

**A Regular Meeting of the Mendon Town Board was held at 7:00 PM, Monday, July 13, 2026, at the Mendon Town Hall, 16 West Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY.**

|                 |                                 |                   |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Joseph Alati, <i>Supervisor</i> |                   |
|                 | Tanner Cheek                    |                   |
|                 | Rebecca Kreuzer                 | <i>Town Board</i> |
|                 | Kimberly Roberts                | <i>Members</i>    |
|                 | Thomas Voorhees                 |                   |

**TOWN CLERK:** Michelle Booth

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Peter Doyle, *Highway Superintendent*, Tom Fromberger, *Town Engineer*, and about 10 others.

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at and recited the Pledge of Allegiance 7:00 PM. He confirmed that the sound system was working and the recording was active.

## **AGENDA**

### **(Resolution 26-196)**

A motion was made by Mr. Alati, seconded by Mr. Voorhees, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Earl DeRue, 559 Cheese Factory Rd, raised the issue of decorum at public hearings before planning board and other boards, suggesting that the sign-in sheet include language indicating that commenters agree to address the application and the filing board directly.

Gary Loop of 21 Semmel Rd, raised several questions regarding the Victor Mendon Road retaining wall contract, including whether multiple bids or quotes were solicited, whether a \$3,000 contingency provision was included in the contract, whether prevailing wage requirements carried over from the RFP to the contract, and how long the Town would be responsible for maintaining the area within state right-of-way.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Town Clerk Michelle Booth** reported that Town and County taxes were complete and that preparation for school taxes was underway, with most paperwork already filled out.

**Highway Superintendent Pete Doyle** provided an update on current and upcoming projects. Keeler Construction's work on the culvert at Boughton Hill Road near Route 64 was on schedule for completion by Friday, with the final stone and oil coat planned for later in August from the village line out to Victor. The department has also been performing county work with neighboring Towns and Villages. Upcoming town work includes subdivisions, cul-de-sacs, and the Hamlet. Extra brush pickup has been ongoing due to recent storms.

Additional updates included: Keeler Construction moving to Taylor Road upon completing Boughton Hill; town speed limit signs currently on Sibley Road, moving to Plains Road the following week; completion of the Plains Road project from the linear trail to Route 251 scheduled for that Friday with paving to follow; soccer field site work scheduled to begin the first week of August; and the splash park operating smoothly.

The Superintendent discussed a salt brine system demonstration attended with staff at the Town of Ogden. The system, which uses a saltwater mix, is projected to reduce salt usage and purchasing by approximately 30%. The unit under consideration would be a mobile, trailer-mounted system in the \$100,000–\$108,000 range. Based on the Town's annual salt expenditure of over \$300,000, the system could potentially pay for itself within a year. The Village may have interest in a cost-sharing arrangement. The Superintendent noted that coordination with New York State DOT and Monroe County regarding reimbursement implications is still ongoing. Several other municipalities, including the Towns of Ogden and Parma, are also exploring the technology, and the New York State Thruway Authority has used it for years.

**Town Engineer Tom Fromberger** reported ongoing work on MS4 grant and noted that the Victor Mendon Road retained wall matter would be discussed further later in the meeting. He also reported that the Mile Square Rd sidewalk project contractor had been contacted and a start date of the second week of August was anticipated, with letters to be sent to affected residents. No updates were available on Stoney Lonesome Road.

**Town Attorney, Megan Dorritie**, reported that two code violations were taken to court in June. The first, at 3808 Rush Mendon Road, involved an individual who appealed to the ZBA, with a hearing scheduled for August 13th. The second, at 2 Parkview Manor Circle, involved a not-guilty plea on a swimming pool matter; the pool has since been filled in per inspection, and the next court date is also August 13th. The South Co tax assessment settlement is pending the school district's sign-off, with the Town Attorney assisting the school district's attorney in understanding the rationale behind the assessor's recommendation. A sign violation was also resolved. The Attorney noted continued assistance with sidewalk project easements and confirmed that a contract is being prepared for the Victor Mendon Road retaining wall project that will address issues raised during public comment, including an access agreement and the removal of a tax charge noted in the invoice.

## **Town Board**

**Tanner Cheek** reported that follow-up with Honeoye Falls Mendon Ambulance is planned for next month, and requested board members submit any questions within the week so they could be addressed in a single meeting. He summarized two recent Planning Board matters: 4287 Clover St, requesting an amendment to a special use permit to add a second barn and expand retail space, was continued due to incomplete information; and 50 Buggy Whip Trail, a horse farm seeking to allow people to use the land for training prior to competitions, which generated a contentious public hearing. As a result, the board identified a code requirement under Section 260-96(b) mandating the Planning Board establish formal rules and regulations for the conduct of its business, which have not been documented. The Planning Board will be asked to draft such rules, and an additional budget will be needed for the planning board attorney to review them, estimated at 5–10 hours of work outside his existing firm-fixed-price contract. Mr. Cheek also noted the Governor's Executive Order 61 directing reform of outdated regulations and policies, and indicated the Town may review its own regulations for opportunities to comply, though the order does not appear to be binding at the town level. He noted there would be no American Legion Post meeting in July.

