

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 15, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Lansing Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY, and streamed live on YouTube on the above date at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Ruth Groff, Supervisor, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Roll call by Jessica L. Hall, Deputy Town Clerk, showed the following to be

PRESENT:

Judy Drake, Councilperson
Joseph Wetmore, Councilperson

Christine Montague, Councilperson
Ruth Groff, Supervisor

ABSENT: Laurie Hemmings, Councilperson

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Ellen Albrecht, Bookkeeper, Nathaniel Rogers, Director of Planning, Patrick Tyrrell, Director of Parks & Recreation, Mike Sigler, Tompkins County Legislature, Darin Buck, Adam Buck, Lauren Baker, Diane Duthie, Maureen Stanhope, Sarah Lounsbery, Hailea Potter, Kelly Lovejoy, John Payne, Deborah Myers, Ken Wolkin, Sabrina Johnston, Larry Cathles, Harold Mills, John V. Dennis, Evan Alvarez, Kathryn McKay, John Duthie, David Bickal, Gail VanWicklen, Kelly Gavitt, Peter Larson, Dennis Griffin, Lars McCann, John Payne, Marvin Paige, Doug Myers, Deborah Myers, David Bickal, John Duthie, Anne Ledbetter, Michael Ledbetter, Walter Hang, Mike Dat, Cindie Day, Tyler Mix, Darin Buck, and a few other attendees.

Retirement of Code Enforcement Officer Scott Russell

Supervisor Ruth Groff publicly thanked Code Enforcement Officer Scott Russell for his five years of service to the Town. His last day was today, and she wished him well in retirement.

MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 3 OF 2026 TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT

Councilperson Joseph Wetmore, moved to **OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 3 TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT** at 6:32 pm. Councilperson Judy Drake seconded the motion. Public hearing was opened by consent of the Board.

One resident spoke in opposition to overriding the tax levy. They stated the combined burden of town, county and school taxes is making Lansing unaffordable. They encouraged the Board to be fiscally disciplined by only putting needs in the budget for a few years (no wants). They stated the levy limit holds the Board accountable.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, Councilperson Judy Drake, moved to **CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 3 TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT** at 6:34 pm.

Councilperson Christine Montague seconded the motion.

All in Favor – 4 Opposed – 0

RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW # 3 OF 2026 TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C

The Board described this law as a standard administrative step taken by most municipalities at this time. Doing it now allows for flexibility during the budget season. Stating rising costs of health insurance, utilities, unfunded mandates, general inflation, and protecting the Town's bond rating, as reasons for passing the local law.

RESOLUTION 26-86

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW # 3 OF 2026 TO OVERRIDE THE TAX
LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2027; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law # 3 of 2026 proposes to authorize the Town Board to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Lansing, County of Tompkins, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2027, so as to allow, if necessary or desired, a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law §3-C; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly held upon July 15, 2026, at the Lansing Town Hall, 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, New York, whereas the public was invited to comment upon the proposed Local Law, and whereat all persons interested in the subject were duly heard and all evidence submitted, if any, was duly received; and

WHEREAS, upon due deliberation thereupon, and in consideration of all discussions and matters arising from or in relation to the aforesaid public hearing, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby resolved, and thus be it so enacted, as follows:

RESOLVED, that Local Law # 3 of 2026 be and hereby is approved and adopted in the form as presented to this meeting, and in such form “be it so enacted”; and it is further

RESOLVED, that in accord with §21 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, the final adopted version of this Local Law shall be presented to the Supervisor for approval; and it is further

RESOLVED, that upon such approval by the Supervisor (or other approval occurring pursuant to said §21 of the Municipal Home Rule Law), and within 20 days after the final adoption of this Local Law, the Town Clerk shall file a certified copy of this Local Law, together with the required certifications, if any, as follows: (i) in the Office of the Town Clerk; and (ii) with the New York State Secretary of State as required by Municipal Home Rule Law §27 (said filing may be made by delivery to the NYS Department of State, Division of Corporations, State Records and Uniform Commercial Code, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231).

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson Judy Drake, duly seconded by Councilperson Joseph Wetmore, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake – Aye
Councilperson Joseph Wetmore – Aye

Councilperson Christine Montague – Aye
Supervisor Ruth Groff – Aye

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on July 15, 2026.

**TOWN OF LANSING, TOMPKINS COUNTY, NEW YORK
LOCAL LAW NUMBER #3 OF 2026**

**TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN
GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C**

Be it enacted by the Town of Lansing as follows:

SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE INTENT: This Local Law shall be known as “Local Law, Number # 3 of 2026”. It is the intent of Local Law Number # 3 of 2026 to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Lansing, County of Tompkins pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-C, and to allow the Town of Lansing, County of Tompkins to adopt a Town budget for (a) Town purposes, and (b) any other special or improvement district, and Town improvements provided pursuant to

Town Law Article 12-C, governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “Tax Levy Limit” as defined by General Municipal Law §3-C.

