REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF DUNKIRK
MARCH 24, 2026

PRESENT:
Supervisor Miller
Councilmember Crane
Councilmember Leone
Councilmember Price
Councilmember Pagano

OTHER PRESENT: Rebecca Yacklon, Town Clerk, Town Attorney Jeffrey Passafaro, Sue Hazelton, Paul Parker, Pete Miller, Linda Leone, Town Historian, David Harden, CPL, Eric Wies, CPL, Bonnie Purol, Irene Strychalski

Supervisor Miller opened the Regular Town Board meeting at 5:30 P.M. with the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 17,2026
DULY MOVED by Councilmember Leone to accept the minutes of the February 17,2026 Regular Town Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Crane and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING BESS MORATORIUM MINUTES MARCH 3,2026
DULY MOVED by Councilmember Crane to accept the minutes of the March 3,2026 Public Hearing Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leone and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES MARCH 3,2026
DULY MOVED by Councilmember Pagano to accept the minutes of the March 3,2026 Public Hearing Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Price and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS MARCH 24,2026
DULY MOVED by Councilmember Leone to approve the abstract of audited vouchers as presented by the Town Clerk on March 24,2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Crane and carried unanimously.

Shorewood Capital Project	$5,988.00
General Fund	$28,549.68
Highway Fund	$2,703.82
Vineyard Light	$298.00
ELRS	$18,353.32
ELRW	$311.76

ERIC WIES- FROM CPL-SHOREWOOD WATER UPDATE

Eric Wies and David Harden presented comprehensive updates on the Shorewood Water District Project, which has been under discussion since 2021. Wies reported that easement issues have been largely resolved except for private rights-of-way, which remain the primary outstanding concern. The original project estimates from 2020-2021 required updating due to COVID-related impacts and general inflation. The town received additional grant funding of $1.377 million, prompting a request to amend the project budget accordingly.

Weis detailed the financial restructuring, explaining that while the overall project cost would increase by the grant amount plus ARCO funds, the net local project cost would remain at $2.289 million. The debt service agreement with rural development maintains 1.375% interest over 38 years. Due to increased property assessments, the tax rate decreased from $2.98 per $1,000 assessed in 2021 to $2.19 per $1,000 currently. Average house values increased from $122,000 in 2021 to $131,000 presently, resulting in reduced average annual debt service from $363 to $287.

Wies outlined estimated annual water costs for typical single-family homeowners at approximately $670, bringing total annual costs to $957 during the loan term.

Wies also requested approval for Amendment Number Two, seeking an additional $64,800 in engineering fees. This increase covers amended map plan report preparation ($3,000), additional design work ($35,000) due to easement complications and permit resubmissions, construction administration ($10,000), and inspection services ($16,800). The fee adjustments reflect increased billing rates from $87.50 to $105 per hour for inspectors. Supervisor Miller noted these increases were anticipated given the project's 2020 pricing baseline.

- Motion made by Councilmember Leone to accept the revised 2026 Map Plan & Report as presented by CPL. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Crane and carried unanimously.
- Motion made by Councilmember Price to authorize Supervisor Miller to accept and sign Amendment To Owner - Engineer Agreement Amendment No. 2. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Leone and carried unanimously.

Attorney Passafaro explained the legal requirements under Town Law 202B, necessitating board declaration of maximum expenditure amounts and public hearing procedures with 10-20 day notification window for legal notices to be posted.

- Supervisor Miller made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the purpose to consider authorization for of an increase in estimated maximum cost from $2,295,00.00 to $3,794,307 pursuant to a revised map plan and report for the Improvement of facilities in the Shorewood Water District for Tuesday, April 21,2026 @5:15 P.M. at the Dunkirk Town Hall, 4737 Willow Rd. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Crane and carried unanimously.

Attorney Passafaro confirmed the eminent domain process for private right-of-way issues is proceeding in parallel with other project components.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: (FEBRUARY 2026)

Clerk Fees	$660.00
Zoning Fees	$4,757.50
Dog Licenses	$32.00
Miscellaneous Income	$35.00

Total amount transferred to Supervisor $5,484.50

JUSTICE REPORT: (FEBRUARY 2026)

Total number of cases **196**

TOTAL FINES and surcharges submitted to the Town Supervisor **$17,734.00**

Town Clerk Yacklon reported to board members that she received information for Houghton College this year and anyone who is interested can pick up an application. This year it will be held on Thursday, June 4,2026. Registration deadline is May 26,2026.

BOARD MEMBER & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Crane Report:

- February 19th & 20th worked with Town Clerk to close out January financials.
- March 3rd with Supervisor Miller to review budget.
- March 12th attended water infrastructure webinar with Supervisor Miller.
- Spoke on conference call with Eric Wies.
- March 20th met with Attorney Passafaro.

Councilmember Pagano Report:

- Collected and submitted petitions to appear on ballot for upcoming 2026 elections.
- Spoke with Rob Streno who raised safety concerns with the entrance/exit to the Planet Fitness plaza and wondered if Board can suggest any changes to address this.
- March 7th attended West Town Fire Dept Banquet.

