

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on March 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

Mr. Chris Sherwood	Councilor
Mrs. Charity Gustke	Councilor
Mr. Michael Burke	Councilor
Mr. Roger Hand	Councilor
Mrs. Jennifer Sullivan	Councilor
Mrs. Wendy Van Der Water	Supervisor

Absent: Mr. Robert Grover Councilor

Also Present:

Ms. Nadine Bell	Town Attorney
Mr. David Blaisdell	Highway Superintendent
Ms. Theresa Golden	Assessor
Ms. Lynn Precourt	Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Approve Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 18, 2026:

072-26-000 MOTION BY Mrs. Gustke, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board meeting held on February 18, 2026 as published.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens Comments: None

Approval to release of securities funds for Phase 1/1A of Treybrook to Brolex Properties, LLC:

073-26-000 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hand, release of securities funds for Phase 1/1A of Treybrook to Brolex Properties, LLC.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approval to release of securities funds for Phase 2A of Treybrook to Brolex Properties, LLC:

074-26-000 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan, release of securities funds for Phase 2A of Treybrook to Brolex Properties, LLC.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Assessor's Report:

Mrs. Golden presented the Assessor's report for 2026, she explained the following:

The exemption deadline for 2026 passed on March 2. Any applications received after that date will apply for 2027 not 2026.

Senior Citizen exemption update: 7 seniors missed the renewal deadline, despite reminder postcards and multiple phone calls. 50 new senior applications were submitted for 2026, 36 were approved and 14 were over the income limit.

New Exemption updates: 1The County approved the new Senior Citizen max amounts of 55% - 65% from previous to 50% discount. We are currently waiting for computer updates to allow new amounts for 2026. See attached.

New Veterans exemption for 100% service connected disability was signed by the Governor on February 13, 2026, Exemption is mandatory not local option and will apply to the 2027 assessment roll. Currently waiting for updates to forms and exemption manuals. See attached.

Work continues on the 2026 assessment roll until mid to late April.

All open permits will be reviewed during the last 2 weeks of March.

Informal meetings with the Assessor will be scheduled in late April.

The State Equalization Rate for 2026 will be 65% down from 70% in 2025.

Staff training continues in both the Lysander and Van Buren offices, as all full-time staff have less than 2 years' experience.

Approval to promote Nathan Falso as Laborer 2 effective April 1, 2026, with rate of pay per CBA:

075-26-038 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Burke, to approve promotion of Nathan Falso as Laborer 2 effective April 1, 2026, with rate of pay per CBA.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approval to Adopt the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

076-26-017 MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to Adopt the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF VAN BUREN ADOPTING  
THE 2025 ONONDAGA COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION  
PLAN

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Van Buren Town Board recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the Town of Van Buren; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Van Buren has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2025 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the Town from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption by the Town of Van Buren Town Board demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2025 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Van Buren Town Board, on behalf of the Town of Van Buren, State of New York, adopts the 2025 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan, approved by the community, may be edited or amended after submission for review, but will not require the community to re-adopt any further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the community from updating the plan in five (5) years.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Sherwood – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mr. Grover – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Gustke – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approval for the new position of Veterans Service Office on Civil Service roster:

077-26-038 MOTION BY Mrs. Gustke, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to approve the new position of Veterans Service Office on Civil Service roster

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approval of the Resolution Strongly Urging Immediate Review of Electric Delivery charges, Demanding Improved Cost Controls and Transparency, and Authorized Formal Complaints to the New York State Public Service Commission Regarding the Escalation Cost of Electricity

077-26-000 The following resolution was offered by Councilor Sullivan who moved its adoption, and seconded by Councilor Burke to wit:

**WHEREAS**, residents, seniors, and small businesses in the Town of Van Buren are experiencing unsustainable, repeated, and compounding increases in electric bills that are placing a growing financial strain on households and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a substantial portion of these increases are attributable *not* to increased energy consumption, but to escalating delivery charges, fees, and approved rate adjustments imposed by New York State Electric and Gas (“NYSEG”) and National Grid (hereinafter collectively, the Town’s “Energy Providers”); and

