

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on June 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

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

Absent: Mrs. Charity Gustke, Councilor

Also Present:

Ms. Nadine Bell	Town Attorney
Mr. Jason Hoy	Town Engineer
Mr. David Blaisdell	Highway Superintendent
Mr. Steve McMahon	Town Historian
Ms. Lynn Precourt	Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Approve Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 20, 2026:

130-26-000 MOTION BY Mr. Gover, seconded by Mr. Hand, to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on May 20, 2026 as published.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens' Comments:

Mary Augustus, 7060 West Dead Creek Road and Lisa Ellis, 7068 West Dead Creek Road were present to address the Board. They are having an issue with a neighbor who has several roosters that are creating a nuisance and interfering with their ability to enjoy their property due to the constant crowing.

They have discussed the issue with the Code Enforcement Officer who suggested they come to the Board to ask them to consider a law that would directly address the issue since our code is vague.

Ms. Bell said the town's code doesn't specifically address roosters and it is likely because this area is located in the AR080 district that there are NYS Agriculture & Markets laws that supersede the town's ability to address the issue. However, the Code Enforcement Officer can issue an appearance ticket for noise violation. The local judge may choose to fine the roosters' owner and if they fail to correct the problem the town can continue to issue tickets and levy fines that would encourage the owner to correct the issue.

Historian's Report:

Mr. Steve McMahon, Town Historian, gave a short presentation about his activities in 2025 and what he is working on in 2026 and thanked the Board for their support for local history.

Mr. McMahon said he responds to resident requests, mostly for genealogy and property histories. He said he performs outreach and collaborates with other local history organizations and has updated our website with many local history resources.

Mr. McMahon said last year he was busy with the bicentennial of the Erie Canal and hosted events at Simpson Memorial Park in Memphis, went on a podcast to discuss the effects of the canal on the Village of Baldwinsville and unveiled the mural at the town's Erie Canal Trail. He had the opportunity to submit a research paper on the Erie Canal that will be included in an anthology published by the Syracuse University Press this year.

He said the big theme this year is America's 250th birthday but, as we know, Van Buren didn't exist in 1776 so there is no history here relating to that milestone.

Mr. McMahon said he is working with the Pomeroy Foundation that provides historical markers to have one placed at the Baldwin Canal in the Village and one at a home in Warners where a prominent abolitionist once lived.

Mr. McMahon will continue to work on a digital database for those buried in Warners Cemetery as a resource for families who are looking for that information.

Mrs. Van Der Water thanked Mr. McMahon for all the work he is doing and asked for copies of the books he wrote about the Erie Canal to be available for sale here at the Town Hall.

Approve Local Law 2-2026:

Mrs. Van Der Water said the Onondaga County Planning Board has taken "no position" on this proposed local law so the Board may proceed tonight with adoption.

131-26-030 The following resolution was offered by Councilor Sullivan who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilor Burke to wit:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled Local Law No. A-2026, “A Local Law Imposing a Twelve (12) Month Moratorium on Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers and Data Storage Facilities Within the Town of Van Buren,” was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren held on May 6, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on this 20th day of May 2026 by the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren and proof of publication of notice of such public hearing, as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of Local Law No. A-2026 has previously been determined to be Type II action under SEQR, thus concluding the environmental review process; and

WHEREAS, Local Law No. A-2026 was duly referred to the Onondaga County Planning Board (“OCPB”) for review pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 239-m and -n, and, pursuant to Case No. Z-26-126, dated June 1, 2026, the OCPB returned the matter for local determination, with no position taken; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to enact said Local Law No. A-2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, Onondaga County, New York, does hereby enact Local Law No. A-2026 as Local Law No. 2-2026 as follows:

**“TOWN OF VAN BUREN
LOCAL LAW NO. 2-2026**

A Local Law Imposing a Twelve (12) Month Moratorium on Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers, and Data Storage Facilities Within the Town of Van Buren

Be it enacted as follows:

Section 1: Intent

It is the intent of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren to impose a twelve (12) month moratorium on the development, construction or use of Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers, and Data Storage Facilities within the Town of Van Buren. This local law is enacted under the authority of Section 10 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

Section 2: Legislative Purpose

The Town Board of the Town of Van Buren finds that it is in the best interest of the Town of Van Buren to enact a moratorium on any new Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers and Data Storage Facilities, which consist of buildings containing numerous servers and which have high demand for energy, cooling, and water mechanisms, and can result in disturbing noise generation. The Town Board recognizes the potential impact of Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Processing Centers,

Data Mining and Data Storage Facilities on the Town's infrastructure, environment, public health and safety, and welfare of its residents. Accordingly, it is the purpose of this temporary moratorium to provide the Town Board with sufficient time to study and address any concerns, including, but not limited to, zoning, environmental impacts, public safety, and economic implications resulting from Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers and Data Storage Facilities.

