

**Town of Eaton, Madison County, NY Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Eaton Town Council Regular Board Meeting Minutes,  
Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 pm  
Town of Eaton Office Building, 35 Cedar Street, Morrisville, New York, there were  
present:**

Joseph Wicks, Supervisor  
Jeff Golley, Councilmember - Absent  
Dave Verne, Councilmember  
Stephen Dickerson, Councilmember  
Jean Hilts, Councilmember  
Dean Curtis, Town Clerk

Also present: Mary Helmer, Mary Messere (Backstreet Mary) , Larry Cesario (Town of Eaton Codes Enforcement Officer and Jen Caloia

**Call to order & Welcome:** The Meeting opened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (5 min):**

Mary Helmer wanted to thank the Town of Eaton for their support of Madison Hall.

Larry Cesario presented documentation to the Town Board for the need of Deputy Code Enforcement Officer.

Marry Messere and Jen Caloia approached the Board with plans for Town of Eaton Memorial Day Parade being held within the Hamlet of Eaton on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2026 starting at Brooklyn Street and ending at Landon Road – Eaton Cemetery. Event to take place starting at 10:00 am

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**RESOLUTION 2026- 42 : Open the public hearing Local Law 1-2026 (“A Local Law Opting Out of the Real Property Tax Law Exemption for Solar and Wind Energy Systems Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §487”)**

On a motion of Councilmember Verne, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that Town Board recess the Regular Town Board Meeting and open the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Supervisor Wicks reviewed Local Law 1-2026 (“A Local Law Opting Out of the Real Property Tax Law Exemption for Solar and Wind Energy Systems Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §487”) with Council.

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**RESOLUTION 2026- 43 : Close the public hearing**

On a motion of Councilmember Hilts, seconded by Councilmember Verne, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0  
With all persons being heard for or against, Resolved that the public hearing be closed at 6:13 p.m. and continue with the Regular Scheduled Town Board Meeting.

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:**

**CODES OFFICER REPORT:**

**Town of Eaton  
Codes Officer Report  
02/01/2026 - 02/28/2026**

Type	Date	Comment	Name	Fee
Variance	02/03/2026	2851 Leach Road	Woodcock, Mike	175.00
Variance	02/04/2026	3247 State Route 26	Hastings, Brian	175.00
Special Permit	02/10/2026	5800 Fearon Road	Marshall, Rob	175.00
Building Permit	02/03/2026	#01-26 28x32 Garage	Lints, Jeffrey	364.40
Building Permit	02/17/2026	#02-26 Air Condition	Curtis, Bonnie & Richard	110.00
Building Permit	02/24/2026	#03-26 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Bath	Masker, Ken	122.00
		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1.121.40</b>

**TOWN CLERKS REPORT:**

- Total taxes collected \$3,384,062.50, \$2,702,932.15 - 2025 , \$ 2,568,963.88 – 2024, \$2,443,623.82- 2023, 2022 - \$2,331,409.47 – 2022, \$2,381,345.14 – 2021
- PILOT error for CRM Management on 3 properties totaling \$26,541.90
- Reconciliation of both Town Clerk and Tax Account for February 2026
- Work place violence & Harassment/Discrimination Training Mandate
- Memorial Day Parade
- .gov
- NYSTCA Conference In Albany April 19-22
- Forwarded all Local Laws from 2023 to current to General Code for them to upload.
- Still waiting on Civic Plus for email on Invoice, new ADA Compliance mandates starting April
- Kofile stopped in regarding digitizing/restoring/preservation of Vital Records

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**TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT**

TOWN OF EATON, NEW YORK

FEBRUARY, 2026

**TO THE SUPERVISOR:**

**PAGE 1**

Pursuant to Section 27, Subd 1 of the Town Law, I hereby make the following statement of all fees and moneys received by me in connection with my office during the month stated above, excepting only such fees and moneys the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by Law:

