

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on April 16, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak	Councilor
Mr. Michael Burke	Councilor
Mr. Roger Hand	Councilor
Mr. Robert Grover	Councilor
Mrs. Jennifer Sullivan	Councilor
Mrs. Wendy Van Der Water	Supervisor

Also Present:

Ms. Stacy Marris	Town Attorney
Mr. Jason Hoy	Town Engineer
Mr. David Blaisdell	Acting Highway Superintendent
Mrs. Diane Sposato	Deputy Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Approve Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 2, 2025:

103-25-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Burke, to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting on April 2, 2025.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens Comments: None

Annual Financial Report presentation by Comptroller Linda Pease:

- A. Major funds analysis showed an increase of approximately \$1.2M due to higher interest rates and ARPA Revenue. Parks & Recreation, along with Buildings & Grounds had an increase in the use of ARPA funds. The overall A Fund revenue balance increased by \$450,000.
- B. Revenue decreased in the Codes Department by \$58,000 due to building permits and franchise fees being down compared to both the Codes and Planning Board contractual in 2024. The total fund balance decreased by \$ 80,000.
- C. Highway revenues were up by \$400,000, due to an increased need for Highway Aid. Expenses increased by \$225,000 due to drainage projects and equipment. Highway actual revenues were \$300,000 more than expenses and will be part of 2026 budget discussion.
- D. Operating margins are consistent but there is room for improvement in operational efficiency as it relates to budgeting and expenditures, while strengthening our reserves. This underscores our commitment to the protection of the Town's financial

stability. The town had a fiscal stress score of 3.3 out of 100 which is considered a "no score".

- E. 2026 potential budgeting strategies and goals include:
- a. Request % decrease where necessary on budgets.
 - b. Thorough review of revenue and expenses in all departments.
 - c. Collaborate with department heads and Town Board to bring down costs where trends allow.
 - d. Interest rates are declining.

Mrs. Van Der Water asked if there were questions or comments from the board. The board did not have any questions.

Mrs. Van Der Water thanked Linda Pease for presenting the report as she has been on the Town Board since 2019 and has never seen the annual financial report.

Notification Highway department hours of operation are changing to Monday through Thursday 6:00 am to 4:30 pm starting April 21, 2025:

104-25-025 MOTION BY Ms. Lesniak, seconded by Mr. Grover, to approve the Highway department's hours of operation are changing to Monday through Thursday 6:00 am to 4:30 pm on April 21, 2025.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Appoint Tim Ganey our Code Enforcement Officer Fire Marshall:

105-25-002 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hand, to appoint Tim Ganey, our Code Enforcement Officer Fire Marshall.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Authorize \$10,000 payment to Comptroller Linda Pease for completion of Justice Court audits for Years 2022, 2023 and 2024:

106-25-007 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hand, to authorize \$10,000 payment to Comptroller Linda Pease for completion of Justice Court audits for years 2022, 2023 and 2023.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – No, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Authorize the Supervisor to sign the IMA with Town of Lysander for Veterans Outreach Coordinator:

Mrs. Van Der Water thanks Kevin Rode, Supervisor of the Town of Lysander, for pushing this through his board as it is very important to Van Buren and will be a service to help our community.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak stated she was pleased to see the Town of Lysander Supervisor here tonight to join us. Many of us have grown up here in the community we think of Baldwinsville as a whole, not division between towns, therefore all of us coordination together makes sense.

107-25- 001.1 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Grover, to authorize the Supervisor Mrs. Wendy Van Der Water to sign the IMA with Town of Lysander for the Veterans Outreach Coordinator.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Appoint Daniel Quackenbush as OCRRA representative effective April 16, 2025, to finish a term through December 31, 2025:

Mrs. Van Der Water thanked Mr. Quackenbush for his 16 plus years of serving on our Town Board and OCRAA Board throughout the years.

