

April 14, 2026

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, Bill Beck, David Decker, Jonathan Enzinna
Also Present: Allesia Heslin, Town Clerk, Chad Smith, Highway Superintendent, Dustin Burch, Chief of Police
Absent: Trevor Hollenbeck, Dog Control Officer, Aaron Appleby, Ambulance Administrator

Supervisor James called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

Supervisor James asked Heslin to perform a roll call of present members: Chad Smith, Dustin Burch, Jonathan Enzinna, David Decker, Bill Beck, Lee James, Melodie Farwell

Board Comments: Beck said that there is a lot he would like to say, even if true wouldn't be helpful. He wanted everyone to know that he has heard you and his decision remains the same and he wants the police officers to have the best training in relation to the program under question. Board members have attempted to enter into conversation with some representatives of the group, that conversation was declined. If you would like to continue to speak your piece, they are here to hear you. Beck thanked everyone for coming out. He wished that they had been as activated for the at-risk community members who were having the tax burden shifted on them by the most affluent in our community but they chose not to enter into that conversation. Beck hopes the conversation will remain civil and we will all be respectful of each other.

Supervisor Comments: none

Minutes for 03/17/2026, Supervisor's Report for March & General & Highway Abstract #4:

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

The Supervisor's Report showed the general fund received \$48,727.83. The highway fund received \$36,888.42. The assessor consortium received \$140.21. Disbursements include \$173,257.15 for general, \$108,723.40 for highway and \$12,461.87 for assessor consortium.

The April Abstract #4 dispersed \$40,822.52 from the General Fund, \$29,887.62 from the Highway Fund and \$3,764.60 from the Assessor Consortium.

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

Clerk Comments:

- Allegany County is conducting a housing survey -the link can be found at Cubany.gov
- 211 and 333111 services are available in our area. Information can be found at Cubany.gov
- Heslin reminded town employees that Southern Tier West will be hosting its annual government conference on June 4th at Houghton University.
- The catholic church will be hosting a chicken BBQ on April 18th.

Police Department Comments: In the month of March, the department conducted 119 traffic stops. There were 428 calls for service. The full report is on the website.

- The parking ban has been lifted in the village.

- The burn ban will continue until May 14th.
- The department re-upped their thermal imaging/night vision agreement with the federal government. They have been doing this for 10 years. It has helped with people lost in the woods, search warrants, etc. It keeps the officers safer.
- The department will be hosting their spring night fire arms range as per state protocol.
- The ladies fire arms course will be May 2nd.
- There has been an issue with e-bikes. The law states that e-bikes are permitted on roads posted at 30mph or under. E-bike users have to abide by the vehicle and traffic law. Burch wants to look around to other communities to see if there is any way that Cuba could adopt a law that would assist the department in certain scenarios. James asked if the law is different for youths. Some e-bike riders are not abiding by the traffic rules (there have been tickets issued) and James is worried someone will be hit by a car. Burch will bring more guidance regarding municipal laws and e-bikes to the next meeting.
- An officer will be attending updated firearms school for instructing.
- Taser 10 training is completed. Officer Schostick gave an overview of the new tasers. The biggest benefit of the latest iteration of taser is a bigger gap to react in, up to 45 feet and being able to get 9 opportunities to use less than lethal force instead of 2. It gives a lot more opportunity to deescalate a situation. Burch mentioned that training is done virtually now rather than buying the training cartridges and having to spend money. Burch would also like the board and members of the public, within reason, to attend a virtual training. It would be a good way to connect with people and let them see what the officers see and what they deal with and understand why it's a necessary tool.
- There have been over 1,200 calls to services this year so far.