Councilmember Leone Report:

- February 18th attended ZBA meeting for sign near Athenex; reported variance passed.
- March 7th attended West Town Fire Dept Banquet.
- March 4th went on WDOE Viewpoints with Supervisor Miller.
- March 10th met with Supervisor Miller and Hwy Supt Feinen regarding issues including shared services.
- March 13th attended meeting with Village of Fredonia, City of Dunkirk, Representative Borrello, Representative Molitor, and County Executive PJ Wendel; reported that PJ Wendel will be speaking at the April 22nd Town Hall meeting.
- Looked into new flags with different designs for 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Councilmember Price Report:

- Performed a walk through with Affordable Duct Cleaning at Town Hall.
- Will be changing out lights upstairs at Town Hall.
- Attended West Town Fire Dept Banquet.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: (JEFF FEINEN ABSENT)
March work report was submitted and is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: (RYAN MOURER ABSENT)
March work report was submitted and is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

DOG CONTROL REPORT: (NICOLE WELKA)
Dog Control Report for the month of January & February was submitted and is on file in the Clerk's office.
Nicole Welka reported that she has reached out to Eden Veterinarian and they are willing to make a contract with the Town for holding. The Town Attorney would have to draw one up for us and we would most likely need to reach out to Eden for a cost per day per dog. This would eliminate her contract for holding since her shelter is not up to NYS Agriculture & Markets standards, but her Dog Control contract would still stand.

Supervisor Miller reported that she received the Municipal Shelter Report that was completed on 3/6/2026 and the report indicated that the dog shelter was rated "unsatisfactory" due to no written contract present with the Town of Sheridan on file.
Supervisor Miller stated there are no Veterinarians in the area that has room for us so she will reach out to NYS Ag & Markets regarding the matter.

ATTORNEY REPORT
All legal matters were discussed and covered.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT
- Informed the board that there is a Historian Expo done every summer in Chautauqua County which is held in Jamestown this year on Aug 23rd, 10am-4pm at the Fluvanna Community Church. Historian plans to attend and will also visit the Fenton Museum.

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT
- Reminded residents not to flush flushable wipes, as they can create issues with sewer grinder pumps for those in the ELRSD.
- Discussed next BESS workshop scheduled for Thurs, March 26th
- Attended meeting regarding hotels as emergency shelters – requested permission to sign letter to Governor Hochul and summarized ideas discussed with PJ Wendell to address homelessness.
- Went on WDOE Viewpoints with Councilmember Leone.
- Attended Jackson Hewitt ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- Met with Chautauqua County DPF.
- Met with Highway Supervisor Jeff Feinen regarding Highway issues.
- Attended North County Water District monthly meeting.
- Sent a letter on what makes Town of Dunkirk special to Observer.
- Participated in two meetings regarding the future of the North County- shared services and mergers-and reminded residents to join the discussion at Town Hall on April 22nd.
- Highlighted the West Town Fire Dept this month and read report submitted by Chief James Oiden.

GAR APPRAISAL AGREEMENT

Councilmember Leone made a motion to authorize Supervisor Miller to sign the GAR Appraisal Agreement as presented at a cost not to exceed $1,900.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Crane and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received letter from Justice Christopher Penfold updating the board on Clerk Harrington's work and what she has done for the Town/Court. It was a pleasure having her fill in while Clerk Joy was out.

OPEN COMMENTS

- Irene Strychalski raised concern on the delay in obtaining Shorewood Easements and is it costing the Town more money. Attorney Passafaro replied that it did take time to collect 80+ easements but that is not the primary reason for the expense. Strychalski also inquired about the BESS workshop that is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th.

- Pete Miller wanted to commend the Board on a job well done and expressed that he feels safe and happy in the Town of Dunkirk. He also inquired about progress on the Town of Dunkirk signage. Supervisor Miller responded that MEO Steve Haynes is working on signs but not all of them are on Town roads.

SHOREWOOD WATER PROJECT

Amendment No. 4 to Contract Dated June 11,2020

Councilmember Crane made a motion to authorize Supervisor Miller to sign Amendment No. 4 to Contract Dated June 11,2020 from Municipal Solutions for the Shorewood Water Project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Price and carried unanimously.

AFFORDABLE DUCT CLEANING ESTIMATE

Councilmember Leone made a motion to authorize the quote from Affordable Duct Cleaning as presented with a cost not to exceed $1,200.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pagano and carried unanimously.

DULY MOVED by Councilmember Leone to exit the Regular Town Board Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Crane and carried unanimously. Time: 6:38 P.M.

DULY MOVED by Councilmember Leone to close Executive Session and return to the Regular Town Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Price and carried unanimously. Time: 7:02 P.M.

DULY MOVED by Councilmember Price to adjourn the Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:02 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Pagano and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Yacklon
Town Clerk