

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on October 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

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

Absent: Mr. Chris Sherwood, Councilor

Also Present:

Ms. Nadine Bell	Town Attorney
Mr. Jason Hoy	Town Engineer
Mr. Dave Blaisdell	Highway Superintendent
Ms. Theresa Golden	Assessor
Ms. Lynn Precourt	Town Clerk

Approve Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 7, 2026:

214-26-000 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Burke, to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on October 7, 2026 as published.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Citizens Comments:

Mr. Ronald Jackson, 204 San Marino Path, said the highway department did work on a drainage ditch on his neighbor's property. He said it created a flat spot in his yard that he worries will not drain.

Mr. Blaisdell said he will meet with Mr. Jackson and discuss what can be done to help with this area.

Budget Transfers and modifications:

215-26-007 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Hand, to approve the following budget transfers and modifications:

FROM:	A.7189.409	RECREATION PROGRAM COSTS	\$ (2,000.00)
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TO:	A.1620.411	BUILDING AND PROPERTY REPAIRS	\$ 2,000.00
FROM:	A.7189.409	RECREATION PROGRAM COSTS	\$ (3,450.00)
TO:	A.1620.200	EQUIPMENT - SNOW BLOWER	\$ 3,450.00
FROM:	B.1440.440	ENGINEER B FUND	\$ (6,501.00)
TO:	B.8020.443	PUBLIC NOTICES	\$ 900.00
		COMPUTER SOFTWARE	
	B.3620.418	MAINTENANCE	\$ 4,500.00
	B.3620.404	B FUND GASOLINE	\$ 850.00
	B.3620.420	TELEPHONES	\$ 251.00
FROM:	A.1355.441	CONFERENCES	\$ (1,900.00)
TO:	A.1910.400	UNALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$ (3,200.00)
	A.1621.400	TELEPHONES	\$ (8,000.00)
	A.1621.441	SAFETY TRAINING	\$ (1,900.00)
	A.1420.430	ATTORNEY FEES NON-RETAINERS	\$ 15,000.00

(YEAR-END TRANSFERS)

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Assessor's Report:

Ms. Golden said she is here tonight to discuss two new exemption options for the Board's consideration.

She said the first is an increase in the maximum percentage for the senior citizen limited income exemption. She said the county has passed a new maximum that will apply in 2027.

Ms. Golden said the second is a new exemption for 100% permanently and totally disabled veterans. She said the county has yet to act on this exemption and there are a couple reasons why they may wait. The first is that the real property tax software will need a patch in order to apply the exemption.

The second reason is that exemptions apply to true taxes, county, town and highway taxes. This new exemption will also apply to special districts, like drainage, lighting and in the case of the county, the county sewer charge. She said there is a question of legality surrounding the special districts portion being exempt because if someone pays nothing, someone else will pay more.

Ms. Golden said the Board does have time to wait to see what the county does and resolve any legal questions before acting; they have until March to make any decisions on these.

Mrs. Van Der Water said it sounds like best approach is to wait to see what the county does and work out the kinks since we do have until March to make changes.

Schedule public hearing for 2027 Preliminary Town and Special Districts Budget for November 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm:

MOTION BY Mrs. Gustke, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan, to schedule a public hearing to hear comments on the Preliminary 2027 Town and Special Districts Budget on November 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Consider cannabis license notification from P & R Farms, Daboll Road:

216-26-055 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mr. Burke, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Cannabis Law Section 76, on or about October 8, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren received notice from Erik J. Peterson of P& R Farms of his intent to “renew” a cannabis license, which has purportedly existed since January 14, 2025, for property located at 1259 Daboll Road in the Agricultural Zoning District; and

WHEREAS, the notice indicates that the application is for a “retail dispensary” and “microbusiness;” and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 100-8 of the Town of Van Buren Town Code, retail dispensary facilities are only permitted in the General Business (GB) Zoning District; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Van Buren has no record of an existing cannabis license having been issued to Mr. Peterson or P & R Farms for property located at 1259 Daboll Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren does desire to advise the Office of Cannabis Management that because the Town of Van Buren does not have any record of an existing cannabis license, the current application is not accurately characterized as a “renewal,” be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby express an unfavorable opinion of the application and objects to same, citing to the property’s location in the Agricultural Zoning District, a zoning district for which such use is not permitted.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Introduce Local Law B-2026, Prohibiting Tier Two and Larger Battery Energy Storage Systems:

217-26-039 Councilor Burke introduced proposed Local Law No. B-2026, titled, “A Local Law to Amend Chapter 200 (“Zoning”) of the Code of the Town of Van Buren to Prohibit Tier Two and Larger Battery Energy Storage Systems,” relating to an amendment of Chapter 200 (“Zoning”) with regard to battery energy storage systems, and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Grover

