Regular Monthly Town of Pierrepont Board Meeting, October 27, 2026
County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 864 State Highway 68, Canton, NY 13617

Present:
Bradley Filliatrault, Supervisor
Laurie Hance, Assist. to Supervisor
Robert Moulton, Highway Superintendent
Julian "Olla" Filiatrault, Town Clerk

Councilpersons: John Glasgow
Shawn Spellacy
Chad VanBrocklin
Councilperson/Dep. Supervisor: Daniel Manor Jr.

Meeting attendees/Public: Rick Perkins – Legislator; Amy Hunt – Assessor; Russell Lawrence – Code Enforcement; James Corbett - Planning Board;
Mercy Spellacy; Fred Green; Lynette Collins; Eric K. Wilcox; Toni Seaver; Teshia White; Tanya & Mark Davis; Peter Hoyt; Eric Bonno; Jon Graham; Chris Tracy; Brenda Bonno; Jason Monast; Kevin Tupper; Henry Siegh; Rhonda Thompson; Ginger Story-Welch; Bill Hoyt; Eric Wright; Corie Dunning; Name? (Glenmeal Rd.)

REGULAR MEETING. Called to order.

Deputy Supervisor Filiatrault opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m. as scheduled.
He also introduced himself to those in attendance on behalf of the Supervisor, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Minutes Approved:

- **Motion** was made by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by John Glasgow that the minutes of Special Meeting on September 28, 2026, as submitted by the Town Clerk are approved.
- **Motion** was made by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by Chad VanBrocklin that the minutes of September 29, 2026 meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk are approved.
- **Motion** was made by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by John Glasgow that the minutes of Budget Hearing on October 15, 2026, as submitted by the Town Clerk are approved.

County Legislators,
Legislator, Rick Perkins submitted report of October 5, 2026, County Legislature Board Meeting. It is available upon request.
**Legislator Perkins left the meeting at 6:37p.m.*

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Supervisor:

- Bookkeeper Laurie Hance submitted a written report of Supervisor's report. The report is available upon request.
- The Deputy Filiatrault stated that rising fuel and energy costs have placed pressure on the Highway Department's remaining budget. Available appropriations may be reallocated to cover unexpected winter expenses, and non-essential spending remains on hold. Additional updates included coordination with National

Grid regarding holiday decorations, mandatory cybersecurity training for Town employees by year-end, and discussions regarding firefighter tax exemptions. The Board will also consider adopting a 100% disabled veterans property tax exemption at the November meeting.

- **Motion** to approve Supervisor's report for the month of September 2026 made by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by Shawn Spellacy. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Department:

- The Highway Department Superintendent Bob Moultin reported Highway Department continued assisting neighboring municipalities through shared services, including paving work in Clifton and providing manpower to Colton for its Cold Brook Drive bridge project. Crews installed several driveway and drainage culverts to address water issues throughout Town and began preparing trucks and equipment for the upcoming winter season. The Department also began transitioning equipment and operations into the new highway garage. The generator has been installed, with propane hookup and initial startup and calibration by Kohler still pending. NCC completed the fire alarm system and installation of the new security cameras. Integration of the existing cameras from the old garage remains outstanding. A few minor adjustments to several doors are also needed. The transition into the new facility is ongoing.

Town Clerk:

- A written report was submitted and is available for review.
- The Town Clerk informed the Board that hunting licenses cannot currently be issued due to the pending transfer of licensing authorization from the previous Town Clerk's name to her own.
- **Motion** to approve Town Clerk's report for the month of September 2026 made by Chad VanBrocklin, seconded by John Glasgow. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Code Enforcement:

- 4 Building permits are issued with the **total** $100.00 collected.
- Mr. Lawrence shared that his first month has been positive, highlighting the welcoming environment, good conversations, and progress on building projects still underway.
- **Motion** to approve Code Enforcement's report for the month of October 2026 made by John Glasgow, seconded by Shawn Spellacy. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Assessor:

- Amy Hunt reported attending the Assessor's Conference last month, noting that it was very informative. Discussion regarding firefighters and veterans was deferred, with the veterans' topic tabled until next month. The Assessor reported that operations are going well, with permit activity expected to increase again in January.

Planning Board Report,

James Corbett reported that the Planning Board did not meet this month because there was no business to conduct. However, he and Planning Board member Connie Hatch-Young attended a Local Government Conference held on October 13, 2026.

Zoning Board of Appeals,

- Peter Wyckoff submitted the minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting held on October 1, 2026. The minutes are available upon request. As ZBA Chairman Peter Wyckoff was unable to attend the meeting, Deputy Town Supervisor Filiatrault reviewed several items requiring the Town Board's attention.

Courtesy of The Floor:

- Lynette Collins, resident, requested clarification and transparency regarding whether the proposed 18% Property tax increase was legitimate or considered by the Town.