**Rebecca Kreuzer**, reported that the Environmental Conservation Board met on June 9th to review the Buggy Whip property for EPOD compliance, finding no major concerns but offering recommendations on agricultural land use. She noted ongoing discussion about how ECB, HPC, and Planning Board input is coordinated. She attended the library's monthly meeting, where a story walk grant was discussed, with a location near the splash park selected. Coordination with buildings and grounds and the Highway Superintendent is underway, with a suggestion made that an Eagle Scout project could assist. The question of liability and protocols for volunteer workers on town projects was raised, and the Town Attorney noted that most towns have general paperwork for volunteers and minimum safety standards depending on the project type. Ms. Kreuzer also attended the Village ZBA hearing on the proposed urgent care center, where dozens of residents spoke primarily about traffic concerns. She noted the library's desire to collaborate on the matter. The Climate Smart Communities Task Force has been meeting twice monthly and is close to documenting enough activities to apply for a bronze certificate. She also met with the CEO to identify documentation needed for the application and discussed the use of a specific assessment protocol for culvert work that could generate additional points. She noted that two draft policies, on town social media and teleconferencing, were prepared but not yet on the agenda, and a special meeting would be scheduled to address them.

**Kimberly Roberts**, took a moment to address public commentary regarding the 250th anniversary celebration. She noted that funds were set aside for the new administration to plan a celebration, but that transitions take time and the new team had significant responsibilities to manage. She acknowledged that a volunteer committee or simple commemorative banners could have been arranged and accepted her share of responsibility for that. She emphasized that the town's focus should be on working together rather than assigning blame.

**Thomas Voorhees**, reported that the ZBA met on June 11th and approved two area variances for a property on Clover Street, one for a side setback and one for lot coverage, with conditions. He also attended the village urgent care public hearing. He noted that the Highway Dept. meeting on June 23rd covered topics including two additional speed monitoring signs, employee handbook changes, the 2027 budget preparation, splash park repairs, a security system update with cameras for the highway department, the Graves project, and a future storage building near the old salt barn

## **Town Supervisor**

Joe Alati, The Town Supervisor reported on multiple topics:

**Human Resources:** Bookkeeper Janet Way is appointed as HR Liaison without added compensation, tackling HR-related queries. The Town's payroll company offers some HR support, with an additional option at \$100/month.

**Security:** Security system upgrade bids are underway for town buildings, with plans for next year's budget.

**New Grant:** Denise Dexter at Highway secured a grant for ice alert signs to warn motorists of slippery conditions.

**EPOD:** Updates are needed for the HPC's EPOD overlay before approval, with a meeting planned with the HPC chair.

**Sign Enforcement:** CEO Corey and Brooke Buckland removed about 50 illegal signs from rights-of-way in one day.

**Flooding:** The Supervisor is finalizing flood-prone area lists for engineering study under a new grant.

**Senior Exercise:** The town's senior stretch class retains strong participation.

**Health Insurance:** A Medicare policy meeting is set for July 23rd at 2:30 PM.

**Sales Tax & Budget:** Sales tax revenue is falling, impacting the budget outlook. Budget meetings have begun, factoring in a 5% inflation rate.

**Emergency Management:** The Supervisor and Amy attended a workshop focused on crisis management and FEMA reimbursement.

**Handbooks:** The new employee handbook draft, developed at no cost, is ready for board review, with preparation underway for a special work session.

**Stony Lonesome Safety:** Post brush clearing, no Route 65 accidents have occurred. Future improvements are in the state's hands for work planned in 2030.

**Buildings & Energy:** An energy services engineer is inspecting town buildings for energy savings opportunities. Reports from nearby towns are positive.

Town Hall Basement: Buildings and Grounds team conducted mold remediation. New dehumidifiers and fans are ordered.

Splash Park: Cracks in the splash park bucket were successfully and affordably repaired by staff.

Shout-Out: Praise for Brooke Buckland's versatile support beyond her usual roles, including landscape and signage work.