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A1255	<u>1</u>	DECALS	<u>1.38</u>	
	<u>4</u>	MARRIAGE CERTIFIED CPY	<u>40.00</u>	
		TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES		41.38
<hr/>				
A1289	<u>1</u>	OTHER GENERAL DEPARTMENT	<u>18.55</u>	
		TOTAL A1289		18.55
<hr/>				
A1603	<u>28</u>	DEATH CERTIFIED COPIES	<u>280.00</u>	
	<u>1</u>	VITAL COPIES/GENEALOGY	<u>22.00</u>	
		TOTAL A1603		302.00
<hr/>				
A2544	<u>1</u>	DOG LICENSES	<u>14.00</u>	
		TOTAL A2544		14.00
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A2770	<u>58</u>	COPIES	<u>14.50</u>	
		TOTAL A2770		14.50
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B2110	<u>2</u>	VARIANCE	<u>350.00</u>	
		TOTAL B2110		350.00
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B2115	<u>1</u>	SPECIAL PERMIT	<u>175.00</u>	
		TOTAL B2115		175.00
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B2555	<u>3</u>	BUILDING PERMIT	<u>596.40</u>	
		TOTAL B2555		596.40

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**TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT**

FEBRUARY, 2026

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**DISBURSEMENTS**

PAID TO SUPERVISOR FOR GENERAL FUND	_____ 390.43
PAID TO SUPERVISOR FOR PART TOWN FUND	_____ 1,121.40
PAID TO NYS DEC FOR DECALS	_____ 23.62
PAID TO NYS ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM	_____ 1.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	_____ 1,536.45

Review minutes of February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 Regular Town Board/Organizational Meeting.

**RESOLUTION 2026- 44 : Approval of Minutes – 2/10/2026**

On a motion of Councilmember Verne, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the minutes for February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Organizational and Regular Town Board Meeting were reviewed and adopted as written.

**HIGHWAY REPORT: Nothing to Report**

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:**

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**RESOLUTION 2026- 45 : Approval Supervisor Report as Submitted:**

On a motion of Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Hilts, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the Supervisor Report for the month of March 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 be approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS: N/A**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 2026- 46 : Enactment Local Law 1 -2026 (“A Local Law Opting Out of the Real Property Tax Law Exemption for Solar and Wind Energy Systems Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §487”)**

On a motion of Councilmember Verne, seconded by Councilmember Hilts, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that Town of Eaton Town Board adopt Local Law 1 – 2026 (“A Local Law Opting Out of the Real Property Tax Law Exemption for Solar and Wind Energy Systems Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §487”)

**TOWN OF EATON**

**TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION 2026 - 46**

**MARCH 10, 2026**

**TOWN OF EATON LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026**

**(“A Local Law Opting Out of the Real Property Tax Exemption for Solar and Wind Energy Systems Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §487”)**

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Verne, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilmember Hilts, to wit:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled Local Law No. 1-2026, “A Local Law Opting Out of the Real Property Tax Exemption for Solar and Wind Energy Systems Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §487” was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eaton held on February 10, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on this 10th day of March, 2026, by the Town Board of the Town of Eaton and proof of publication of notice of such public hearing,

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as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Eaton in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, the enactment of Local Law No. 1-2026 has previously been determined to be an Unlisted Action and will have no significant effect on the environment, thus concluding the SEQR review process; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest to enact said Local Law No. 1-2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Eaton, Madison County, New York, does hereby enact Local Law No. 1-2026 as follows:

**“TOWN OF EATON**  
**LOCAL LAW NO. 1-2026**  
**A LOCAL LAW OPTING OUT OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX**  
**EXEMPTION FOR SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS**  
**PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §487**

Be it enacted by the Town of Eaton Town Board, as follows:

**SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT**

It is the intent of the Town Board of the Town of Eaton to opt out of the real property tax exemption for wind and solar energy systems within the jurisdiction and geographic boundaries of the Town of Eaton. The Town has received multiple inquiries for solar energy systems to be located within the Town and additional inquiries/applications are anticipated in the future. These systems are currently eligible for a real property tax exemption under New York State Real Property Tax Law which would otherwise eliminate real property tax revenue generated for the Town from these systems. New York State Real Property Tax Law authorizes municipalities to opt-out of the real property tax exemption for solar and wind systems provided the municipality enacts a local law “opting out” of the tax exemption.

