and the assessors are now working outside of the village. They are 2/3 of the way through and then will move to inputting data.

Planning Board:

- The board reviewed the BESS moratorium.

- The board will research the village code regarding grass cutting and clutter to mirror it for the town.
- Nothing new regarding the Stockings' project.

Old Business:

- The board will continue to work on an ambulance building and come up with some plans.
- The third batch just came through for the 911 renumbering project. Letters will be sent out. There is one more batch to go. Tina Dalton had a resident tell her this was costing them a lot of money. James acknowledged that there are costs, but the town does not have a choice in the renumbering. Deeds do not need to be changed until the sale of the house.
- There was an Empire State Development meeting at the library. They talked through what's available and what's coming up. James and Enzinna found it very informative.
- James thanked Farwell for attending and gathering information from FEMA. James does believe, after reviewing the books, that there are some anomalies. At this point, FEMA has no funding to continue this project so it will be 2 years or more before anything moves forward.

New Business:

- There has been a lot of activity and people are concerned with what is going to happen with Battery Energy Storage Systems in the area. Passing a moratorium will give the board six months to plan. The town can't say we don't want to have a BESS because of regulations, but we can say it would be a better fit in certain areas of town. A public hearing was scheduled for 6:45pm on Tuesday, August 11th at the Cuba Town Hall.
- New York State passed a one-year moratorium on data centers. The town still needs to address the issue.
- Senator George Borello asked for a resolution to support a Constitution Pipeline Project. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comments:

- Tina Dalton asked if the board has talked about Flock AI facial recognition cameras in the community and expressed her opposition to the idea. This has not been on the board's radar. Burch and other board members agreed that they are a huge privacy issue.
- Suzanne Flierl also expressed her opposition to Flock cameras.

James reminded department heads that budget worksheets need to be completed.

James is trying to schedule a time to meet with the accountants regarding the budget. The board will let her know if the date works to get that scheduled.

With no further business to discuss, Farwell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Enzinna. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Allesia A. Heslin, Town Clerk