## **TOWN SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**

### ***(Resolution 26-197)***

A motion was made by Mr. Cheek, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, to acknowledge receipt of the Town Supervisor's Monthly Report for May 2026.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT**

### ***(Resolution 26-198)***

A motion was made by Mr. Alati, seconded by Mr. Voorhees, to acknowledge receipt of the Town Clerk's Monthly Report for June 2026, showing receipts and disbursements in the amount of \$70,331.28.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### ***(Resolution 26-199)***

A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 8, 2026, as presented.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

### ***(Resolution 26-200)***

A motion was made by Mr. Alati, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, to approve a budget amendment transferring \$5,271.48 from Account B3620.1 to Account B3410.1 to correct a payroll labor distribution error .

The Supervisor explained that a payroll company error had resulted in an employee with multiple town roles having wages charged to the wrong account. The adjustment moves funds between accounts with no net change in overall expenditure.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **ABSTRACT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS**

### **General Abstract A**

#### ***(Resolution 26-201)***

A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, to approve all claims on vouchers numbered 26-331 to 26-341, on General Abstract 26-7A, in the amount of \$13,517.25.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

### **General Abstract B**

#### ***(Resolution 26-202)***

A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, to approve all claims on vouchers numbered 26-342 to 26-389, on General Abstract 26-7B, in the amount of \$73,804.33.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **HIGHWAY ABSTRACT**

#### ***(Resolution 26-203)***

A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer, to approve all claims on vouchers numbered 26-163 to 26-187, on Highway Abstract 26-7, in the amount of \$37,437.28.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

### **Library Abstract A**

Library vouchers numbered 26-082 to 26-088, on Library Abstract 26-7A, in the amount of \$1,443.04, were presented to the Town Board for payment.

### **Library Abstract B**

Library vouchers numbered 26-089 to 26-097, on Library Abstract 26-7B, in the amount of \$14,506.43, were presented to the Town Board for payment.

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - APPOINTMENT**

#### ***(Resolution 26-204)***

A motion was made by Mr. Cheek, seconded by Ms. Roberts appointed Adam Toy to the Zoning Board of Appeals to serve the remainder of the 5 year term, effective immediately.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **PROPOSAL FOR TOWN EMAIL ADDRESS CREATION FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **(Resolution 26-205)**

A motion was made by Mr. Voorhees, seconded by Mr. Cheek, to approve the creation of seventeen (17) official town email accounts for members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Environmental Conservation Board, Historic Preservation Commission, and the Chair of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force, at a cost of \$8.40 per user per month for a total additional annual cost of \$1,713.60.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **MONROE COUNTY STORMWATER COALITION AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

During discussion, a question arose as to whether sufficient funds remained in the designated account (B8023.4) given that grant-related expenditures had previously been attributed to that line. Upon review, it was determined that a budget transfer was necessary before approving payment. The Board first approved a transfer to fund the membership fee, then voted on the continuation of membership.

### **(Resolution 26-206)**

A motion was made by Mr. Cheek, seconded by Mr. Alati, to authorize a transfer \$6,273.30 from Account B1990.4 (Special Items Contingent) to Account B8023.4 (Planning Projects Contractual)

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

### **(Resolution 26-207)**

A motion was made by Ms. Kreuzer, seconded by Mr. Voorhees, to approve continuation of the Town's membership in the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition, accept the new Intermunicipal Agreement, and approve the annual membership fee of \$6,273.30 to be paid from Account B8023.4.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **RETAINING WALL PROJECT - APPROVAL**

### **(Resolution 26-208)**

A motion was made by Mr. Cheek, seconded by Mr. Alati, to authorize and direct the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement with J. Crew Landscaping, 7566 W Henrietta Rd, to perform the retaining wall removal and soil installation project at 13 Victor Mendon Road for a total amount not to exceed \$35,500, to be paid from Account

B8021.4, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney and contingent upon an access agreement with the property owner.

The Town Supervisor explained that the existing retaining wall at 13 Victor Mendon Road, located within the state right-of-way but built by the Town, is collapsing and causing the adjacent sidewalk to tip inward. Because the Town constructed the wall, the state has declined responsibility for it. Rather than rebuild the wall, which would cost significantly more, the Town negotiated with the property owner to remove the wall entirely, grade in soil, and preserve existing landscaping. The approach is projected to save approximately \$30,000–\$35,000 compared to rebuilding and will eliminate the Town's ongoing liability for the structure. The Town Engineer confirmed that NYSDOT supports the proposed change and that a permit signed by the CEO is ready for final authorization. Three bids were sought; one contractor submitted a bid at approximately twice the price of the selected contractor, and a third dropped out. The selected contractor, J. Crew Landscaping, was reported to have an excellent reputation and works regularly for the Town of Rush.

