

A Town Board Meeting was held on May 11th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The location was the Town Hall Building, located on Pelon Road in the Town of Indian Lake, State of New York, County of Hamilton.

Supervisor Wells called the meeting to order. All said the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Wells called for a roll call with the following board members present.

Roll Call:

Councilman Jake Mahoney: Present
Councilman Patrick Mahoney: Present
Councilman John Rathbun: Present
Councilwoman Pamela Howard: Present
Supervisor Brian Wells: Present

Public Hearing on Local Law #1:

Supervisor Wells made a motion to open the public hearing on Local Law #1 in 2026 establishing a moratorium on large-scale solar systems and battery energy storage systems in the Town of Indian Lake, seconded by Councilwoman Howard. All were in favor.

Approval of minutes:

Supervisor Wells made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 4/13/2026. Seconded by Councilman Patrick Mahoney. Discussion; Supervisor Wells wanted to clarify at last month's meeting he addressed the board about a grant for our Wastewater plant needs. There were two grants and he had them mixed up. The grant he mentioned was for cybersecurity for our wastewater plant, it is a state grant of \$50,000 with no match and we will be required to be complying in March of 2027. All were in favor.

Department head reports:

Supervisor Wells stated to Eugene Darling Highway Superintendent that we need a 284 agreement, even if we aren't doing any roads, we still need to have one on file to spend money. Eugene stated that he will get it to the board for next month's meeting. Supervisor Wells asked if Eugene has heard anything through any of his different organizations or meetings has attended about CHIPS funding (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) in the State budget, although it hasn't passed yet. Eugene stated that he has heard it is still up in the air if it will increase or decrease.

Supervisor Wells addressed Jacob Wells town mechanic about the issues with truck 181. Jacob stated in his report the truck has a check engine light on, and he has tried to use multiple scan tools and none of them will communicate to the truck, it was sent down to Chevy Mangino where they were able to diagnose it. They claim the code is for a blocked air charge cooler and their cause for the CEL is because the truck was driven with a plow on the front of it. Supervisor Wells asked Jacob if it would benefit us looking into a scan tool if this is going to be an ongoing issue. Jacob stated that it isn't something the town would be able to get their hands on, being it's a dealership scan tool.

Supervisor Wells stated the Evan Laprairie foreman of Water and Wastewater had a leak today. Evan stated the leak was on Pelon Road, water was shut off for an hour and the leak was fixed. Supervisor Wells thanked Evan for getting it done.

Councilwoman Howard stated in Jacobs report he mentioned wanting to attend more EV classes there are 5 more through out the year, she felt it was a good idea. Board agreed that Jacob should go to the classes.

Christine Pouch Economic Director addressed the board with this year's Citizens of the Year nomination form; this year you can nominate a seasonal or full-time resident. Councilwoman Howard asked Christine about adding an organization to it. Christine stated you could nominate an organization.

Christine wanted to make an announcement that the Black Fly Challenge recruitment party is this Thursday May 14th at the Bear Trap at 5:30. The Inlet Area Business Association pays for all food and drinks as a way to attract volunteers to help for the day since it is ending in Indian Lake, we need 25-30 volunteers.

Christine addressed the board on June 20th in the morning we have to plant 5,500 seedling plugs before the pollinator and monarch festival. She stated she had hoped to get money for a volunteer appreciation lunch and t-shirts from the Adirondack Community Foundation, but it was not funded. She said she did get \$1,900 from Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation for material, she originally budgeted \$750 for that. Christine addressed the board wanting to reallocate money in her budget. Christine stated that she budgeted \$2,500 for entertainment and with the emphasis on planting, we've only scheduled for one entertainer to do music. Christine asked the board if she could use the remaining \$1,840 and \$750 for the volunteer appreciation lunch and t-shirts. Board was in consensus as long as Christine stays within budget.

