Regular Monthly Town of Pierrepont Board Meeting, September 29, 2026
County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 864 State Highway 68, Canton, NY 13617

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

Councilpersons: John Glasgow
Shawn Spellacy
Chad VanBrocklin
Daniel Manor Jr.
Absent: Supervisor Jane Powers

Meeting attendees/Public: Rick Perkins – Legislator; Darren Richards – Code Enforcement; James Corbett - Planning Board;
Mercy Spellacy; Jamie VanBrocklin; Bill Hoyt; Shawn Miller; Connie Hatch Young; Ginger Storey-Welch; Roxanna Dunn; Russell Lawrence; and 3 unsigned people

REGULAR MEETING. Called to order.

Deputy Supervisor Filiatrault opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM.

Minutes Approved:

- **Motion** was made by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by John Glasgow that the minutes of August 2026 as submitted by the Town clerk are approved.

County Legislators,
Legislator, Rick Perkins reported to the Board County Legislature Board Meeting on September 14, 2026.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Supervisor:

- **Motion** to approve Supervisor's report for the month of July 2026 made by Daniel Manor Jr, seconded by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- Deputy Supervisor Filiatrault reviewed current account balances and directed all departments to suspend non-essential spending for the remainder of the year due to budget constraints and rising costs. Essential purchases and required contractual obligations will continue, with an emphasis on fiscal responsibility in preparation for next year's budget.

Motion to approve Supervisor's report for the month of August 2026 made by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by John Glasgow. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Highway, Bob Moulton:

- Bob Moulton reported to the Board that The Highway Department continued maintenance of dirt road completed the final roadside mowing of the season, and cut back shoulders on several roads. Material was reused at the garage to build up the roadway, and culvert paving was completed on Iris Settlement Road. Remaining chip-sealing funds will be carried over to next year, when the department plans to pave the entire road. The department also assisted with chip-sealing supplies, material hauling, bridge work, and guide rail installation.

The new highway garage is nearing completion. Power has been connected, heating and fire alarm systems are operational, and the generator has arrived for installation. Remaining work includes installing cameras once internet service is available, adjusting overhead doors, and completing minor finishing items before moving in. He also informed the Board of his desire to hold a public open house upon completion of the new garage, allowing residents to tour the facility.

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

Town Clerk, Olla Filiatrault:

- A written report was submitted and is available for review.
- **Motion** to approve Town Clerk's report for the month of August, 2026 made by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by John Glasgow. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Assessor, Amy Hunt:

- Amy Hunt was unable to attend the meeting.
- No report.

Code Enforcement, Darren Richards reported:

- 5 Building permits issued with the total $155.00 collected.
- The Board discussed the appointment of Russell B. Lawrence as Code Enforcement Officer following Darren's departure on September 26, 2026. Mr. Lawrence's certifications and experience serving other municipalities were reviewed. He is expected to maintain the existing Thursday evening office hours and will begin October 1, 2026, at the same rate of pay as his predecessor. The appointment will be effective through December 31, 2026.

Motion by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by Shawn Spellacy, to appoint Russell Lawrence to fill the unexpired term of Code Enforcement Officer, ending December 31, 2026. No discussion. All members voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

- Darren Richard, the former Code Enforcement Officer, provided an update on the ongoing transition in Code Enforcement. Four of six property cases have been closed, with the remaining two to be addressed through the fall and resumed in the spring. Outstanding building permits, two water mitigation projects, and a new construction project on Casey Lane requiring septic approval were also discussed. Mr. Richard and Russ Lawrence will coordinate completion of the Department of State's 1203 report, which is due at the end of March.
- **Motion** to approve Code Enforcement's report for the month of September made by John Glasgow, seconded by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Board Report,

James Corbett reported that the Planning Board did not meet this month, as there was no business to conduct.