108-25-002 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Grover, to Appoint Daniel Quackenbush as OCRRA representative effective April 16, 2025, to finish a term through December 31, 2025

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Resolution to establish monthly service credit for Mrs. Wendy Van Der Water for NYS Retirement based on submitted three-month log, ROA result 11.96/month with 2 payrolls, 17.94/month with three payrolls:

109-25-038 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Grover, to approve resolution to establish monthly service credit for Mrs. Wendy Van Der Water for NYS Retirement based on submitted three-month log, ROA result 11.96/month with 2 payrolls, 17.94/month with three payrolls.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Abtain

Motion Carried & Adopted

Authorize \$ 525,000 funds transfer from the DB Fund Balance to DB.5110.0200 for a new Jet Rodder for the Highway Department:

Mr. Blaisdell explained that the Jet Rodder is a necessity as our 2006 Jet Rodder is no longer in service and the state requires 20% of the catch basins to be cleaned every year to control the drainage issues from storm waters. They would like to thank both the Town Board and residents for allowing this new equipment to be purchased as it is out cleaning drain almost daily.

Ms. Lesniak states she is glad that we are continuing our tradition of not bonding for new equipment. We put money aside and are prepared for purchases like this, this might cause our reserves and funds to take a hit but once again paying cash for new equipment.

110-25-007 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to authorize \$ 525,000 funds transfer from the DB Fund balance to DB.5110.0200 for a new Jet Rider for the Highway Department.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Authorization for the Supervisor to submit a letter to the DOT requesting a speed zone deduction between Donald S. Ray Middle School to Conners Rd:

111-25-046 MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Grover, to authorize for the Supervisor to submit a letter to the DOT requesting a speed zone deduction between Donald S. Ray Middle School to Conners Rd.

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Councilor Committee Reports and Comments:

Mrs. Sullivan reminded everyone that there is a Facilities Committee meeting on May 22, 2025 at 8:00 am at the Van Burn Park Office.

Mrs. Sullivan advised that the meeting at Canton Woods on April 2, 2025, was very productive, she will provide a treasury report to the board.

Ms. Lesniak advised the personnel committee has been working on updating the employee handbook which is in the final draft. She advised it has been shared with all the councilors and requests any questions regarding it to please get back to as soon as possible. The personnel committee is looking to present it at the May 7, 2025 Board Meeting.

Regular Town Board Meeting April 2, 2025

Mr. Grover advised that our Comprehensive Land Use Committee talked with B & L our first meeting will be held on April 29, 2025 at 4:30 pm at the Town Hall. You can join in person or via Zoom. Mrs. Van Der Water and Mr. Grover will be chairs of the committee and be meeting with B & L prior to give them the lay out of the town.

Supervisor Comments:

Mrs. Van Der Water advised she received the March 2025 report from the codes department they have had: 14 building permits, 2 demolition permits, 69 inspections, 5 inspections, 8 violations issued, 11 appearance tickets, 27 CFL issued, 11 CFO issued, 1 temporary CFO and 49 complaints. Their total prevention fee for the month was \$8,908. The total value of all the projects they over saw was over 1 million. Mrs. Van Der Water thanks the Codes Department for the good job they are doing and keep it up.

Mrs. Van Der Water wanted to remind everyone that at our next Town Board Meeting on May 7, 2025, Baldwinsville School District Superintendent Dr. Joseph M. DeBarbieri will give a presentation on the school budget.

Highway Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Blaisdell advised that the delineators are in the process of being picked up and they will begin sweeping the roads on Monday April 21, 2025. They are desalting and removing the plows and wings of the trucks.

Mrs. Van Der Water advised that no overnight parking is officially over as of April 15, 2025.

Mr. Blaisdell advised they had the Earth Day clean up event this past weekend and turn out was as big as they hoped. He plans on getting the information out there more next year in hopes of a better outcome.

Mrs. Van Der Water wants Earth Day to be an important event in the Town of Van Buren and we should plan a big next year.

Mr. Grover advised that he has heard of other events for cleaning up throughout the community more towards Earth Day.

Engineer Comments:

Mr. Hoy advised they submitted their community development application last Friday and the windows for the Canton Woods Senior Center have been ordered. The windows turnaround time is between four to five weeks and the contractor will be working out the time to install them directly with the senior center.

Attorney Comments: None

112-25-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Burke, to adjourn to the next Regular Town Board meeting on May 7, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Regular Town Board Meeting April 2, 2025

Ms. Darcie Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closes at 7:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Sposato
Deputy Town Clerk

Dated: 04/21/25