

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF EAST OTTO, February 10, 2026

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of East Otto, County of Cattaraugus and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 9014 East Otto Springville Rd East Otto NY on the 10th day of February 2026.

PRESENT:

Ann Rugg	Supervisor
Dave Forster	Council Member
Sid Barber	Council Member
Brian Westfall	Council Member
Shannon Jones	Council Member
Tom Benz	Superintendent of Highways
Deanna Bowen	Clerk
Jeff Holler	Code Enforcement Officer

OTHER PRESENT:

Mae Reynolds, Julia Anderson, Dave Harkins, Aubrey Burch, Sharon Huff and others that did not sign in.

The Meeting was called to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Supervisor Rugg.

RESOLUTION 13-2026

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

On a motion of Councilmember Forster, seconded by Councilmember Barber the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved that the bills contained on Abstract #2 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

Abstract #2			
General Fund	\$	2,168.20	Voucher 4-12
Highway	\$	28,883.38	Voucher 1-13

RESOLUTION 14-2026

MEETING MINUTES

On a motion of Councilmember Forster, seconded by Councilmember Barber the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved that the Board approves the meeting minutes from January 12, 2026, as submitted.

RESOLUTION 15-2026

UTILITY BILLS

On a motion of Councilmember Forster, seconded by Councilmember Westfall the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved to approve the payment of January utility bills.

RESOLUTION 16-2026

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR AUDIT

On a motion of Councilmember Forster, seconded by Councilmember Barber the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved that the Auditing Committee audited the books of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector for 2025 prior to the Town Board meeting, and WHEREAS the transaction report agrees with the cash available and, WHEREAS the bank account is periodically reconciled and deposits are made in a timely manner, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board accepts the audit of the books presented for examination.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

- Presented the Town Board with the Agreement to spend Highway Funds to sign.
- Going through a lot of sand/salt

- **TOWN CLERK**

- Clerk Bowen submitted the monthly report for January 2026 to the Board. A check was submitted to the Town Supervisor for \$514.90.00. The report is on file with the Clerk's Office. Also, Clerk Bowen submitted a check to the Town Supervisor for \$537,289.00 for payment on the 2026 tax warrant.

CEO REPORT

- 11 phone calls
- 3 inspections

RESOLUTION 17-2026

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW #1-2026

On a motion of Councilmember Forster, seconded by Councilmember Barber, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved to open the public hearing on Local Law #1-2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mae Reynolds stated that the representative from Wendel said 62 days from when the SEQR is approved. She asked how soon does this become in effect?
- Julia Anderson stated that New Energy will probably ask for an exemption, if so will they still have to follow the 2026 law? Yes. She also asked when will her questions about the Enviromental Study be answered?
- Sharon Huff told the board that they should consider changing the wording in the proposed local law from Wind to Solar. She would also like the board to consider a decommissioning plan.
- Julia Anderson thinks we should also have local laws pertaining to data centers and battery storage.

RESOLUTION 18-2026

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW #1-2026

On a motion of Councilmember Forster, seconded by Councilmember Barber, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved to close the public hearing on Local Law #1-2026

RESOLUTION 19-2026

LOCAL LAW #1-2026

On a motion of Councilmember Barber, seconded by Forster, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved to table Local Law #1-2026

RESOLUTION 20-2026

SECOND MEETING

On a motion of Councilmember Forster, seconded by Councilmember Jones, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Forster, Barber, Westfall, Jones, Rugg
	Nayes	0	

Resolved to schedule an additional Town Board meeting on February 24, 2026, at 6pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mae Reynolds told the board about CEDS.org an organization for Communities to help with Solar.

With no further business, on a motion from Councilmember Forster seconded by Councilmember Barber the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.
Carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2026, at 6:00pm.
Respectfully Submitted

Deanna Bowen/Town Clerk