SECTION 2: AUTHORITY: This Local Law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-C, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the Tax Levy Limit by the adoption of a Local Law approved by vote of at least sixty (60%) of the Town Board.

SECTION 3: TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE: The Town Board of the Town of Lansing, County of Tompkins is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law §3-C.

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 the 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: EFFECTIVE DATE: This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – COMMENTS

Comments primarily focused on the resolution to hire special legal counsel to defend Councilperson Joseph Wetmore. The speakers were divided on the issue of Town funded legal defense.

Opposition for Resolution:

- Using taxpayer funds is inappropriate, a misuse of Town funds and does not serve the Town’s best interests.
- Lawsuit reflects on the whole board, not only the councilperson being sued.
- Called for immediate resignation of councilperson.
- Frustration with continued tax increases and high cost of hiring outside counsel.
- Questioned whether Board was following established law and creating a dangerous precedent by paying for the defense.

Support for Resolution:

- Town has duty to defend public officials/employees accused of misconduct while performing their duties.
- Encourage Board to adopt the resolution as stand against intimidation or harassment.
- Characterized the lawsuit as “frivolous”.

Other Points of Concern:

- Inquired about the procedure for hiring outside counsel and questioned if the matter was reviewed by Town’s existing legal staff first.
- Consider if conduct in question fell outside the realm of proper behavior.
- Stressed that what matters is the law and to follow established law.

Supervisor Ruth Groff closed this section of the meeting by stating the Board would not respond to comments now but would address the questions and concerns raised during the formal discussion of the resolution later in the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MICHAEL MOSELEY

Submitted the following report to the Town Board and it was included in the meeting packet which was available on Town of Lansing website and as a handout.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT
July 2026

NEW DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING:

- Construction of the new Department of Public Works building continues to move forward.

ROAD WORK AND MAINTENANCE:

- Crews worked at multiple locations throughout the Town to assess and replace culvert pipes as needed. This work includes identifying failing or undersized pipes, removing existing culverts, installing new piping to improve drainage, and restoring the surrounding areas to ensure proper water flow and roadway stability.

LOCKERBY HILL ROAD PROJECT:

- Crew members continue to make improvements to the drainage infrastructure on Lockerby Hill Road following the March 31st flooding. This work is being completed in coordination with the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District and T.G. Miller.

FLEET:

- Town equipment is routinely serviced and maintained to ensure continued reliable operation.

WATER REPAIRS:

- The Town of Lansing DPW completed water main repairs at Lansing School after a hole was discovered in a 6-inch water main. A bell clamp was installed to restore service and address the leak.
- At the Emmons Road Water Tank, the DPW installed a new panel. Special thanks to Kyle Fellow of Bolton Point Water for his assistance with the project. IXOM is scheduled to complete the final repairs between July 9 and July 16.

WATER AND SEWER:

- The Town has secured all necessary easements for the Brickyard Road and Buck Road water main replacement project. Thank you to the Town Clerk’s Office, Guy Krogh, Thaler & Thaler, P.C., and Dave Herrick of T.G. Miller for their assistance throughout the process.
- The generator for the Farrell Road Pump Station has been ordered and is expected to arrive in approximately six weeks.

MS4:

- Mike Moseley continues to work with the Town of Lansing Codes Department, Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District and T.G. Miller on SWPPP applications.

INTERMUNICIPAL:

- The Town of Lansing DPW assisted the Village of Cayuga Heights with a water main issue by using the Town’s Vac Truck.
- The DPW sent truck to assist Groton’s Highway Department with cold mix paving.
- The DPW sent trucks to Conlon Road to assist Tompkins County Highway Department with paving.

JULY 1st STORM:

Buck Road

- Between Van Ostrand Road and Auburn Road, the DPW removed trees and cleared storm-related debris following the June 30 storm. Crew members worked from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to restore safe passage through the area. The DPW extends its

sincere thanks to the Lansing Fire Department and NYSEG for their assistance and support during the response efforts.

Lansingville Road and Stormy View Drive

- DPW removed trees and cleared storm-related debris following the June 30 storm. Crew members worked from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to restore safe passage through the area. The DPW extends its sincere thanks to the Lansing Fire Department for their assistance and support during the response efforts.