Ambulance Comments: The Cuba Ambulance Service responded to a total of 50 calls to service in March of 2026. 29 of those calls were taken to Olean General Hospital, 9 were taken to Jones Memorial Hospital and 11 were sign offs, 1 was taken by Mercy Flight and 0 were DOA. 43 of these calls were critical care with Cuba handling 40 and Olean 10/MTS handling 3. 25 of these calls were in the Village of Cuba, 12 were in the Town of Cuba, 1 was on the lake, 0 was mutual aid to Friendship, 0 were mutual aid to Clarksville, 0 were mutual aid to Ischua, 11 were to New Hudson, 0 was mutual aid to Rushford and 1 was on I-86.

- Our AEMT student has passed her practical part of the course and is waiting to take her written portion. Our Basic EMT student is nearing the end of her class and is doing well.
- We received a \$3,500 donation to purchase a new stair chair.
- Our old surplus stretchers have been picked up and we are awaiting a check from their purchase.
- We have been asked to participate in the county-wide DWI drill in May at the fairgrounds.

Highway Comments:

- Plowed snow five times in March
- Cut brush on Prospect, Keller Hill and West Main
- Helped county with bridge. The bridge is coming along, may be finished the first or second week of May. The deck is on; the guard rail needs to be put on and then it needs to be paved. This is all weather dependent.

Equipment Repairs:

- Put brakes on tractor
- Put new bristle on broom
- Put new control module on roller

Sewer Committee: none

Facilities:

- Burch received a quote for \$62,000 for the HVAC in town hall. He will work on getting more quotes, it is difficult to find companies that can complete the job to the specifications we need.
- Burch stated that the school has been vague on whether or not they are going to be digging up the parking lot in the back of town hall. Burch would like to schedule a meeting with James, Superintendent Gildemeister, and Maintenance Mechanic Ryan Lewis to get an idea of what to expect with the school's capital project.
- Burch ordered a few more no parking signs for the municipal building where we didn't have them.
- Burch issued Decker and Enzinna building key cards.
- Smith will fix the pole and reattach the fence in the town hall parking lot.
- James asked Schostick if there is a spicket in the front of town hall (this would make it easier to take care of the landscaping out front). Schostick said that would be a couple days labor and he would get a material list together.

Dog Control Comments: none

Code Enforcement Comments:

- Reed notified the board that his continuing education was accepted and updated from the state.

Assessor's Comments: none

Planning Board:

- Lori Sweet reported that the board is still working with one couple on their application-additional information needs to be provided.
- Two individuals that were cited have gotten dumpsters and are starting to clear their property.
- James asked the planning board to take a look at nuisance laws in Belfast and Belmont and make suggestions on what would be appropriate for our community.

Old Business:

- Ambulance building-James would like to put in a letter of intent to look for funding from the Southern Tier West ARC grant. Farwell asked if this is a matching grant. James does not believe so, but they would fund up to \$125,00 or \$150,000 which would pay for a lot of the groundwork and other things the town would need. If the town gets community project funding there would be a small match and there are some funds from the town coffers. Appleby received a \$3,500 grant from the Foundation of the Presbyterian Church in Olean and that will be funding a second stair chair and is much appreciated.
- 911 renumbering project -letters continue to be sent out by the county.
- Revaluation project-the assessors are getting prepared. Data collection notices will go out in the next week or so. Please complete and return them to the assessors.

New Business:

- Broadband-James confirmed that although it's following similar routes as Armstrong, it will allow residents it passes by to connect. Farwell motioned to have James sign the authorization letter. Seconded by Enzinna. All in favor, passed.
- Sewer Study- The town received a letter from the Allegany County Planning Board that has been working with the MRB Group on a sewer study over the past year. There are four phases to the Allegany County study: current infrastructure, future needs for those that have municipal sewer, those that do not have municipal sewer and long-term implementation operational plan for future municipal needs. Along with that, pre-engineering plans for municipalities that have a potential project to make it available to apply for grants and loans. The town has been asked to sit in on it and a sewer district would have to be developed for the former cheese factory site on Rt. 305. It has been identified as an economic development area that

can be enhanced by providing public sewers and connecting to the village waste water collection system. The sewer district service area would include portions of Prospect St., Keller Hill Rd, Bradley Ave. NYS Rt. 305, Haskell Rd and Beebe Hill Rd. This service area promotes economic development by enhancing underutilized industrial facilities and eliminating the industrial treatment costs associated with the former cheese factory site. Approximately 37 households could be served by a new sewer district. Discussion continued. Farwell made a motion to participate in the sewer study with Allegany County. Seconded by Enzinna. All in favor, passed.