**WHEREAS**, electric delivery charges and rate structures are regulated and approved by the New York State Public Service Commission, which is statutorily charged with ensuring that utility rates are just, reasonable, and affordable for ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has received numerous complaints from Town residents who are struggling to afford basic electric service and who have expressed serious concern regarding the frequency, magnitude, and lack of transparency surrounding recent and ongoing rate increases; and

**WHEREAS**, rural and low-density communities, such as the Town of Van Buren, are disproportionately impacted by delivery charge increases and cost-recovery mechanisms that fail to adequately account for affordability, equity, and the cumulative burden placed on ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board finds that continued approval of rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency, and meaningful affordability protections is unacceptable and contrary to the public interest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren formally and strongly urges the New York State Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and immediate review of electric delivery charges, rate increases, and cost-recovery practices applicable to NYSEG and National Grid customers; be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board calls upon the Public Service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, demand greater transparency from the Town’s Energy Providers, and require demonstrable cost-containment and operational efficiency measures before approving any future rate increases; be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board expressly opposes continued or automatic rate increases that shift rising operational, infrastructure, and administrative costs onto ratepayers without clear justification or adequate protection for rural communities; be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to submit formal complaints, written comments, and supporting documentation to the New York State Public Service Commission on behalf of the Town and its residents, objecting to excessive electric costs and requesting regulatory intervention; be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, NYSEG, National Grid, the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York State Legislature, and neighboring

municipalities served by NYSEG and National Grid, and to encourage coordinated action among affected municipalities; be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Roll Call Votes: Mr. Sherwood – Yes, Mr. Burke – Yes, Mr. Hand – Yes, Mrs. Sullivan – Yes, Mrs. Gustke – Yes, Mrs. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approval for the Engineer to go out to bid for the Park Pavilion Electric based on the DASNY Grant of \$195,000, with RFPs due April 10, 2026 and awarded on April 15, 2026:

078-26-057 MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, Approval for the Engineer to go out to bid for the park pavilion electric based on the DASNY Grant of \$195,000 with RFPs due April 10, 2026, and awarded on April 15, 2026.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approval to set public hearing April 1, 2026 for the 5-year consolidated plan presented by town Engineer:

079-26-023 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hand, to set public hearing April 1, 2026, for the Community Development Five Year Consolidated Plan presented by town Engineer.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Councilor Committee Reports and Comments:

Mrs. Sullivan advised there is a Public Meeting at the Baldwinsville Public Library Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:30 pm regarding joint local waterfront revitalization.

Mrs. Sullivan reviewed Building and Ground's February report and advised they are doing a great job and have been very busy. In February they were very busy, the busiest with snow removal. They were also able to winterize equipment, install court secure drop, they epoxied the lodge floor, completed cleaning the remaining pool filters, worked on the back up pool fitter and started the ordering process for the new metal siding for Pavilion B.

Mr. Sherwood advised on behalf of Mr. Grover that the Comprehensive Plan meeting is April 8, 2026, 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Comments:

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Mrs. Van Der Water would like to thank the court for applying for the 2025/2026 Court Assistance Program Grant that was established in 1999. The court was awarded \$1259.98 which they will use for a new TV, Wall mount, 2 new justice robes and a handheld metal detector.

Mrs. Van Der Water would like to remind everyone that the burn ban is now in effect and will continue till May 14, 2026.

Highway Superintendent Comments: None

Attorney Comments: None

080-26-014 MOTION BY Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mrs. Gustke, to recess the regular meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:24 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

081-26-000 MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Burke to close the Executive Session and resume the regular meeting at 8:20 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

082-26-000 MOTION BY Mr. Hand, seconded by Mr. Burke, to adjourn to the next Regular Town Board Meeting on April 1, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closed 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt

Town Clerk

Dated: 3/23/26

