

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on August 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

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

Absent: Mr. Robert Grover, Deputy Supervisor

Also Present:

Mr. Ken Bush	County Legislator
Ms. Nadine Bell	Town Attorney
Mr. Jason Hoy	Town Engineer
Mr. David Blaisdell	Acting Highway Superintendent
Ms. Lynn Precourt	Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Citizens Comments: None

Approve meeting minutes of Regular Meeting on July 16, 2025:

165-25-000 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan, to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting on July 16, 2025 as published.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens Comments: None

Appoint Charity Gustke to the Town Board to fill the current vacant seat with term expiration 12/31/25:

166-25-002 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Hand, to appoint Charity Gustke to the Town Board to fill the current vacant seat with term expiration 12/31/25.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Mrs. Van Der Water administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Gustke.

Application to Town Board for Zone Change request from Eldan Homes for Tax Map # 036.-03-21.0 from R-40 to PUD:

167-25-052 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to refer the application for a Zone Change Request from Eldan Homes for Tax Map #036.-03-21.0 from R-40 to PUD to the Planning Board.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Authorize Supervisor to sign Amendment #1 to County Contract 5562 for the \$120,000 grant for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan to expire 12/31/26:

Mrs. Van Der Water said the current contract expires at the end of this year and we will need more time than that to complete the plan, this amendment changes the expiration to 12/31/26.

168-25-MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to authorize the Supervisor to sign Amendment #1 to County Contract 5562 for the \$120,000 grant for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan to expire 12/31/26.

Ms. Gustke – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mrs. Van der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve Employee Handbook revision; including Section 606-Health Insurance & Retiree Health Insurance and Exhibit for Full and Part Time job titles:

168-25-038 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to approve Employee Handbook revision; including Section 606-Health Insurance & Retiree Health Insurance and Exhibit for Full and Part Time job titles.

Ms. Gustke – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mrs. Van der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Councilor Committee Reports and Comments:

Mr. Burke said he had a Highway Committee Meeting last week and they discussed updating the lighting at the salt shed and addressing some drainage issues around the facility.

Supervisor Comments:

Regular Town Board Meeting August 6, 2025

Mrs. Van Der Water said today marks her one year anniversary as Supervisor and she thanked the department heads and Ms. Bell for their continued support. She thanked the residents and said she hopes they have been happy with the service they receive from the town. She said she is looking forward to serving for many years to come.

Mrs. Van Der Water thanked Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. McMahon, Historian, for their work on the Erie Canal Bicentennial. It was a nice celebration of our history.

Mrs. Van Der Water said Jim Reynolds, our Veterans Outreach Coordinator, was recently able to help obtain an electric scooter and arrange for its delivery to our veteran's home. She said this is just one example of how Jim can help if someone is in need.

Mrs. Van Der Water said the numbers show people are using our new website:
www.vanburenny.gov.

Mrs. Van Der Water said over 160 people participated in the Community Survey to help us make revisions to the Comprehensive Land use Plan.

Mrs. Van Der Water said Onondaga County Soil and Water employees have removed over 1.2 million pounds of water chestnuts so far this summer. They will continue their work into the Fall.

Mrs. Van Der Water said the Codes office issued 15 new building permits and closed out eight.

Mrs. Van Der Water said the state has approved the speed reduction to 40 mph on Pottery Road.

Highway Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Blaisdell said they are finishing drainage work on Silversides Way and Submarine Course and will pave in a few weeks. He said they have started drainage work in Sun Meadows.

Engineer Comments: None

Attorney Comments: None

Ken Bush, County Legislator Update:

Mr. Bush congratulated Mrs. Gustke on her appointment.

Regular Town Board Meeting August 6, 2025

Mr. Bush said the County awarded a \$12,000 grant to Canton Woods Senior Center. The County will be providing the local option of \$37,000 for the Riverfront Revitalization grant that the two towns and Village have received.

Mr. Bush said at the last legislative session they voted to place a referendum on the November ballot that would change legislators' terms from two to four years but also add a three term limit on those positions.

169-25-014 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mrs. Gustke, to recess the Regular Meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:15 pm.

Ms. Gustke – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mrs. Van der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

170-25-000 MOTION BY Ms. Lesniak, seconded by Mrs. Gustke, to close the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting at 7:32 pm.

Ms. Gustke – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mrs. Van der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

171-25-000 MOTION BY Ms. Lesniak, seconded by Mrs. Gustke, to adjourn to the next Regular Town Board Meeting on August 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Gustke – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mrs. Van der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closed 7:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt
Town Clerk

Dated: 8/7/25