Chamber Report:

John Sleckman from the Chamber of Commerce gave an update to the Board about what they have been doing. They are currently working on having a kickoff fair during the Adk garage sale, there will be vendors selling plants, baked goods and they will have entertainment to raise funds for the senior center. Maps of the garage sales will be available at the Welcome Center and Town Hall. John stated the last Saturday of June the Chamber will be hosting a car show, Chef Darrells dinner will be there as well, they will be looking to do another one some time in the summer. Poker paddle will be on ADK Lake this year, there are people signing up, there will be entertainment and a food truck this year, Bab A Dews Woodfired pizza. John stated that they are continuing to schedule and work on Moose fest as well. Supervisor Wells asked John if he had a date for the blown glass pumpkin fundraiser. John stated it is and Theater fundraiser. Kellie stated she could answer more on that; this year it will be held on the school field rather than at the glass shop in North Creek. It will be the last weekend during Moose festival in September. Kelli also mentioned that the Chamber might possibly have a mobile glass blowing studio doing classes during the last weekend of Moose fest.

Water and Wastewater hiring:

Councilman Jake Mahoney made recommendation to the board on behalf of the interview committee to hire Jessie Yates; there was a potential issue with his drivers license but it has seemed to be resolved. Councilman Jake Mahoney made a motion that we hire Jessie Yates for the Water and Wastewater department given that he has a clean driver's license, seconded by Councilman Patrick Mahoney. All were in favor.

Court Clerk Appointment:

Councilman Jake Mahoney made a recommendation to the board on behalf of the interview committee to appoint Kimberley Crandall who is also the Towns accountant as the Towns Court Clerk. Councilman Jake Mahoney stated that the Justices also need to sign off on this not just the Town Board. Councilman Jake Mahoney stated that the Justices are currently looking into if there are any ethical conflicts. Councilman Jake Mahoney made a motion to appoint Kimberley Crandall as Town Court Clerk if the Justices find there are no ethical issues, seconded by Councilman John Rathbun. Discussion; Councilwoman Pamela Howard stated she would just like to have a written copy of what the Justices sign off on for our records. All were in favor.

Supervisor Wells wanted to thank Michelle DeShaw for 15 years as our Town Court Clerk, she will be missed.

Request for 30-day liquor license waived:

Supervisor Wells made a motion to waive the 30-day notice period to expedite the application for a state liquor license for The Ol Station in Blue Mountain Lake (the corner store). Seconded by Councilman John Rahtbun. All were in favor.

Public Comment:

Helen Glass addressed the board from the crowd about the mess that was left after a vehicle crashed sometime last year on Johnson Hill headed towards Sabael. Supervisor Wells stated that he will talk to Department of Transportation and see what they normally do.

Helen also approached the board with the idea of adding the Town's YouTube link to live stream board meetings on the e-newsletter Christine Pouch sends out on Fridays to make more people aware of it. Christine stated that she could do that.

Supervisor Comments:

Supervisor Wells addressed the crowd asking if anyone would like to ask any questions about the local law before the public hearing is closed. Supervisor Wells stated with this local law, we are not stating that we are totally against Solar systems or Battery storage systems, were just asking for six months so we can get our feet under us and look more into it. Supervisor Wells stated that he gave the board members an article about where it's good to have these systems and article about the issues others face. Supervisor Wells stated he is continuing to work on the work from home policy. Supervisor Wells wanted to thank Kylie and Christine for their recent work on contracts. Supervisor Wells addressed the board with a contract between the Town of Indian Lake and the Fire Department for the Fourth of July firework show they will be holding because it is considered a special event. We will also need one for the Black Fly Challenge for our Ambulance core because again it is considered a special event. Supervisor Wells stated that the State this year is requiring all troopers used for special events to be reimbursed and is also requiring a higher insurance certificate. Supervisor Wells made a motion to sign a contract with the Fire Department for the firework show on Fourth of July this year. Councilman John Rathbun seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Supervisor Wells stated that we received our dog control officer inspection report, in the states eyes we are satisfactory. Councilwoman Pamela Howard asked if the report said how many dogs, he had to deal with. Supervisor Wells stated that it did not, but we could ask for that report from him. Supervisor Wells addressed the board with a thank you letter he had received from Susan Rollings to the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, which he is a part of, thanking us for County support for 2026. Supervisor Wells wanted to thank our accountant Kimberley for getting reimbursement for sales tax on our national grid bills, she noticed they were charging us sales tax on some of our accounts and was able to get reimbursed for it. Supervisor Wells stated that we had to renew our band for the Adirondack Dam, the paperwork went through last Wednesday everything went well. After speaking with our financial advisors, they were very concerned about transferring the band to a bond because of the high interest rates. Councilwoman Pamela Howard stated her concern with the possibility of us banding too much. Supervisor Wells stated he received the records and dockets from the Town Justices for 2024 that they are ready for review. He will be scheduling a time for review then it will be brought to the board to be voted on to be accepted. Supervisor Wells addressed the board that they all had the rafting report from April 4th through April 21st in the board packets. Received the Indian Lake Association spring newsletter, it was very informative and very well written. Suozzo Doty and associates have applied for a cybersecurity grant for our wastewater and our emergency response, and we need to be in compliance in March of 2027. Supervisor Wells stated the town of Indian Lake passed resolution number 5 of 2026 repurposing of state homes. The group asked me to take it over to the County, I have taken it over it's been to one committee, it was almost brought to the floor, there was a flurry of questions it has been refereed back to committee for committee day. One of the issues were they felt, we were too narrowly focused on one group of individuals for housing. Barry Baker, our Real Property Director, sent out updates to the enhanced STAR. Supervisor Wells addressed the board in their board packets they had received the financial update and trail balances for 5/11/2026.