Public Comments:

- Lori Sweet stated that the work that the highway crew has been doing looks great. Sweet had a problem with someone hanging around her house. The two officers that assisted her were very helpful and listened to her. She appreciated their help. Burch will pass along her comments.
- Lance Tronetti wanted to speak his piece about the 287G agreement. He stated that DHS posted to social media a picture of a peaceful beach scene with the text, “America after 100 million deportations” with a caption of, “The peace of a nation no longer besieged by the third world”. The US is estimated to have 14 million undocumented immigrants, who are the other 86 million people they are talking about? After multiple attempts to end birth right citizenship this is a call to ethnically cleanse the US and turn it into a white ethnostate. DHS policy makers like Steven Miller who has openly promoted the great replacement theory that claims white people are being replaced by brown skinned foreigners wants to deport 1/3 of the people in this county. This same theory led to the racially motivated mass shooting at Tops Market in Buffalo in May of 2022 that killed 10 people and injured 3. Two of the fourteen key aspects of fascism are 1. Exploiting xenophobia and racism to unify ingroup against outsiders and 2. Promoting conspiracy theories to justify aggression against perceived enemies. There are racists and fascist ideologs setting policy in this country and the very last thing we should be doing is joining. One hundred million deportations will not be reached by CVP and ICE alone, they will need local police to do some heavy lifting as well in order to maximize their racist vision. Please rescind the 287G agreement before it gets worse and it will.
- Donna Falandys thanked the board for all their work on the tax litigation. Falandys thanked the police department for always keeping the community safe. She supports the law to have the officers trained and stated that the people that are against it are only a percent of the population and there is a percent of the population of Cuba that is in support of it. Falandys was also upset that some people did not stand for the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting.
- Tustin Swift wanted clarification on the rumor about Maple Lane RV Park and the interest of Allegany County IDA in low-income housing and this being supported by the town. James replied that the bank is foreclosing on the property and there will be a public auction. As far as the IDA, they are looking for different opportunities and have funds for different projects throughout the county. The park has been mentioned along with some interest and a part of it is because of the housing study that’s being conducted right now. James had heard that senior housing is a need. She urged residents to fill out the housing survey. James has not heard that it would be specifically low-income. Anything that would be done there would have to come before the planning board and code enforcement and be put out for public hearing. Residents had issues for many years with the last owner and are concerned about low-income housing. The board has not been asked for any support for any of those projects.
- Briar Auman asked where she could get the housing survey. It will be available at Cubany.gov.
- Duane Hopkins stated that Maple Lane has had it’s share of problems from the RV park and the Econolodge. Duane is not happy with the thought that low-income housing will be in their neighborhood. James will pass along their concerns. Beck stated that it is a shame that Allegany County does not have a legitimate homeless shelter and would support having one here. He stated we can’t have municipalities and other counties dropping people off without resourcing. James mentioned that University Primary Care moved into the Cuba Memorial Hospital and now has behavioral health people on staff in all of their clinics. Beck also believes that we need more assisted living. Discussion continued.

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At 7:48pm. Farwell made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Seconded by Beck. At 8:29pm the meeting reconvened with a motion from Farwell seconded by Beck.

Enzinna motioned to move the May meeting to Monday, May 11th at 7pm at the Cuba Town Hall and the June meeting to Wednesday, June 10th at 7pm at the Cuba Town Hall. Seconded by Beck. All in favor, passed.

James requested that she can do prepaids for any bills submitted after the May or June meeting. All in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allesia A. Heslin, Town Clerk

DRAFT