Deputy Supervisor Filiatrault stated that the Town faced an initial projected budget deficit of approximately $454,000 due to increased expenses and reduced revenues. Major contributing factors included the annual debt payment for the new highway garage, the $5 million reduction in Brookfield's assessed valuation, resulting in an approximately $157,000 financial impact, existing debt service, rising fuel costs, and the Town's 59.5% equalization rate.

He noted that the Town has a primarily residential tax base, placing much of the tax burden on residents. The Board established advisory committees, including a budget committee, to review expenses and identify potential savings. Through budget cuts and careful review of expenditures, the projected deficit was reduced by more than $200,000 while attempting to maintain essential services.

The Deputy Supervisor also noted that negotiations with the Highway Department's Teamsters union remain unresolved, creating uncertainty in personnel costs. No increases were included for part-time employees, and the Board members were not taking salary increases. He emphasized that the actual tax rate cannot yet be determined until the County provides the necessary information.

Ms. Collins highlighted the numerous grant opportunities available, including grants that could help offset fuel costs, and noted the potential need to hire a grant writer to identify and pursue available funding. She also emphasized the importance of continuing to pursue grant funding to help offset costs and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers.

Mr. Filiatrault responded that the Town's past success in obtaining grant funding for building improvements and other projects, noting that several improvements to the Town Hall were funded through court grants rather than directly from Town funds. Members acknowledged the importance of pursuing additional grant opportunities, while recognizing that Pierrepont's demographics, limited revenue, extensive road system, and minimal staffing may affect eligibility for certain grants. He noted that some efficiency grants require shared services or consolidation between municipalities and highlighted the Highway Department's existing cooperative efforts with neighboring towns. The Board agreed that pursuing available grants and shared-service opportunities is important to help maintain Town services while addressing ongoing budget constraints.

Mr. Filiatrault discussed potential grant funding opportunities, including a possible $25,000 to $100,000 contribution from National Grid for community improvements in the area affected by its transmission line project. The Board emphasized the importance of actively pursuing grants while carefully evaluating matching fund

requirements and long-term maintenance and staffing costs associated with funded projects. It was noted that not all grant opportunities would be practical for the Town, and future expenses must be considered before accepting funding.

Mrs. Collins asked the Board what actions the Town of Pierrepont intends to take moving forward.

Deputy Filiatrault acknowledged the financial burden on taxpayers, particularly those on fixed incomes, and explained that the current budget reflects previously approved obligations, increased debt service, inflation, and rising energy costs. It was noted that significant efforts were made to reduce expenses while maintaining essential services. He emphasized the importance of meeting financial commitments, planning for future facility needs, identifying cost-saving measures, and pursuing grant opportunities and emergency reserves. The Board expressed its commitment to reducing the tax burden, when possible, while acknowledging the uncertainty of future economic conditions.

Eric Wilcox, resident, commended the Board for its presentation during the public hearing on the preliminary budget, noting that the detailed financial information proposed spending reductions, and decision by Board members not to accept raises were informative. He also noted that the information was available on the Town's website and expressed surprise at the limited public attendance, stating that only three residents were present at the October 15, 2026 Budget Hearing.

The Board confirmed that all legal notices required for the budget hearing were properly published and posted in accordance with state law and that the budget process remained on schedule. The Board stated that every effort had been made to reduce expenditure for the current year and emphasized the importance of pursuing grant opportunities, controlling expenses, and maintaining essential Town services while minimizing the tax burden on residents.

The Board discussed grant opportunities available to municipalities and revisited the possibility of hiring a grant writer. Although funding for this purpose had been included in the original budget, it was removed due to financial constraints. Members discussed alternative contractual arrangements and acknowledged the significant time required to prepare grant applications. The Board agreed to continue exploring grant opportunities, consider volunteer assistance, and carefully evaluate potential funding while maintaining control over Town expenditures.

A resident inquired about the possibility of reopening the zinc mine as a source of revenue.

The Board noted its historical economic importance and discussed the loss of industry, potential mineral resources in the Gouverneur area, and the impact of Brookfield's reduced assessment on the Town's tax base. The Board emphasized the need for fiscal responsibility and avoiding additional debt.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A letter from the Real Property Tax Service was reviewed, providing equalization rates for all municipalities in St. Lawrence County. The Town of Pierrepont's equalization rate was reported as 59.5%.
- A notice from National Grid regarding the Colton-Nicholville 115-kilovolt Transmission Rebuild Project was presented to the Board. Scheduled tree clearing is expected to begin in November 2026 and continue through

March 2027. The notice advised residents to use caution around roadside tree-clearing operations and equipment.

- The Board discussed continuing the Christmas tree decorations, noting that the initial costs were paid in the prior year and that only a minor electrical expense is anticipated for continued use.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Review and adopt final budget resolution to be submitted to the County by the Town Clerk.

