

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF CHAUTAUQUA)
TOWN OF ELLERY)

SS

APRIL 14, 2026

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Town Board Workshop Meeting held Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at the Town Hall Sunnyside Avenue, Bemus Point, NY commencing at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: John C. Cresanti Sr., Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember
David W. Boughton, Councilmember
Jeremy D. Crist, Councilmember

ABSENT: Lawrence A. Anderson, Supervisor
Mark R. Schlemmer, Councilmember

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Jill J. Braund, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Neil M. Robinson, Town Attorney
Anne Golley, Assessor/Zoning Officer
Greg Hallberg, Highway Superintendent
Robert Samuelson, Code Enforcement Officer
Jill Colburn, Deputy Town Clerk
Jeff Johnson, Dog Control Officer

Deputy Supervisor Cresanti called the Workshop Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The Town Board members audited the vouchers for April 2026. There were no questions or comments regarding the vouchers. Board Members looked over their board materials for the Regular Monthly Board Meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Crist, seconded by Councilmember Boughton: That the Workshop Meeting be adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Minutes of the April Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at the Town Hall, Sunnyside Avenue, Bemus Point, NY commencing at 6:30 PM.

PRESENT: John C. Cresanti Sr., Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember
David W. Boughton, Councilmember
Jeremy D. Crist, Councilmember

ABSENT: Lawrence A. Anderson, Supervisor
Mark R. Schlemmer, Councilmember

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Jill J. Braund, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Neil M. Robinson, Town Attorney
Anne Golley, Assessor/Zoning Officer
Greg Hallberg, Highway Superintendent
Robert Samuelson, Code Enforcement Officer
Jill Colburn, Deputy Town Clerk
Jeff Johnson, Dog Control Officer

Deputy Supervisor, Cresanti called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

MARCH 2026 TOWN BOARD MINUTES - RECEIVED

Motion by Councilmember Crist, seconded by Councilmember Boughton: That the Town Board acknowledges receipt of the March 10, 2026 Town Board meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

PUBLIC

1. Jeff Molnar, Village Mayor, addressed the Town Board to state the Village of Bemus Point has received a grant for a comprehensive integrated walking and bicycling loop/trail system, wayfinding & historical signage and a multi-sided information kiosk. Mr. Molnar discussed the four ways the Town of Ellery can contribute to the creation of the trail. First, motion to allow for inclusion of the Historic Trail Loop through the Town of Ellery Cemetery. Second, motion to allow the South Frontage Greenway to pass through the short section that Town of Ellery owns on South Frontage Road, between Center Street and Bemus Street. Third, motion to designate the Town's section of Lakeside Drive, from Brown Road to the Long Point State Park entrance, as the Ellery extension to the Bemus Point Lakeside Drive Trail and fourth, assist with covering the cost for (3) mile post wayfinding markers and (1) single mount angled sign along with installation. The projected cost for the signs will be \$2,000. Jacob Bodway, Coordinator for the Chautauqua County Trail System, discussed the benefits of the connectivity of the trail from Long Point State Park to Bemus Point. The Town Board discussed the potential for increased traffic, both vehicles and pedestrian, along Lakeside Drive which is already congested. Mr. Molnar stated this is phase one of the project and the end goal is a separate walking/bike path. More discussion followed. The Town Board Members stated they are in favor of the project.

Motion by Councilmember Crist, second by Councilmember Boughton: That the Town of Ellery motions the following: (a) to allow for inclusion of the Historic Trail Loop through the Town of Ellery Cemetery (b) to allow the South Frontage Greenway to pass through the short section that Town of Ellery owns on South Frontage Road, between Center Street and Bemus Street (c) to designate the Town's section of Lakeside Drive, from Brown Road to the Long Point State Park entrance, as the Ellery extension to the Bemus Point Lakeside Drive Trail and (d) to assist with covering the cost for (3) mile post wayfinding markers and (1) single mount angled sign along with installation for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

2. Jim Wehrfritz addressed the Town Board regarding an update for the CLPOA “Wetlands” public meeting #15 held on April 11, 2026. Mr. Wehrfritz reported that on April 8, 2026, Albany Supreme Court Justice Platkin, struck down the new wetlands regulations in their entirety... they are now “null and void.” The Judge based his ruling on the DEC’s failure to comply with SEQRA, the State Environmental Quality Review Act. Mr. Wehrfritz clarified that the new regulations are void but the 2022 Freshwater Wetlands Amendment remains in effect. Other topics discussed were the CLPOA’s perspective on the Chautauqua Lake Symposium, the NCSU Lake Management Plan, the New Alliance Lake Manager and the Jefferson Project.

MARCH REPORTS

Town Clerk Jill Braund submitted the Town Clerk’s report for March in the amount of \$6,051.00. The check to the Town totaled \$5,987.28. Town Clerk Braund reported the amount of property taxes collected to date is \$7,400,455.10. Penalties collected to date total \$8,102.87.

The Town Board reviewed and discussed the reports from the Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, Assessor, the Town Justices’ and the Dog Control Officer.

Zoning Officer Golley stated she has received multiple complaints regarding advertisements of a future church camp on Beck Road. Ms. Golley stated she has spoken to the attorney for the Church. Ms. Golley informed the attorney that the church camp is not an allowed use for that property, therefore a Use Variance will be needed. In addition, they will have to go before the Town Board. The attorney for the church stated they are going to send a letter as to what they are planning on doing to the property. Attorney Robinson stated he has also spoken to an attorney, from the same firm, regarding this issue. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Robinson stated the letter they send will be a public record, available for public inspection.