Board members raised the question of whether the work should have come before the Environmental Conservation Board given that grading would extend beyond the right-of-way, and whether a formal access agreement with the property owner should be a condition of approval. The Town Attorney confirmed that an access agreement would be incorporated into the contract and that the subject-to-attorney-review language in the resolution provides adequate protection.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **LEGAL EXPENSES - INCREASE APPROVAL**

### **(Resolution 26-209)**

A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Cheek, to increase the monthly legal expense authorization for May 2026 by \$8,239.59, for a total approved amount of \$12,822.59.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Nay; Mr. Voorhees, Abstain; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.

## **URGENT CARE - DISCUSSION**

Supervisor Alati reported that he and the Town Engineer recently met with the Village of Honeoye Falls, the University of Rochester/UR Medicine Thompson Health, planners, and the project architects to discuss modifications to the proposed urgent care center. He expressed strong satisfaction with the concessions made by the University of Rochester, noting that they came forward on their own initiative in response to community concerns. Key changes include a significant recovery of green space

(estimated at over 6,000 square feet), preservation of mature trees, a reduced parking lot footprint, and improvements to the driveway entry point for safety. In exchange for the reduced parking, the Honeoye Falls-Mendon Public Library has agreed to designate eight spaces in the rear of its lot for urgent care employee parking. The Supervisor noted that he had spoken with Library Director Lyla, who was reported to be very pleased with the arrangement. The Town will be required to approve the driveway access point as part of the process. A next Village ZBA hearing is scheduled for August 3rd, at which the public hearing is expected to close and a vote to occur. The Supervisor committed to distributing written details to all board members the following day.

### **MENDON GREEN LIGHTING AND SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE - DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed a request from residents of the Mendon Green subdivision for street lighting and speed limit signage. It was noted that lighting requirements would typically have been established as a condition of the subdivision's development approval. One option discussed was the establishment of a lighting district limited to the subdivision, whereby only the residents of that development would bear the cost. Regarding speed limits, it was noted that very few subdivisions have posted speed limits, and that enforcement by the Sheriff's Department is limited and temporary in effect. The Board's preferred approach to speed management remains the use of speed monitoring reminder signs, of which the Town currently operates two and is considering budgeting for two more. The Monroe County Sheriff is also placing a sign on Route 65 near the park at no cost to the Town. The Supervisor indicated he would look into the possibility of DOT installing lighting at the subdivision entrance or pursuing the lighting district option.

### **HR OPTIONS - ZYWAVE HOTLINE- DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed the option of subscribing to the Zywave HR hotline at a cost of \$100 per month, which would provide on-demand access to HR specialists. Concerns were raised about the hotline model, including the likelihood of speaking with a different representative on each call and the parallels to a similarly unproductive experience with the Town's prior payroll company's HR support line. A board member raised a concern about potential conflicts of interest with the newly appointed HR Liaison, noting that her spouse works in the highway department and that employees with highway-related concerns might feel uncomfortable reporting to her. The Supervisor acknowledged the concern and clarified that employees could also bring concerns directly to him or to the Town Attorney. Several board members expressed a preference for re-engaging Karen Marchase, a retired HR attorney with municipal experience who had previously been retained on a per-diem basis at \$125 per hour, as a known and trusted resource. The Supervisor indicated he would explore whether Zywave access could be extended directly to employees as an anonymous reporting tool, and agreed to look into reactivating the arrangement with the HR attorney for more substantive issues.

## **SENIOR STRETCH - NONRESIDENTS - DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed a request from the senior stretch class instructors to open the class to non-residents and potentially charge a fee. The Supervisor noted that the program is currently funded by a grant and expressed caution about charging fees while grant-funded. Several board members expressed a preference for keeping the program as a benefit exclusively for Mendon residents. The Supervisor suggested monitoring enrollment through the fall before making any changes, and noted that additional outreach to residents could help fill remaining seats.

## **SEMMELE RD PARK ICE SKATING RINK - DISCUSSION**

The Board briefly discussed the ice skating rink at Semmel Road Park, noting that the tarp on the basketball court used for the rink had deteriorated and needed replacement. It was acknowledged that the rink requires significant maintenance and that its viability depends heavily on sustained cold weather. The group noted that last winter's weather would have been ideal, but that recent mild winters have made the rink impractical.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Gary Loope** asked which body, the Planning Board or the Environmental Conservation Board, takes precedence in reviewing applications, and expressed concern that the proliferation of review boards was increasing cost and complexity for applicants, seemingly at odds with the Governor's executive order encouraging regulatory streamlining. He asked whether the speed monitoring signs being considered for purchase included data recording capability so that information could be shared with the Sheriff's Department.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### ***(Resolution 26-210)***

A motion was made by Mr. Alati, seconded by Mr. Cheek, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Adopted: Mr. Cheek, Aye; Ms. Roberts, Aye; Mr. Voorhees, Aye; Ms. Kruezer, Aye; and Mr. Alati, Aye.