



TOWN OF ARKWRIGHT

MARCH 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Arkwright Town Hall
9543 Center Rd, Fredonia, NY 14063
6:30 PM March 9, 2026

In Attendance: Supervisor Brian McAvoy
Board Members Polly Gambino, Bruce Gustafson, Larry Ball, Chris Jackson
Town Clerk Jane Lindquist

Absent:

Public: Braden Carmen, Jamie Hebner, Ruth Nichols & David Szydlo

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Brian McAvoy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Review and Approval of February Regular Board Meeting Minutes - Motion by Polly Gambino & Larry Ball 2nd. All in favor.

Public Comment- Ruth Nichols, Town Historian asked the Town to post Celebrating 250 years. Would like us to put up posters. Chautauqua County History Expo. Sunday, Aug. 20th, 2026, 10am-4pm at the Chautauqua Municipal Building, Mayville, NY. Ruth Nichols is going to set up an area there for the Town of Arkwright.

Report: Supervisor

Finance overview- Received Q1 Sales Tax of \$76,263.65 plus the Town's share of property tax revenues. Financially, the Town is in good shape to start the Town Hall building project. See attached appendix for Supervisor's report.

EDP: 1 noise complaint in February

Clarification of Discussion about Forestville Fire District- Supervisor McAvoy commented on a recent article in the Observer where he felt the tone of his meeting with Hanover's supervisor was misrepresented. McAvoy clarified that the tone of the conversation was cordial, and he feels confident Arkwright's fire protection needs will be met, regardless of how the future of a separate Forestville Fire District plays out.

Motion to Adjourn Regular Meeting and Open Public Hearing- Motion by Larry Ball & Chris Jackson 2nd. All in favor.

Public Hearing Law#2 of 2026 Changing Date of BAR Grievance Day- Changing from 4th Tuesday in May to 1st Tuesday in June. A Town law is required to make this change. See attached appendix.

Motion to Adjourn Public Hearing & Reopen Regular Meeting – Motion by Chris Jackson & Larry Ball 2nd. All in favor.

Resolution Adopting Law #2 of 2026- Adopted resolution. See attached appendix.

Report: Highway Superintendent

Spending v. Budget Update (Monthly)- Over 50% of the snow removal budget has been spent but Superintendent Waldron feels this is not an issue at this point in the financial year.

Posting of Roads- Town roads have been posted for weight limits with proper notification in the Observer.

CHIPS 2025 Update – The Town should see this revenue in March.

NYMIR Review with Town, Update on To Do List (Or Not to Do)- Everything done.

Temporary Road Closure Process- Superintendent Waldron will send an e-mail explaining the steps and this issue can be closed.

Historic Cheese Factory Sign Replacement-The sign is with a resident from Bard Road. Superintendent Waldron will collect it and see if the Town's crew can fix and reinstall.

Pond Water Standpipes for Fire Protection – The Forestville Fire Department knows what has been offered. The Town will consider this a closed issue for now.

AED Training -Superintendent Waldron will arrange the necessary training to ensure the Town is compliant from a workplace perspective.

Master Plan- Salt Shed & Lifecycle Road Cost Per Mile – Supervisor McAvoy again asked to keep working on these issues, particularly the cost per mile calculation since we will once again be hard topping roads in 2027.

Sale of Equipment- The Town should consider auctioning the Oshkosh plow truck. Also, as we commence the Town Hall project, there are fixtures and furniture from the current Town Hall we can consider selling off. Better to wait for a comprehensive list than to piece meal.

Report: Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Jane Lindquist read the Town Clerk report. See attached appendix.

Update on Tax Collection - Collection is going well. We will be sending the County another check for the 2026 Tax Warrant.

Certified Payroll for County- Need start & end dates for employees. The form is being completed by Doren Mayhew. Supervisor McAvoy asked that this be left on the agenda until the County's request is satisfied.

Dog Control- Supervisor McAvoy signed a new contract with the new address on it. That was the only issue raised from the most recent NYS inspection.

Report: Town Justice

Jane Lindquist reported on behalf of Jeffrey Huyck- See attached appendix.