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law No. B-2026 has been introduced and will be considered for enactment pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law; and

WHEREAS, Volume 6 N.Y.C.R.R., Section 617 of the Regulations relating to Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, requires that as early as possible in the consideration of a proposed action, an involved agency shall make a determination whether the action is subject to the aforementioned law; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Van Buren, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of said Local Law is a Type I action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that a full environmental assessment form (Full EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, the said EAF has been prepared and reviewed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. B-2026 is a Type I action, there are no other involved agencies, and this Board shall act as lead agency in this matter for purposes of SEQR review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that after a careful review of Part II of the Full EAF submitted in this matter, the Town Board has determined this action shall have no adverse impact on the environment; that accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQRA; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the reasons supporting the foregoing Negative Declaration are as follows:

1. The Town of Van Buren, like many Central New York Towns, has been tasked with addressing numerous large-scale renewable energy projects. Part of the analysis for regulation of such projects includes the duty of the Town to understand the health, safety and general welfare issues surrounding such uses. Frequently such renewable energy projects include proposals for large battery energy storage

systems, either as a stand-alone use or as an accessory or complimentary use/feature of said uses. The Town of Van Buren recognizes that it has limited resources to address the safety issues raised by battery energy storage systems, including chemical and electric fires, which have been associated with such uses throughout New York State and across the Country. While the Town of Van Buren seeks to support renewable energy projects, the risks of large battery storage facility fires are significant. Further, the ability of renewable energy projects to connect directly into the existing electrical grid provides an alternate pathway for the supply of renewable energy into the system itself. It is therefore not necessary to undertake the heightened risk of the erection and operation of battery energy storage systems within its borders. The proposed ban of Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems will address this issue, while at the same allowing renewable energy projects to continue as otherwise regulated;

2. If adopted, proposed Local Law No. B-2026 will prohibit the establishment, placement, installation, construction, and erection of certain battery energy storage systems in the Town of Van Buren in a manner that preserves the health, safety and welfare of the Town while also facilitating the production of renewable energy;
3. In determining to prohibit the establishment, placement, installation, construction, and erection of certain battery energy storage systems town-wide, the Town has carefully and diligently studied regulations that would address the establishment, placement, construction, enlargement, and erection of Battery Energy Storage Systems and balanced these objectives with potential land use regulations for provisions to specifically regulate the same;
4. Enactment of proposed Local Law No. B-2026 seeks to advance and protect the public health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of the Town of Van Buren by banning the installation and use of certain battery energy storage systems within town boundaries based upon an evaluation of the risk posed by such uses and the Town's available resources to mitigate the impacts of battery storage systems; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that this Board adopts the Negative Declaration incorporated herein and instructs counsel to make the required filing and publication of same; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the Proposed Local Law shall be referred to the Onondaga County Planning Board for its review pursuant to General Municipal Law Sections 239-1 and 239-m; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No. B-2026 at the Town Hall located at 7575 Van Buren Road in the Town of Van Buren on December 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard.

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

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

Speed reduction request and petition for Sun Meadows:

Mrs. Van Der Water said she received a request and a petition signed by 32 residents in the Sun Meadows development. She said they are requesting a reduction to 25 mph.

218-26-046 MOTION BY Mrs. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Burke, to forward the speed reduction request for Sun Meadows to reduce speed from 30 mph to 25 mph to the NYS Department of Transportation.

Mrs. Gustke – 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 speeding complaints are from all over town, every housing development, Village Streets, etc. She asked everyone to please just slow down and follow the law.

Schedule budget work session for October 28th at 6:00 pm:

219-26-007 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan, to schedule a budget work session for October 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mrs. Gustke – 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 said the last day to register for the Halloween flashlight candy hunt is tomorrow.

Mrs., Sullivan said Meal on Wheels is having a chicken and biscuit dinner on November 14th starting at 3:00 pm at Canton Woods.

Mrs. Sullivan said the Canton Woods Wreath Sale has started and you can sign up at the center.

Mrs. Gustke asked for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Supervisor Comments: None

Highway Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Blaisdell said the department employees will start to put out delineators for winter after Halloween. If you would like one please call the department at 315-635-3009, option two.

Engineer Comments:

Mr. Hoy said the new furnace at Canton Woods is installed and working, they are waiting on relays for the air conditioner.

Attorney Comments: None

220-26-014 MOTION BY Mr. Grover, seconded by Mrs. Gustke, to recess the regular meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:40 pm.

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

Motion Carried & Adopted

221-26-000 MOTION BY to close the Executive Session and resume the regular meeting at 7:49 pm.

222-26-000 MOTION BY to adjourn to the next Regular Town Board Meeting on November 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt

Town Clerk, Dated: 10/22/26