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In accordance with Real Property Tax Law §487, it is the intent of this Local Law that the Town of Eaton opt-out of the real property tax exemption for solar and wind energy systems.

**SECTION 2. AUTHORITY**

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law §487(8), the New York State Constitution, and New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10.

**SECTION 3. OPTING OUT OF THE TAX EXEMPTION FOR SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §487**

Pursuant to and consistent with New York State Real Property Tax Law §487(8) the Town of Eaton Town Board hereby declares that solar and wind energy systems shall not be exempt from real property taxes within the jurisdiction and geographic boundaries of the Town of Eaton.

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

**SECTION 5. FILING**

Pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law §487(8), following the enactment of this Local Law a copy of this Local Law shall be filed with the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and the President of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

**SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Local Law shall be effective upon filing with the office of the Secretary of State.”

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

<b>David Verne</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jean Hilts</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Stephen Dickerson</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jeff Golley</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Absent</b>

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**Joseph Wicks**

**Supervisor**

**Voted**

**Yes**

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**RESOLUTION 2026- 47 : Electric Delivery Charges and Escalating Costs of Electricity**

On a motion of Councilmember Verne, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that Town of Eaton Town Board move forward with urging immediate review of Electric delivery charges, demanding improved cost controls and transparency, and authorizing formal complaints to the New York State Public Service Commission regarding the escalating costs of electricity.

**TOWN OF EATON**

**TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION 2026 - 47**

**MARCH 10, 2026**

**A Resolution strongly urging immediate review of Electric delivery charges, demanding improved cost controls and transparency, and authorizing formal complaints to the New York State Public Service Commission regarding the escalating costs of electricity.**

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Verne, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, to wit:

**WHEREAS**, residents, seniors, and small businesses in the Town of Eaton are experiencing unsustainable, repeated, and compounding increases in electric bills that are placing a growing financial strain on households and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a substantial portion of these increases is attributable not to increased energy consumption, but to escalating delivery charges, fees, and approved rate adjustments imposed by NYSEG; and

**WHEREAS**, electric delivery charges and rate structures are regulated and approved by the New York State Public Service Commission, which is statutorily charged with ensuring that utility rates are just, reasonable, and affordable for ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Eaton Board has received numerous complaints from residents who are struggling to afford basic electric service and who have expressed serious concern regarding the frequency, magnitude, and lack of transparency surrounding recent and ongoing rate increases; and

**WHEREAS**, rural and low-density communities such as the Town of Eaton are disproportionately impacted by delivery charge increases and cost-recovery mechanisms that

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fail to adequately account for affordability, equity, and the cumulative burden placed on ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Eaton Board finds that continued approval of rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency, and meaningful affordability protections is unacceptable and contrary to the public interest;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Eaton formally and strongly urges the New York State Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and immediate review of electric delivery charges, rate increases, and cost-recovery practices applicable to NYSEG customers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Eaton Board calls upon the Public Service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, demand greater transparency from NYSEG, and require demonstrable cost-containment and operational efficiency measures before approving any future rate increases; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Eaton Board expressly opposes continued or automatic rate increases that shift rising operational, infrastructure, and administrative costs onto ratepayers without clear justification or adequate protection for rural communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Eaton Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to submit formal complaints, written comments, and supporting documentation to the New York State Public Service Commission on behalf of the Town of Eaton and its residents, objecting to excessive electric costs and requesting regulatory intervention; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Eaton Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, NYSEG, the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York State Legislature, and neighboring municipalities served by NYSEG, and to encourage coordinated action among affected towns; and

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

<b>David Verne</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jean Hilts</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Stephen Dickerson</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jeff Golley</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Joseph Wicks</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**RESOLUTION 2026 - 48 : Land Donation Agreement between Town of Eaton and NYS Troopers**

On a motion of Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Verne, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the Town Board Authorize the conveyance of Real Property to the New York state Division of State Police and authorizing the Town Supervisor to execute Land Donation Agreement extinguishing any and all interest held by the Town of Eaton.

