

Town Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Town of Wayne Board Meeting

Date: May 12, 2026

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present:

- Supervisor Mahr
- Councilmember Kenyon
- Councilmember Freeman
- Councilmember Haar

In attendance, Joe Serphillips, Ron McIntire, Sally Jacoby Murphy, Marion Tunney, Mary Ellen Ellis, James DeForest, Mary Jane Bray

A representative from the library addressed the Board regarding the library's services, funding structure, and upcoming public vote.

3. Library Presentation and Funding Referendum

Summary below, and posted on the Town of Wayne Website

TAYLOR & PULTENEY LIBRARY TAX PROPOSAL On May 19th, there is a referendum on the Hammondspport School District budget vote ballot to establish a special tax district to change funding for the Taylor and Pulteney Libraries. Presently, our local government budgets partially fund the libraries. In 2026 Town of Wayne donated \$17,000 to the library out of its General Fund budget. If the Referendum is approved, the special tax district will be established to provide funding. All current school taxpayers would see this as a line item increase in their September 2026 school tax bills. The tax rate will be \$.5587 per \$1,000.00 of the assessed value for each Town of Wayne parcel in the Hammondspport School District. If you own a property in the Hammondspport School District and your property is assessed at \$400,000.00, you will pay a library tax of \$223.13. Any future increases in your assessment value would correspondingly increase the amount of this line item tax on your

bill. We urge all voters in the Hammondsport School District to research this Referendum and PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU VOTE ON MAY 19th (05/19/2026) at THE HAMMONDSPORT HIGH SCHOOL BETWEEN 11:00AM - 8:00PM

4. Approval of Minutes

Due to attendance conflicts from previous meetings, the Board discussed delays in approving the April meeting minutes.

A motion to approve the March Town Board meeting minutes was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Freeman. All are in favor

Supervisor report

The Board reviewed budget and financial reports.

It was noted that:

- Sales tax revenues remain strong
- Budget lines continue to track appropriately

5. Tax Cap Override Resolution

The Board discussed a proposed resolution related to exceeding the state tax cap if necessary, during future budget planning.

The Supervisor emphasized:

- The Town currently has no intention of significantly exceeding the tax cap
- The resolution serves as a placeholder to preserve the Town's legal authority to exceed the tax cap if unforeseen circumstances arise
- Any future increase above the cap would still require a Board Resolution, and a Public Hearing.

Discussion included rising operational costs, especially for infrastructure and road maintenance.

The Board scheduled a public hearing on the matter before the next regular meeting at 5:45 PM.

A motion to approve the Supervisors report was made by Councilmember Kenyon, seconded by Councilmember Freeman. All are in favor.

A motion to approve Resolution 7_2026, related to exceeding the state tax cap if necessary, during future budget planning, was made by Councilmember Haar, second by Councilmember Kenyon. Voting as follows. Councilmember Haar, yes. Councilmember Freeman, yes. Councilmember Kenyon yes. Supervisor Mahr, yes. Councilmember Terwilliger, absent.

6. Clerk and Records Report

The Clerk report was reviewed without discussion.

A motion to approve the Clerk's report was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon, all are in favor.

7. Voucher and Abstract Approval

The Board reviewed the monthly abstracts and vouchers.

A correction was noted on each fund abstract, due to software issues involving incorrect printed dates. The Board initiated the corrected documents.

A motion to approve the Vouchers was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Kenyon, all are in favor

8. Town-Wide Revaluation Discussion

The Board discussed the need for a comprehensive town-wide reassessment/revaluation.

Key points included:

- The Town has not completed full reassessment within the recommended timeframe
- Current equalization rates are reportedly around 65%
- Delaying reassessment further could create larger disparities and taxpayer impacts later

Examples were discussed where assessed property values had doubled due to market conditions.

Board members expressed concern about postponing the reassessment until 2028 and indicated support for moving forward sooner.

The Supervisor stated he would continue discussions with the assessor and neighboring officials but also did not support additional delays.

9. Highway Department Report

East Lake Road Headwall Project

Updates included:

- Concrete work has been completed
- The road is expected to reopen soon, weather permitting
- Lock blocks were delivered
- Public notices regarding closures were posted online and through social media

10. FLEET Road Project

The topcoat paving was tentatively scheduled for May 27, weather permitting.

Additional drainage work and spring water issues are being addressed.

Highway Equipment

Discussion was held regarding aging highway equipment, particularly the road grader, which is more than 20 years old.

Replacement costs for a new grader were estimated at approximately \$400,000.

The Town continues exploring possible surplus federal equipment opportunities.

11. Bridge and Retaining Wall Projects

The Board discussed:

- A major bridge project estimated at approximately \$946,000
- Retaining wall concerns on East Lake Road
- Engineering studies underway involving hydrology and culvert capacity
- Coordination with NYSDOT regarding culvert replacement beneath Route 54

Additional retaining wall stabilization concerns were discussed near lakeside properties where private development may affect roadway stability.

The Board emphasized that private property owners may bear responsibility for portions of future stabilization work.

12. Zoning and Code Enforcement Report

The Board reviewed a report from the new Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Myers.

Members stated he has been performing well and actively addressing violations.

Ongoing Property Violations

Several major property concerns were discussed, including:

- Unsafe and unsanitary properties
- Camper violations exceeding Town limits
- Septic compliance issues
- Dangerous dog complaints
- Difficulties contacting absentee property owners

Process Server Authorization

The Board discussed hiring a process server to formally serve notices to a property owner who has been unreachable.

Bubbling Spring Road Structure

A lengthy discussion was held regarding a structure under construction on Bubbling Spring Road.

Concerns included:

- Lack of engineered plans
- Unusual foundation and support design
- Potential snow load and structural stability concerns
- Expired building permit

The Code Enforcement Officer stated he would not issue a new permit or certificate of occupancy without engineering approval.

The Board supported the decision to require an engineer's certification before occupancy approval.

13. Park, Playground, and Community Projects

Discussion included:

- Playground design concepts from Hunt Engineering
- Preference for the simpler and less expensive concept design
- Splash pad completion work
- Fence repairs
- Parking lot repair needs
- Open House planning for August
- Potential additional recreational activities such as pickleball and children's events

The Board also thanked the Highway Department and staff for recent cleanup efforts despite difficult weather conditions.

14. Election and Caucus Information

The Board briefly discussed an upcoming Democratic caucus/primary election and concerns about low voter turnout due to limited contested races.

The Board of Elections was expected to provide additional guidance and set up information.

15. Public Comment

A resident commented regarding concerns about Bubbling Spring Road property discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Board responded that the matter is actively being addressed.

16. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Freeman. All are in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