Closed Public Hearing:

Supervisor Wells made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman John Rahtbun. All were in favor.

Supervisor Wells made a motion to adopt resolution number 7 adopting local law number 1 in 2026 establishing a moratorium on large-scale solar energy systems and battery energy storage systems in the Town of Indian Lake. Seconded by Councilman Patrick Mahoney. All were in favor.

Highway Equipment Discussion:

Eugene Darling addressed the board that they had received the new excavator. Supervisor Wells said to Eugene that we need to get the paperwork on it, we currently do not have insurance on it, and you're out using it. Councilwoman Howard asked if it was the one that was getting used on Cedar River Road. Eugene answered yes. Councilwoman Howard asked if the truck he was loading with the excavator was an old dump truck. Jacob Wells responded with no it is a 2021. Councilwoman Howard stated the only reason she was asking was because the excavator bucket was hitting the inside of the box of the truck and the excavator was ripping up the chips seal. Councilwoman Howard stated that a tandem would be better for this kind of thing. Eugene responded with the roads are posted so he couldn't get a tandem down the road. Councilwoman Howard stated ok that makes sense. Eugene stated he got a hold of source well in regard to the Ventrax (snowblower) and they said they have no opinion on whether you take a trade in or not, it is up to the dealer and the municipality. Eugene said the dealer he is working with is willing to take a trade. Supervisor Wells asked what the trade ins were. Eugene responded with the Tool Cat and John Deere 5085. Supervisor Wells asked what the value of the trade was. Eugene said \$65,000 for the two, so out of pocket the purchase price would be \$2,948 which was not budgeted for but \$3,000 was budgeted for to replace a truck box, but that truck was involved in an accident and the box was replaced by insurance. Eugene asked the board if he could use the money left over from not replacing the truck box to purchase the Ventrax (snowblower). Board was in consensus.

Board Comments:

Councilwoman Howard addressed the board that she feels all department heads should have a credit card. Councilwoman Howard stated Bill is looking to rent an excavator is there a possibility that he could use the highway department's new excavator. Bill responded with no because he is looking for a bigger size than the one highway has.