Notice of Adoption of Resolution subject to Permissive Referendum posted March 11, 2026 on Town Website, Town Clerk Bulletin Board and Oneida Daily Dispatch NY01713420 Affidavit 2799985

**TOWN OF EATON**

**TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION 2026 - 48**

**MARCH 10, 2026**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE AND AUTHORIZING TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE LAND DONATION AGREEMENT EXTINGUISHING ANY AND ALL INTEREST HELD BY TOWN**

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Dickerson, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilmember Verne, to wit:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Eaton is the owner of approximately 3.023 ± acres of real property situated in the Village of Morrisville, County of Madison, State of New York, as more particularly described in Schedule A of the Land Donation Agreement (the "Property"), attached hereto as Exhibit "A," between the Town of Eaton and the New York State Division of State Police; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject Property is excess and such surplus property is not needed by the Town of Eaton; accordingly, the Town of Eaton Town Board does desire to declare such property excess and surplus; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Town of Eaton Town Board does further desire to execute the Land Donation Agreement, as set forth in Exhibit “A,” to extinguish any and all interest held by the Town of Eaton in such property and convey the subject property to the New York State Division of State Police; and

**WHEREAS**, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve the conveyance of an interest in land by means of Land Donation Agreement in the Town of Eaton, such that there are no other involved agencies within the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act with respect to approval of the proposed conveyance.

**NOW THEREFORE, be it**

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that the Town of Eaton Town Board does hereby declare the approximately 3.023 ± acres of real property situated in the Village of Morrisville, County of Madison, State of New York, as more particularly described in Schedule A of the Land Donation Agreement, as attached as Exhibit “A,” to be excess property and surplus, and further that the conveyance of the Property and extinguishing of any and all interest in the Property is in the best interest of the Town; be it further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that there are no other involved agencies, that the Town Board shall act as lead agency with regard to this proposed action, and that the conveyance of property interest and execution of the Land Donation Agreement is an Unlisted action, and does further render a negative declaration pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act for this project; be it further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that, **subject to permissive referendum as required by law**, this Board authorizes the execution of the Land Donation Agreement conveying the aforementioned property to New York State Division of State Police, and be it further

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**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that the Town of Eaton Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents to effectuate the conveyance as contemplated and take all actions to give full force and effect to this resolution.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

<b>David Verne</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jean Hilts</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Stephen Dickerson</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jeff Golley</b>	<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Joseph Wicks</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Voted</b>	<b>Yes</b>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**DATED:** March 10, 2026

**RESOLUTION 2026 - 49 : Town Clerk Dean Curtis to attend NYSTCA Conference in Albany, NY April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On a motion of Councilmember Wicks, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the Town Board authorizes Dean Curtis attend the NYSCA Conference in Albany April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 with further authorization to be reimbursed on voucher 28 for registration of Conference

**Audit and approval of Bills:**

**RESOLUTION 2026- 50 : Audit of Claims for Abstract 3 for 2026 dates.**

On a motion of Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Hilts, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the bills contained on Abstract #3 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

**Abstract 3 – 2026**

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General A Fund	No.	26	through	37	\$ 5,439.39
General B Fund Part Town	No.	11	through	14	\$ 788.89
Street Lighting SL	No.	3	through	3	\$ 624.05
Highway Fund Townwide DA	No.	15	through	22	\$ 39,394.85
Highway Fund Part Town DB	No.	5	Through	5	\$ 4,002.78
			<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 50,249.96</b>

**RESOLUTION 2026- 51 : Executive Session**

On a motion of Councilmember Verne, seconded by Councilmember Hilts, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that this Board move into an Executive Session for **1. F.** employment at 6:29 p.m.

**RESOLUTION 2026- 52 : Return to Regular Session**

On a motion of Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Hilts, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the Board return to regular session at 6:52 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Dickerson, seconded by Councilmember Verne, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Dean Curtis, Town Clerk/Tax Collector