Report: Assessor - none

Report: Zoning - none

Report: Code Enforcement - none

Report: Board Members

Polly Gambino none
Chris Jackson none
Larry Ball none
Bruce Gustafson none

Acceptance of Reports

Motion to Accept Supervisor, Departments and Councilperson reports- Motion by Chris Jackson & Larry Ball 2nd. All in favor.

Motion to accept March 2026 Abstract and Pay bills- Motion by Chris Jackson & Larry Ball 2nd. All in Favor.

Old Business

Roofing and Siding Project Update-Supervisor McAvoy reported that the Town and Congdon Brothers have agreed to a May 1st completion date.

Town Hall/Court/Community Center Update- There will be a pre-bid meeting on 3/18/2026 at the current Arkwright Town Hall.

Cowden's Cemetery Driveway Update- Schedule Tree Removal- Kravitz can take the tree down whenever they want. Supervisor McAvoy asked the Highway Department to please get this arranged.

Pro-Housing Community Update- The Town's data has been approved but, since our growth numbers are low, we need to adopt a resolution supporting the mission of Pro-Housing. The resolution was adopted. See attached appendix.

Future Ethics Training for Elected Officials & Policy- Drafted Ethics Policy – Supervisor McAvoy has drafted a policy and it is being reviewed by Sheridan HR.

New (Updated) Law Accepting 2025 NYS Building Code – Warren Kelly is working on a law for Pomfret with their lawyer. Once complete, they will share it with Arkwright to craft a local law from it.

America's 250th Plans for Arkwright- The Board had determined that a Tire Amnesty or free Dog License is an appropriate celebration gift for the Town's taxpayers. The cost per tire is estimated to be between \$3 and \$7 but limiting it to passenger car/truck tires should make it affordable, considering the Town has about 1200 parcels of property in the hands of eligible recipients. Supervisor McAvoy will check with the Town's attorney to understand the legality of the plan. There are also surplus cemetery flags that can be handed out at the Town Hall.

New Business

Discuss Possible Future of Highway Superintendent Position- Supervisor McAvoy again explained that all municipalities in the County are being challenged to save costs and Arkwright has an opportunity to change the current full time Highway Superintendent role to part time. McAvoy suggested the Town adopt a law changing the role to an appointed position. The steps would be to adopt a law and then put it before the voters in November. McAvoy stated that he would like to present a law for consideration at the April board meeting. Motion to Approve Supervisor Work with Town Attorney to Draft Law Changing Highway Superintendent Position to Appointed. Motion by Larry Ball & Polly Gambino 2nd. All in favor.

Accept Resignation of Deputy Town Clerk March 3, 2026- The Deputy Town Clerk has decided to resign. Supervisor McAvoy stated that reached out to her and the resignation has nothing to do with her employment with the Town. Motion to Accept Resignation of Deputy Town Clerk, Nancy McVaugh, Effective March 3, 2026. Motion by Larry Ball & Polly Gambino 2nd. All in favor.

Clean Up, Clean Up, Everybody Clean Up-

Appoint Cleanup Czar- Ed Pagano. Ed's first job will be to review the drawings we have laying around the Town Hall and work with Warren Kelly to find what we need to keep. Supervisor McAvoy stated that the drawings we are required to keep will be organized with a proper storage system and identification.

Motion to Declare HP 8600 Printer as Surplus and Approve Proper Recycling of Unit. Motion by Chris Jackson & Larry Ball 2nd. All in favor.

Departmental Expectations- Supervisor McAvoy reiterated that every department needs to take responsibility for their own records, understanding their unique retention requirements and planning accordingly.

Discussion on Public Comment and Second Privilege – Supervisor McAvoy made the lighthearted observation that most of the Town's board meetings are open public comment. It works in Arkwright because we get along and we regulate ourselves. McAvoy commented that if that ever ceases to be the case, we can reign it in. For now, however, the public comment is usually helpful.

New Equipment for New Town Hall- Supervisor McAvoy requested Councilman Gambino take the lead when it comes time for new furniture for the new Town Hall. The Court has a Justice Department grant for some new chairs and we want a consistent look. Supervisor McAvoy also suggested that Councilman Ball take the lead on energy and HVAC discussions related to the new Town Hall, considering his experience.

Public Comment- None

Motion to Adjourn Regular Meeting- Motion by Chris Jackson & Larry Ball 2nd. All in favor.