Courtesy of The Floor:

- Darren Richards stated that NCC has completed its work, and the electrical certificate has been finalized. The Certificate of Occupancy for the Highway Department building was placed on Laurie's desk and may be issued for occupancy once the building is formally turned over by the contractor. All code-related matters have been closed out.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **NYS Agriculture and Markets:** The Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for the dog shelter in Gouverneur, which the Town contracts with for animal shelter services, was reviewed. The shelter received a "Satisfactory" rating.
- **BOCES:** The Drug and Alcohol Program Participants Report was reviewed. No problems were reported.
- **St. Lawrence County Self-Insurance Plan:** The approved 2027 participant premium apportionments were reviewed. The Town of Pierrepont's apportionment will increase by $768 from 2026 to 2027. It was noted that the Town has had no insurance claims.
- **Letter from Beth Sevey, AHA Instructor:** The Board discussed arrangements for providing CPR and first aid training for Town employees.

* *Ginger Storey-Welch joined the meeting at 6:53p.m.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Motion** to reappoint Tabitha McCuen as BAR member for 9/30/2026 – 9/30/2031 made by Shawn Spellacy, second by John Glasgow. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board discussed a $1,005.60 veterinary bill from ROPUT Veterinary Clinic for a dog with a broken leg that was picked up by the Dog Control Officer on Sweeney Road and taken to Moyer's Kennel. Questions were raised regarding the exact pickup location and whether the incident fell within the Town of Pierrepont's jurisdiction. The dog was subsequently adopted by a local resident. The Board acknowledged the Town's apparent responsibility for the expense and the need to pay the bill. Going forward, the Dog Control Officer will use town boundary maps to help verify jurisdiction and better document pickup locations to avoid unnecessary expenses while ensuring animals in need receive appropriate care.

Motion by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by Shawn Spellacy. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor to authorize payment of the $1,005.60 to ROPUT Veterinary Clinic.

- **Preliminary 2027 Town Budget**

The Deputy Supervisor presented an overview of the Town of Pierrepont's proposed 2027 Preliminary Budget, explaining that the Budget Advisory Committee had met several times to review expenses and identify ways to keep taxes as low as possible while maintaining necessary services. He outlined several factors contributing to the town's challenging fiscal situation, including approximately $270,000 in annual debt service for the new highway garage over 25 years, $75,000 in annual debt service for a new plow truck, and an anticipated $157,000 reduction in tax revenue related to the Erie Boulevard/Brookfield tax settlement. The settlement-related reduction is expected to continue through 2029. These and other factors are contributing to an anticipated town tax rate increase of approximately 9%, with an additional increase of approximately 9% due to the Brookfield settlement.

Additional concerns included the ongoing Teamsters Union contract negotiations for highway employees, anticipated increases in energy, insurance, health insurance, and building insurance costs, and rising diesel and paving expenses. The Supervisor noted that the 2026 budget used more than $400,000 in fund balance to limit the tax increase, which would not be possible for 2027. After reviewing available funds with Laurie, approximately $150,000 was identified for use in the proposed budget. FEMA funds remain dedicated to

designated projects, and future engineering and project costs may increase due to inflation and other factors. The town's 59.5% equalization rate was also discussed as a factor affecting municipal revenue.

To address the budget constraints, the Deputy Supervisor, Filiatrault announced that the Supervisor and Board members would receive no raises, and part-time appointed positions would also receive no raises in 2027. He further announced that he would step down as Deputy Supervisor effective December 31, 2026, citing the current circumstances and compensation for the position. The Highway Department's equipment budget was reduced to zero, eliminating the proposed $100,000 allocation for equipment, including a requested batwing mower. The repair budget was maintained at a level considered sufficient, although unexpected major repairs could require additional funding. Mr. Filiatrault also reported that funding for some community organizations had been reduced or eliminated, with suggestions that affected groups pursue grants or fundraising opportunities. He noted that additional information from the county was still pending.