OFFICE:

- The Town of Lansing continues to work hand in hand with the Village of Lansing and the Village of Cayuga Heights regarding the Intermunicipal Agreement for Sewer District One.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- The Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County: *The Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County is an inter-municipal organization formed to assist municipal separate storm systems (MS4s) in cooperation.*
- Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Committee (WSSC): *Responsible for evaluating proposals relating to the Town’s water, sewer and stormwater. The goal is financial and engineering analysis.*
- Engineering and Operations Meeting with Bolton Point: *Responsible for the infrastructure of the municipalities that make up Bolton Point.*
- Highway Barn Committee: *Responsible for working with architects, engineers, and construction managers on the design and development of the new Department of Public Works facility.*
- Lansing Town Department Heads Meetings.
- Capital Improvement Committee.
- Personnel Management Committee.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT – PATRICK TYRRELL

Submitted the following report to the Town Board and it was included in the meeting packet which was available on Town of Lansing website and as a handout.



July 2026
Town Board Report

RECREATION:

Current and upcoming spring programs include:

Myers Park Day Camp (6/29-7/31), Horseback Riding Camp (7/6-8/28), Sports Academy (7/7-7/9), Cheerleading Camp (7/13-7/17), Summer Band & Orchestra Camp (7/13-7/17), Total Baseball Summer Camp (7/13-7/17), Beginning Sculpture Camp (7/6-7/10), Intro to Ceramic Pottery (7/13-7/17), Boys & Girls Basketball Camp, Archery Camp (7/20-7/24), Swim Lessons (7/20-8/10), Tennis Clinics, Art & Nature Camp (8/3-8/21), Wednesday Adult Sailing (7/8-8/19), AH Soccer Camp, Wizarding Camp, Summer GirlStrong, Lansing Watercats Swim Team, Pitching Clinics, Hitcats Travel Baseball, Youth Softball Skills Clinics, Travel Softball, Youth Football Skills, Football Camp, Adult Strength & Stretch, Cardio-Step and Morning YogaChi.

- Myers Park Day Camp is in full swing; this is week 3 of 5.
- Our annual Hitcats baseball tournament was on the weekend of June 27th and 28th, the weather cooperated, and it was a tremendous success.
- We hosted several grade levels end of year parties on the ballfields.
- Summer programming is in full swing.

PARKS:

- The storm on July 1st caused a lot of damage to Myers Park. We lost several trees and large limbs. A large tree blocked the entrance to the park for about an hour until Tyler and Pat could get it re-opened. Our Parks & Rec. team did an outstanding job cleaning it up very quickly, just in time for the 4th of July weekend. Thank you to those who volunteered their time helping us pick up limbs. We received many compliments from park patrons on the speed in which we got everything cleaned up. I'm extremely proud of my staff for all their efforts.
- Our summer concert series kicked off July 9th with Darkwine.
- Wi-Fi is an issue, causing us to lose money in revenue and many of our campers have complained of poor service. Cell service within the park is also becoming a major problem.
- Annual Lansing Lion's Club BBQ was on July 4th.
- Women Swimmin' for Hospicare is fast approaching. Their crew has been great to work with.
- Hydrilla treatments have started again.
- Lifeguards and others are monitoring for HAB's daily. Salt Point did have one offshore last week.
- Hydrilla treatments will be on-going throughout the summer in and around Myers Park Marina.

TRAILS:

- The crew is trimming some dangerous trees.
- We hope to begin work on the easements given by Jack Young.
- Mowing and regular maintenance continues.
- We should have a Townwide Trail Master Plan very soon. The working group met on July 9th to look at the first draft.

TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY CENTER:

- The HVAC system is having some issues. Many due to water flow problems. Halco has been notified. Some work still needs to be completed. The permit will not be closed until the carpentry items are taken care of.
- The community center is experiencing more issues with the AC units, we once again troubleshooted the problem and got it back going again. This is becoming a weekly issue.
- Our America 250 banners were hung up on July 2nd.

MEETINGS:

Department Head
Personnel Management Committee
Inter-Departmental
Trails Working Group
Tompkins County Recreation Directors
Women Swimmin' for Hospicare
LCSD – scholarship and administration
Paddle-N-More
Friends of Lansing Center Trail (FOLCT)
Friends of Salt Point (FOSP) - walkthrough
HALCO – troubleshooting

This is only a very brief overview of what the Parks & Recreation department does. If you have questions or would like to meet with me one on one, please let me know.

Pat also reported:

Thank you to his staff, volunteers and fire department for their assistance with clean up from the July 1st storm which included several lost trees and a blocked park entrance. With everyone’s assistance, the park looked great for the July 4th weekend.

HVAC System at Town Hall is still not complete. It is struggling to keep up with the demand for air conditioning.

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING REPORT – NATHANIEL ROGERS

Submitted the following report to the Town Board and it was included in the meeting packet which was available on Town of Lansing website and as a handout.

**Planning & Code Enforcement
July 2026 Report**

Zoning Code Update

The Zoning Advisory Committee continues to work with consultants from Colliers Engineering to update the Town of Lansing’s Zoning Code. Four Zoning Advisory Committee meetings have been held; reviewing public engagement efforts, examining and providing feedback on the current zoning code, and commenting on materials developed by consultants. Staff continue to meet with a representative of the New York Department of State to provide updates on the Town’s progress.