Karen Johnson’s fence issue was discussed. Ms. Golley stated Attorney Calimeri has scheduled a meeting for himself, Zoning Officer, Golley and Code Enforcement Officer, Samuelson to meet with the fence company on April 21, 2026. Ms. Golley has requested a surveyor to be there as well. Attorney Calimeri suggested not to have the surveyor there at that time. Attorney Robinson advised Ms. Golley to trust Attorney Calimeri. Mr. Robinson stated it appears Ms. Johnson has an attorney that wants to resolve this situation. The fence is over her property line in two places. One place is on the neighbor’s property and the other place is on State property.

There was a brief discussion regarding the SULU property involving more junk cars and other pending charges.

Assessor Golley stated Grievance Day is May 26, 2026 from 4PM-8PM.

TOWN SUPERVISOR FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion by Councilmember Crist, second by Councilmember Boughton: That the Town Supervisor’s Financial report for March 2026 be accepted as presented.

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

TOWN SUPERVISOR FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion by Councilmember Crist, second by Councilmember Boughton: That the Town Supervisor's Financial report for March 2026 be accepted as presented.

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Superintendent Hallberg stated the department is picking up the trees and brush that fell over the Winter and working on equipment maintenance. The Posted Road signs have been taken down. The Roller has been delivered.
- Highway Superintendent Hallberg led a discussion regarding Combined Insurance of New York. A representative, approached Mr. Hallberg to see if there are any Town Highway employees interested in participating in this companies' insurance program. The insurance is comparable to Aflac, which the Town employees have the option to participate in. Attorney Robinson suggested Mr. Hallberg discuss this with the Town Board because the administration of the program involves payroll deductions, at no financial cost to the Town, through BLB and the Town Clerk's office assisting with paper work and invoices. Discussion followed. It was decided that if Town employees wish to participate in this companies' insurance program, they can do so on their own.
- Mr. Hallberg led a discussion regarding the memorials that were made to the Town in Craig Miller's name. Nancy Miller contacted Greg and the Town Clerks Office to inquire about purchasing benches for the town park with the money donated. Ms. Miller stated she will donate \$2,000 to match the donations received. Mr. Hallberg stated he got a \$885.00 quote per bench from Jamestown Advanced Products. Councilmember Boughton stated he is on the Park Committee and would be happy to work with Mr. Hallberg on this project.

Motion by Councilmember Boughton, second by Councilmember Crist: That Mr. Hallberg is authorized to purchase 4 benches for the town park from Jamestown Advanced Products.

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

- The Cemetery and Park employees have started their seasonal employment.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Robinson stated he spoke to new Town Officials at Southern Tier West regarding the Powers and Duties of Town Officials.

LEGISLATOR REPORT

- We commended the JCC Boys Hockey team on their upstate NY collegiate hockey league D3 championship.
- We commended Tom Erlandson on his over 60 years of efforts to protect Chautauqua Lake and his 40 years of service to Chautauqua County.
- We commended the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office Jail Health Services program on receiving an accreditation certificate.
- We proclaimed March as Choose to Include Month in Chautauqua County, a **campaign aimed at promoting social inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities.**
- We amended the 2026 Budget to replenish the lake maintenance fund with \$200,000 from the unassigned fund balance.
- We approved two grants from the Chautauqua County Government Reduction initiative. The Town of Pomfret will receive \$50,000 to pursue sharing and consolidating services with the Village of Fredonia, Town of Dunkirk, City of Dunkirk, and Town of Sheridan. And the Clymer Sherman Panama Central School Districts will receive \$100,000 for their merger feasibility project.

BUDGET TRANSFERS / MODIFICATIONS

Motion by Councilmember Crist, second by Councilmember Boughton: That the Town Board approve the following budget transfer.

General Fund - Town Wide**Budget Transfer:**

\$80 From A9040.8 – Employee Benefits – Worker's Comp
\$80 To A1920.4 – Municipal Assoc. Dues

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

VOUCHERS

Motion by Councilmember Boughton, seconded by Councilmember Crist: That Voucher #'s 121 through 171, Warrant number 4, in the amount of \$219,012.25 be paid as audited.

Mr. Cresanti – Aye
Mr. Boughton - Aye

Mr. Crist – Aye – Motion Carried

NEW TOWN HALL / RFQ DATES / LEGAL NOTICE

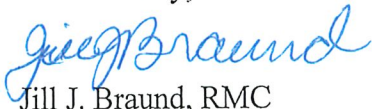
Councilmember Crist led a discussion regarding setting the dates in schedule 8 of the RFQ and the submission date and time needed for the RFQ legal Notice. It was decided to have the Town Clerk publish the RFQ Legal Notice in the Post Journal on April 30, 2026. RFQ proposals must be submitted to the Town Clerk no later than Monday, June 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

The Town Board members agreed that the expertise of Mr. Hayes, in working with Supervisor Anderson, would be beneficial in setting the dates for Schedule 8 in the RFQ.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Boughton, seconded by Councilmember Crist: That the Town Board meeting be adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Submitted by,



Jill J. Braund, RMC
Ellery Town Clerk
April 28, 2026