The Board discussed concerns regarding Colton's ability to adequately staff its ambulance and fire departments. A suggestion was made to reduce Colton's budget allocation and potentially redistribute the funds among Potsdam, Parishville, and Canton in a future budget year. For the current budget, the Board discussed reducing the allocation from $8,400 to $8,000, with no additional expenditure.

A motion to reduce the budget allocation for Colton Rescue from $8,400 to $8,000 for the 2027 budget year was made by Shawn Spellacy and seconded by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to accept RESOLUTION #09-2026: ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF PIERREPONT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, was made by Daniel Manor Jr. and seconded by John Glasgow. No discussion. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Supervisor Powers: Absent
Councilman Glasgow: aye
Councilman Spellacy: aye
Councilman VanBrocklin: aye
Councilman Daniel Manor Jr.: aye

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nay, 1 absent

2027 BUDGET ADOPTED.

- **A motion to accept the Town Supervisor, Jane B. Powers's resignation,** effective October 28, 2026, was made by Chad VanBrocklin and seconded by Daniel Manor Jr. No discussion. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously. **Resignation accepted.**

ROLL CALL VOTE
Supervisor Powers: Absent
Councilman Glasgow: aye
Councilman Spellacy: aye
Councilman VanBrocklin: aye
Councilman Daniel Manor Jr.: aye

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nay, 1 Absent

Note: The Board agreed to recognize Supervisor Powers for her ten years of service (2016–2026) and her distinction as the Town's first female Supervisor.

- **A motion to accept the Deputy Town Supervisor, Bradley J. Filiatrault's resignation**, effective October 28, 2026, was made by Daniel Manor Jr. and seconded by John Glasgow. No discussion. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously. **Resignation accepted.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Supervisor Powers: Absent
Councilman Glasgow: aye
Councilman Spellacy: aye
Councilman VanBrocklin: aye
Councilman Daniel Manor Jr.: aye

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nay, 1 absent

- **Motion to appoint Bradley Filiatrault to be a Town Supervisor, beginning October 28, 2026 with a term expiring on 12/31/2027** was made by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by Daniel Manor Jr., all in favor. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously. **Position accepted.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Supervisor Powers: Absent
Councilman Glasgow: aye
Councilman Spellacy: aye
Councilman VanBrocklin: aye
Councilman Daniel Manor Jr.: aye

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nay, 1 absent

- **Motion to appoint Daniel Manor Jr. to be a Deputy Town Supervisor, beginning October 28, 2026 with term expiring on 12/31/2027** was made by John Glasgow, seconded by Chad VanBrocklin., all in favor. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously. **Position accepted.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Supervisor Powers: Absent
Councilman Glasgow: aye
Councilman Spellacy: aye
Councilman VanBrocklin: aye
Councilman Daniel Manor Jr.: abstain

Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nay, 1 absent, 1 abstain

- **Motion to accept the Zoning Board of Appeals member, Jamie VanBrocklin's resignation,** effective December 31, 2026, was made by Shawn Spellacy and seconded by John Glasgow. No discussion. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously. **Resignation accepted.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Supervisor Powers: Absent
Councilman Glasgow: aye
Councilman Spellacy: aye
Councilman VanBrocklin: abstain
Councilman Daniel Manor Jr.: aye

Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nay, 1 absent; 1 abstain

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

Motion to authorize the disposal and sale of the Town-owned portable building through a sealed-bid process, with $6,000.00 minimum reserve bid established by the Board. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Town Clerk no later than November 20, 2026, and will be opened at November 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. The building will be advertised on the Town website with photographs for public viewing. was made by Shawn Spellacy and seconded by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Courtesy of The Floor:

Ginger Storey-Welch thanked Bradley Filiatrault for stepping up to the Supervisor position.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS:

- **Motion** by John Glasgow, seconded by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor to authorize payment of the **General Fund Abstract** #10, Vouchers #234-255; Total of $34,370.10.
- **Motion** by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by Shawn Spellacy. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor to authorize payment of the **Highway Fund Abstract** #10, Vouchers #235-246; Total of $12,187.51.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by Shawn Spellacy, with all in favor to go into **Executive Session for the purpose of the discussion of a personnel matter.**

The Board adjourned the regular meeting to move to executive session at 8:24p.m.
Invited to executive session: NONE

Motion made by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by John Glasgow, all in favor of going back into the regular meeting. Action taken in executive session.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:45p.m. The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:46p.m.
NO Action taken in executive session.

A record of the executive session was made and provided to the Town Clerk by Brad Filiatrault, Deputy Supervisor.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion** to adjourn meeting at 8:46pm. Motion made by John Glasgow, seconded by Daniel Manor Jr. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting minutes prepared by Town Clerk, Julian "Olla" Filiatrault.
Respectfully Submitted, Julian "Olla" Filiatrault, Town Clerk