Section 3: Definitions

COMMERCIAL CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING: The commercial process by which cryptocurrency transactions are verified and added to the public ledger, known as the block chain, and also the means through which new units of cryptocurrencies are released, through the use of Data Processing Centers employing data processing equipment.

CRYPTOCURRENCY: A digital currency in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units of currency and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.

CRYPTOCURRENCY DATA MINE: A specific type of data center using a facility or use of land, buildings, or structures where computing equipment is used to solve complex mathematical algorithms in connection with verifying and adding transactions to a blockchain or other distributed ledger, commonly known as cryptocurrency mining. For purposes of this law, a cryptocurrency data mining operation shall be considered a distinct land use, different from a data center as defined in this section.

DATA MINING: The process of using multiple computers to store or warehouse data, discover patterns in large data sets involving methods that are applied to extract data patterns, and transform it into an understandable structure for further use. For purposes of this definition, any equipment which requires a High-Density Load Service, or any Server Farm, will presumably be a commercial data mining operation.

DATA PROCESSING CENTER: A building, dedicated space within a building, or group of structures used to house a large group of computer systems and associated components, such as telecommunications and data processing systems, to be used for the remote storage, processing, or distribution of large amounts of data. Examples of such data include, but are not limited to, computationally intensive applications such as blockchain technology, cryptocurrency mining, weather modeling, genome sequencing, etc. Such facilities may also include air handlers, power generators, water cooling and storage facilities, utility substations, and other associated utility infrastructure to support operations.

DATA STORAGE FACILITIES: A building, or structure, or partial use of a building or structure, used to store, manage, process, or transmit digital data for business uses, including computers, network equipment, systems, servers, and other associated components related to the digital data storage and operations that is secondary, subordinate and customarily incidental to and located on the same lot as the principal use of a property. Such a use cannot operate as an independent principal use.

HIGH DENSITY LOAD SERVICE: The provision of electrical service where the requested load

density has, for any monthly billing period, either an average power demand in excess of 300 kilowatts, or an average power density in excess of 250 kilowatt-hours per year per square foot of the leased or owned boundaries of floor space devoted to operating the data processing equipment, and excludes space used for offices, storage, and other non-electronic processing uses.

SERVER FARM: Three (3) or more interconnected computers housed together in a single facility whose primary function is to perform cryptocurrency mining or associated data processing.

Section 4: Moratorium

A. The Town Board hereby enacts a moratorium which shall prohibit the development or construction of any Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Cryptocurrency Data Mine, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers and Data Storage Facilities in the Town of Van Buren.

B. This moratorium shall be in effect for a period of twelve (12) months from the effective date of this Local Law and shall expire on the earlier of: (i) the date twelve (12) months from said effective date of this Local Law, unless renewed; or (ii) the enactment by Town Board of a resolution indicating the Town Board is satisfied that the need for the moratorium no longer exists.

C. This moratorium shall apply to all real property within the Town of Van Buren.

D. Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers and Data Storage Facilities within the Town of Van Buren which have previously been approved or are located on Town-owned property are hereby expressly excluded from this moratorium, and may be sited, placed, installed, constructed, erected and operated in accordance with approved plans. Further modification, alteration or enlargement of previously approved Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers and/or Data Storage Facilities is prohibited while the moratorium is in effect.

Section 5: Relief from Provisions of this Local Law

A. The Town Board reserves to itself the power to vary or adapt the strict application of the requirements of this local law in the case of unusual hardship which would deprive the owner of all reasonable use of the lands involved.

B. Application for relief shall be filed in triplicate with the Town Code Enforcement Office together with a filing fee of \$250.00. The application shall specifically identify the property involved, recite the circumstances pursuant to which the relief is sought and the reasons for which the relief is claimed. Any costs, including expert consulting fees or attorneys' fees, incurred by the Town, shall be reimbursed to the Town by the Applicant. The Town Board shall apply Use Variance criteria as set forth in the New York State Town Law, Section 267-b (2) in reviewing any application for relief.

C. The Town Board may refer any applications for relief herein to the Town Planning Board/ Zoning Board of Appeal for its advice and recommendations, but all decisions on granting or denying such relief shall be made solely by the Town Board after determining whether or not

the requested relief is compatible with any contemplated amendments to the Town Zoning Law. Unless completely satisfied that the proposed relief is compatible, the Town Board shall deny the application.

D. The Town Board shall conduct a public hearing on any request for relief within forty-five (45) days of receipt by the Town Code Enforcement Office and shall issue its final decision on requests for relief within thirty (30) days from the date of the public hearing.