Presentation of the Preliminary Budget Figures by Laurie Hance, Budget officer
The proposed 2027 Town Budget was reviewed, with a comparison to the 2026 budget. The primary increases in appropriations were attributed to the new highway garage and associated bond and interest payments, anticipated highway employee contract adjustments, and increases in street lighting and fire district expenses. Departmental budgets were reviewed, including requested increases for certain employee salaries, contractual services, equipment, supplies, and operating expenses. The proposed budget included a 5% increase for the Town Justice, full-time employees, and Town Clerk, while a 6% increase was used as a starting point for highway personnel costs due to the pending employee contract negotiations. Adjustments were also made to various accounts based on historical expenditures, contractual obligations, and anticipated needs. Revenue estimates were revised to reflect changes in tax penalties, clerk fees, interest income, mortgage tax receipts, state aid, and a proposed $150,000 transfer to a capital fund.
Highway appropriations were adjusted to account for anticipated salary increases, higher fuel and repair costs, contractual expenses, insurance, and retirement contributions. The proposed highway budget also reflected the removal of $150,000 for equipment purchases. The CHIPS revenue estimate remained at $400,000, while the overall highway budget remained relatively consistent with the prior year.
The proposed street lighting appropriation increased from $17,500 to $19,500, and the fire district appropriation increased from $173,500 to $176,000. Other departmental and community support allocations were generally maintained at existing levels or adjusted according to requests and available funding. The Board reviewed the proposed appropriations and revenues in preparation for determining the final 2027 budget and its impact on the amount to be raised through taxes.

Deputy Supervisor, Filiatrault clarified that the 6% budget figure was included as a contingency to account for worst-case scenarios amid ongoing negotiations and uncertain circumstances. If the full amount is not needed, other budget areas may provide additional flexibility. He also emphasized **its commitment to ethical conduct, noting that members have abstained from discussions involving salaries of family members or individuals with whom they have personal relationships.**

Councilman Daniel Manor Jr. added that considerable time was devoted to reviewing the 2027 preliminary budget, including several afternoon meetings and a line-by-line examination of expenditures. The Town's limited tax revenue, the financial challenges facing the Highway Department, and other contributing factors created a difficult budget year. The Board acknowledged that tough decisions were necessary and discussed steps to help

prevent similar financial challenges in the future. Members expressed confidence that the budget review committee made a fair effort to develop a budget in the best interests of the Town and its taxpayers.

Motion by John Glasgow, seconded by Daniel Manor Jr., to approve the preliminary 2027 Town of Pierrepont budget. No discussion. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE for Preliminary 2027 Budget

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 approve the Budget Meeting and Public Hearing held on October 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., was made by Daniel Manor Jr. and seconded by Shawn Spellacy. There was no discussion. All members voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Motion** to rescind the previously scheduled Budget Meeting and Public Hearing of October 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., and reschedule the meeting for Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., was made by Daniel Manor Jr. and seconded by Shawn Spellacy. There was no discussion. All members voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Courtesy of The Floor:

- A Town resident questioned the Board regarding the overall projected overage from the previous year, stated to be 8.96%.

Deputy Supervisor, Filiatrault responded and stated that the proposed budget initially reflected an approximate $434,000 deficit between revenues and expenditures. Following budget reductions and adjustments, the total proposed 2027 budget was reported at approximately $2,814,870, with anticipated revenues of $1,392,210, a decrease of $110,000 from 2026. Mandated expenses and anticipated labor costs account for approximately $100,000 in additional expenditures. The estimated amount to be raised through property taxes is approximately $210,000 higher than the previous year, despite allocating $150,000 to help reduce the deficit. A potential tax rate increase of approximately $1 per $1,000 of assessed valuation was discussed, pending final adjustments from the County. Further budget reductions were considered difficult given the town's small workforce and limited operating budget.

Additional:

The Board discussed selling the insulated and wired portable building, which was originally intended to provide temporary office and workspace for construction workers. The building was previously listed on Auctions International, but the bid received was deemed unacceptable and rejected. Bob was asked to prepare the necessary information to relist the building for sale, with the goal of selling and removing it from the property within 30 days, if possible. The Board discussed establishing a minimum acceptable bid and determining the

appropriate legal process for soliciting public bids, potentially through sealed bids with a reserve price.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS:

- **Motion** by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by John Glasgow. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor to authorize payment of the **General Fund Abstract** # 9, Vouchers #214-233, Total of $13,231.55.
- **Motion** by Shawn Spellacy, seconded by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor to authorize payment of the **Highway Fund Abstract** #9, Vouchers #219-234, Total of $52,617.03.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by John Glasgow, 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 7:44p.m. Invited to executive session: Laurie Hance.

Motion made by Chad VanBrocklin, seconded by Daniel Manor Jr., all in favor of going back into the regular meeting. Action taken in executive session.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:25p.m. The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:25p.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 8:26p.m. Motion made by Daniel Manor Jr., seconded by Shawn Spellacy. 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