Councilwoman Howard asked Bill Laprairie Building and Maintenance department head how much the connex boxes cost. Bill responded with around \$7,900 apiece. The two we purchased are filled with museum stuff. Councilwoman Howard asked if that could be reimbursed under the museum grant. Christine responded with likely not because of the contract start date but she could look into it to see. Councilwoman Howard asked what will be done with the connex boxes after the museum is built? Bill stated there is always a need for storage, they will get their use. Councilwoman Howard stated she would just like to have everything in one spot, it seems like it is scattered through out the town. Bill stated he is continuing to budget each year for new garbage for everything to be in one general area. Councilwoman Howard said that they had received something in their board packets about animals in town center, she stated that she feels if it's a commercial business they should be cleaned up especially if it is unsafe and hazardous. Councilwoman Howard said she has had someone say something about one of the businesses in town and how there is garbage strung throughout the property, and she has seen it herself. Supervisor Wells stated maybe that is something we need to get the Department of Health involved. Councilman Patrick Mahoney asked if it had gone anywhere from the last meeting, when we said we were going to give something to Tyler. Supervisor Wells stated yes, he had sent the first letter out, I think he must send at least 3 certified letters in order to start moving forward with anything. Councilwoman Howard asked Christine Pouch if we had received the EV charging station money yet, Christine responded with no, but she had just sent in a reimbursement form today. Councilwoman Howard asked Christine about the Byron Park signage project, which was \$220,000, she stated you have received around \$83,000 to date. Councilwoman Howard asked if this project was still on going. Christine stated yes, it has to be completed by July of 2026. She spoke with Dylan Wallwrith from DEC came and this was one of the projects we looked at and talked about. Christine stated she has to get a list of improvements together to make sure it is in line with the remaining balance. Councilwoman Howard stated she looked up this \$90,000 grant the Town got on 5/1/2019 through the department of state, she said we spend \$80,514. Councilwoman Howard stated this is a grant that was used for the Townsends property and there is roughly \$9,000 you could use. Christine stated no that she believes that receipts were submitted before the start date of the contract and the red lined them out. Councilwoman Howard stated so that means that it is closed. Christine stated yes.

Councilman Rathbun addressed the board that Weed advisory board is having a meeting this Wednesday at Byron Park they would like the boards support in doing the septic tank pump put program again. Councilman Rathbun stated Hometown septic is willing to do this with us again this year, the weed advisory board would pay \$450 and the homeowner would pay \$225. Councilman Rathbun stated they just need this board's approval to spend the money of the weed advisory board. Supervisor Wells said to have John Layton chair of the weed advisory board draft something to give to the board. Councilman Rathbun stated he has it and will email it to each board member. Councilman Rathbun wanted to thank all the department heads and the board for their support for his history timeline day, he stated there was 220 kids, it was very successful.

Bills and Abstracts:

44828 to 44839 - \$3,399.04
44853 to 44859 - \$1,487.39
44867 to 45085 - \$276,201.01

Supervisor Wells made a motion to approve and pay the bills, seconded by Councilwoman Howard, Discussion; Councilwoman Howard stated she saw where the town is refunding the sponsor money for the map, she asked if this was something the Chamber would be willing to take over. Christine stated that it was discussed and they did not want to take it over; they wanted to stick with just doing the hiking map. Councilwoman Howard said ok thank you. Supervisor Wells asked if the board was all in favor, all board members stated yes. All were in favor.

Supervisor Wells called for an executive session at 8:07 for the discussion of personnel and contractual seconded by Councilman Patrick Mahoney.

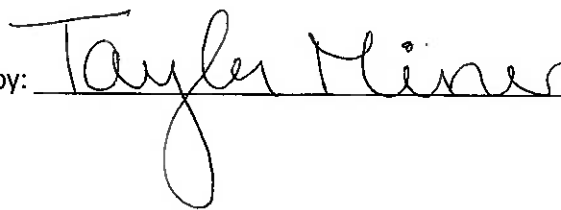
Councilwoman Howard motion to exit executive session at 9:10, seconded by Councilman Rahtbun.

No action was taken.

Councilman Rathbun made a motion to raise senior lifeguard Hannah Henery to Water Safety instructor/Swim instructor to \$26.50 an hour. Seconded by Councilman Jake Mahoney. All were in favor.

Councilman Patrick Mahoney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 seconded by Supervisor Wells.

Respectfully submitted by:

 Taylor Miner

TOWN BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE:

DATE OF MEETING: 5/11/20

| <u>NAME:</u> | <u>TITLE:</u> | <u>ADDRESS:</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Gene Duff | NS | BML |
| 2. [Signature] | | IL |
| 3. Kylie Cannon | | IL |
| 4. Bob R | MA | IL |
| 5. Evan [Signature] | WTS | BML |
| 6. Jacob Wells | Mech | I.L. |
| 7. Wendy [Signature] | | |
| 8. Tom [Signature] | | IL |
| 9. John Hall | | IL |
| 10. James Zumpano | | IL |
| 11. D. Sean CURRY Taxpayer | | BML |
| 12. John Steckman ILCOC | | IL |
| 13. HELEN GUS | | IL |
| 14. MARY BRASKO | | IL |
| 15. Andy Conroy | | Blue |
| 16. Paul Paddock | | Blue |
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