Section 6: Penalties

Any person, firm or corporation that shall establish, place, construct, enlarge, erect or engage in any Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations, Data Mining, Data Processing Centers and/or Data Storage Facilities in violation of the provisions of this local law or shall otherwise violate any of the provisions of this local law shall be subject to:

A. A fine not to exceed One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment for a term not to exceed fifteen (15) days, or both. Each day a violation continues shall be considered a new violation.

B. A civil action inclusive of injunctive relief in favor of the Town to cease any and all such actions which conflict with this local law and, if necessary, to remove any constructions, improvements, or related items or byproducts which may have taken place in violation of this local law.

Section 7: Enforcement

This local law shall be enforced by the Code Enforcement Office of the Town of Van Buren or such other zoning enforcement individual(s) as designated by the Town Board. It shall be the duty of the enforcement individual(s) to advise the Town Board of all matters pertaining to the enforcement of this local law.

Section 8: Validity & Severability

If any section or part of this local law is declared invalid or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or affect any other section of this local law.

Section 9: Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon passage and thereafter shall be filed with the New York State Department of State and shall remain in force and effect for a period of twelve(12) months from the date of passage.”

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. Van Der Water – Yes

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve formation of committee to work on battery storage and data center moratorium:

132-26-000 MOTION BY Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Grover, to approve formation of a committee to work on battery storage and data center moratorium with Mr. Burke as Chair, working with Mr. Grover and Mr. Hand.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Mrs. Van Der Water said information for residents who are interested in serving on this committee will be on the town's website along with contact information for Mr. Burke.

Approve Director of Codes Enforcement to attend fireworks training in Geneva on June 4th with a \$10.00 registration fee:

133-26-027 MOTION BY Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Hand, to approve Director of Codes Enforcement to attend fireworks training in Geneva on June 4th with a \$10.00 registration fee.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve Katelynn Lawson as seasonal lifeguard at a rate of \$21.00 an hour:

134-26-038 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Burke, to approve Katelynn Lawson as seasonal lifeguard at a rate of \$21.00 an hour.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Extend bid opening for Pavilion AA septic system to June 17, 2026 at 10:00 am:

135-26-054 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to extend the bid opening for the septic system for Pavilion AA to June 17, 2026 at 10:00 am.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve agreement with Freeland Investigations for park security:

136-26-001.1 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hand, to approve agreement with Freeland Investigations for park security.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Increase salary for Director of Code Enforcement:

137-26-038 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hand, to increase the salary for the Director of Enforcement to \$75,000 retroactive to May 11, 2026.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Approve construction inspection services agreement with Barton & Loguidice:

138-26-001.1 MOTION BY Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Grover, to approve a 3rd party consulting agreement with Barton & Loguidice, for the purpose of rendering construction inspection services, through 12/31/26, subject to attorney review and approval.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Councilor Comments:

Mrs. Sullivan said she held a Facilities Committee meeting in May and the parks department has a busy summer ahead.

Supervisor Comments:

Mrs. Van Der Water said the town is looking for a part time Code Enforcement Officer. The details of the job along with certification requirements are on the town's website.

Mrs. Van Der Water read the monthly report from the Codes Office and said they have been busy issuing and closing out building permits.

Mrs. Van Der Water said the town offices will be closed June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

Mrs. Van Der Water thanked the Board for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade.

Mrs. Van Der Water said the Seneca Chief, Erie Canal boat replica, will stop in Baldwinsville in two weeks, there will be events on Paper Mill Island from 4:30 to 7:00 pm.

Highway Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Blaisdell said they are paving in upper Seneca Knolls and on Gallagher Road.

Engineer Comments: None

Attorney Comments:

Ms. Bell said the Board has chosen to name the Van Buren Park Lodge, situated in Van Buren Central Park, in honor of Corporal Kyle Schneider and his foundation in recognition and appreciation of the efforts of the Schneider family and foundation to improve and beautify park facilities. Donations by the family and foundation include, but are not limited to, AED donations, coordinating community volunteer projects with the Boy Scouts of America, installing benches, planting trees, and sponsoring community events at the park.

139-26-000 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Grover, to name the Van Buren Park Lodge in Van Buren Central Park the “Corporal Kyle Schneider Lodge”.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Ms. Bell said the town was named in a tax certiorari commenced by DG Empire Lumen 2023, LLC, a solar company, but, the suit pertains to the school district’s failure to opt out of tax exemption pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 487. The stipulation of settlement will not affect the town because the town did opt out, but, since the town was named, the town must agree to the stipulation to resolve the lawsuit.

140-26-003 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to authorize execution of a stipulation agreement as drafted in the tax certiorari for DG Empire Lumen 2023, LLC.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

141-26-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Burke, to adjourn to the next regular Town Board Meeting on June 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closed 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt
Town Clerk

Dated: 6/4/26