



TOWN OF WILLSBORO
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**TOWN OF WILLSBORO
TOWN BOARD MEETING
WILLSBORO TOWN HALL
December 10th, 2025**

ATTENDEES-Mark McGill, Darren Dickerson, Polly Belanger, WinBelanger, Patty Schwenker, Lloyd Wilson, Tavis Crowningshield, Victor Putman, Tom Doolittle, Marycay Doolittle, , Ashley Alden, Cathy Alden, Greg Gordon

BOARD MEMBERS- Steve Benway, Lorilee Sheehan, Lane Sayward, Scott Christian, Shaun Gilliland, Tracie McGill

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30pm

Minutes of the November 12th, 2025 Town Board meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Supervisors Report-

Correspondence- none

Town-

The turnover of office with the newly elected incoming supervisor has been going very well. There was a resignation as the acting planning board chairman Andre Klein as well as the recently appointed Planning and Zoning board secretary Jhami Santillo.

Felix Lawrence has retained legal counsel as his lawyer called Supervisor Gilliland requesting to have a phone conversation with Deputy Supervisor McGill about the second banner proposal brought before the town board. Gilliland stated he would take his contact information and give it to the town's attorney.

Christmas in the 'BORO will be happening this weekend.

The 2026 organizational meeting will be with the regular board meeting on January 14th at 6:30 at the town hall.

County-

The final budget was passed last month within the budget cap. There will be seven new supervisors this year and a whole new leadership.

The governor just signed into law the raising of senior exemption for income eligible seniors to have a reduction in their taxes from a maximum of 50% to a maximum of 60%.

Benway made the motion to accept the warrant. Sayward seconded the motion.

Discussion- Christian stated that the town spent \$4,800.00 on the comprehensive plan and in his 4 years serving on the board that the old one has not been looked at once.

Roll Call-

Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Christian, Gilliland

Ayes- 4

Nyes- 1

Clerks Report- verbally by Susan Thompson

The clerk's office in the month of November took in \$1,788.00. Paying \$3.00 to NYS Ag & Markets. Decals for the month took in \$667.00 of which \$630.24 went to the state and the town's commission was \$36.76. Water/Sewer took in \$18,485.13.

Sayward made the motion to accept the Clerks Report. Benway seconded the motion. All in Favor.

DPW- verbal report given by Travis Crowningshield

In the last month the plow trucks have been out a lot with many little storms. Everything has been going good with no repairs. The loader derated and after spending 3 days in the shop it is fixed and good to go. All the work was done in house, saving a lot of money. DPW has been working with the sewer plant and Todd Hodgkins building shut off valves to be able to get down to be able to isolate the filters to check for leaks because they are inside the tank and there is no way to shut them off above the liquid. The roof will be finished at Noblewood next week.

WATER/SEWER- written report submitted by Justin Drinkwine

Youth Commission- written report submitted by Krissy Leerkes

Parks Commission - No report

EMS Report- Written report submitted by Kira Crowningshield

Old Business-

Gilliland had the contract with Willsboro/Essex EMS that is an extension of the old contract with continuation for the 2026 year. There are changes ahead how EMS is partnering with the County. Changing from a personal augmentation system to a financial augmentation. McGill will be working with them and County EMS on putting this together. The county will pay 50% of what the towns pay up to a maximum of \$50,000.00. Currently the town of Willsboro pays approximately \$60,000.00 each year. Willsboro/Essex has requested a one year exemption from this to figure out how to administer an employee.

Christian made a motion to have Supervisor Gilliland sign the contract for the 2026 year that will continue with the personal augmentation system with the Willsboro/Essex EMS. Sayward seconded the motion.

Roll Call-

Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Christian, Gilliland

Ayes- 5

Nyes- 0

New Business- none

Board Comments- none

Christian asked if the planning board had enough members to have meetings? Gilliland stated there were enough members at this time and that a member could record the meeting and transcribe the minutes until a secretary is found. Deputy Supervisor McGill has been working to have the meetings transcribed with AI.

Public Comments-

Win Belanger

-What happened to the bill in the county where volunteers were going to be paid to work for EMS? Gilliland stated it was offered and never taken up by the volunteers. It is his understanding that they would be county employees and they would have to sign up for two weeks in advance and people were not interested in this.

-He wanted to welcome the newly elected officials and asked that when the new supervisor took office that she put back on the agenda a public comment section at the beginning of the meeting and only restricted to subjects of the agenda as well as the end due to public comment being made on issues that would be voted on that night.

-He thanked the "dream team" board for the last 12 years of service to the community and stated he appreciated all of them.

David Adkins

-Thanked the two board members that would not be at the next board meeting in an official capacity. He stated that he appreciates the time, effort and experience they have given.

Vic Putman

-BRASS was awarded a 25% match for the cold brook culvert in the amount of \$390,000.00. The recommendation is to replace the culvert with a bridge. BRASS is looking at two other grants hoping for a total of 75% match. They are hoping to hear to hear within the next couple of months. The cost for the bridge is approximately 1.5 million dollars. Salmon situations in the river are that there were approximately 39 salmon caught that they were able to get DNA samples from. There are some salmon despite the low water levels that make it up the cascades. There are nesting sights located in Reber. The Saranac because of the higher flow is doing much better than the Bouquet.

-Gilliland reminded the elected officials to get sworn in with the town clerk.

Sheehan asked if they could discuss the additional proposal from GPI for the playground to let the community know. She said she is speaking for the Parks Commission and that they are not grant writers and do not understand all of the language and they would do their best to ask the appropriate questions. The project manual was not put in the original bid package. The Parks Commission did not write the RFP and she feels it is disheartening that this far into the project and there is an additional fee for \$8,025.00. She said she doesn't know if it was Community Resources or the lead from the town responsibility but the Parks Commission would not have an expertise in that area. She wanted the public to know that there is this additional cost before it can go out to bid and the Parks Commission did not have knowledge of this project manual being needed. She added that she wanted to thank the residents and community of Reber and Willsboro for the honor to serve for the last 12 years. She then asked if there was any explanation for this? Gilliland stated that he has had discussions with deputy supervisor McGill

and she will be meeting with Community Resources who originally wrote the grant application to see where it is.

Christian made a motion to enter into the Executive Session to review a legal opinion.

Sayward seconded the motion.

Entered into Executive session @ 6:58

Back to the Regular meeting @ 7:08

Gilliland stated it has been a pleasure serving with the board for the past 12 years, ups and downs, fights, alliances, nonalignment and all the things they have faced, he felt they all always were doing for the good of the people. And he wished the board members staying the best of luck.

Adjourned @ 7:09 pm

Submitted by Susan Thompson