Staffing Update

Efforts are underway to return the Planning & Code Enforcement Department to full staffing levels. A Codes Administrative Assistant started with the Department on July 7th. The Senior Code Enforcement Officer retired July 15th, and candidates to fill the position have been interviewed. Interviews for the open Planner position will be held in the coming weeks.

Planning Board Projects

The following were heard at the June 22nd Planning Board Meeting

- 1. Project:** Minor Subdivision - 204 Wilson Road
Applicant: James Wright, Owner
Location: 204 Wilson Road TPN 27.-1-36.24
Project Description: Minor Subdivision of an existing 6.146-acre lot into Parcel A (1.229 ac) and Parcel B (4.917 ac). This project is located in the RA Zoning District.
SEQR: Unlisted/Uncoordinated Action - SEAF Part 2 required
Anticipated Action: Public Hearing, Approved
- 2. Project:** Minor Subdivision - 8-18 Verizon Lane
Applicant: Bill Duthie, Owner
Location: 8-18 Verizon Lane TPN 30.-1-16.32, 6 Verizon Lane TPN 30.-1-16.31
Project Description: Minor Subdivision of the existing 13.21-acre lot to create Parcel 30.-1-16.32 (9.15 ac) and Parcel 30.-1-16.31 (4.06 ac). Proposed parcels are currently separated by a lease line and have not been formally subdivided at this time. This project is located in the IR zoning district.
SEQR: Unlisted/Uncoordinated Action
Anticipated Action: Consideration of proposed subdivision
- 3. Project:** Site Plan Review - 339 Jerry Smith Road
Applicant: Melissa Aucompaugh, Environmental Design Partnership Representative
Location: 339 Jerry Smith Road TPN 16.-1-10.2
Project Description: Site Plan Review of proposed large scale battery energy storage facility. This project is located in the AG zoning district.
SEQR: Unlisted/Uncoordinated Action
Anticipated Action: Set Public Hearing, SEQR

- 4. **Project:** Major Subdivision - 0 N. Triphammer Road
Applicant: Wayne Britton
Location: 0 N. Triphammer Road TPN 37.1-4-2.12
Project Description: Preliminary Sketch Plan Review of a 10 lot, Major Subdivision. This project is located in the R1 zoning district.
SEQR: Unlisted/Uncoordinated Action - SEAF Part 2 required
Anticipated Action: Sketch Review, Set Public Hearing, SEQR

Zoning Board of Appeals Projects

The following were heard at the June 10th Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

- 1. **Project:** 13 Waterwagon Road Area Variance
Applicant: Scott Hicks
Location: 13 Waterwagon Road, TPN 42.-1-1.121
Project Description: The applicant has applied for an Area Variance for a sign installed at 13 Waterwagon Road. The applicant is seeking relief from Town of Lansing Zoning Law § 210-6 to build two 30 square foot signs where commercial signs are not to exceed 18 square feet. This project is located in the R2 zoning district.

SEQR: This project is a Type II action
Anticipated Action: Complete Public Hearing, issue conditions & approval

Code Enforcement Data

June 2026

	June	Year To Date
Fees Collected	\$9,478.00	\$34,791.60
Estimated Project Cost	\$1,066,721.00	\$4,784,572.00
Building Permits	34	119
Certificates of Occupancy	16	103
New One & Two Family Residences	1	6
New Multi-Family Residences	0	1
New Businesses	0	0

TOWN CLERK REPORT – DEBBIE MUNSON

No Report.

LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT – ANNIE JOHNSON

Submitted the following report to the Town Board and it was included in the meeting packet which was available on Town of Lansing website and as a handout.

**TOWN BOARD UPDATES
FROM THE LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY
JULY 2026**

- 1. Don’t forget that if the Library is closed, you still have access to Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy!
- 2. The Library continues to provide free delivery to Woodsedge. The Library also has a mobile wireless hotspot available for check out. The Wi-Fi is not password protected. The community is welcome to park in the lot to access the Internet.
- 3. Learn to play American Mah Jongg every Wednesday at 10:00 am.
- 4. Learn T’ai Chi Fridays from 10:30-11:30 am.

5. The Library has an Empire Pass and a pass to the Museum of the Earth available for check out. Board games, puzzles, story time kits, and STEAM kits are also available.
6. The Library now offers free period products using an Aunt Flow dispenser. There are currently free covid tests available as well.
7. Chair Yoga is offered every Monday at 9:45 am.
8. There is a year-round book sale at the Library. Book donations are currently paused.
9. The Library will be a rest stop on the Y We Ride Bike Tour on 8/1.
10. There will be Crafty Teen Tuesdays this summer for ages 12 and up, 5:00-6:30. 7/7 - Needle Felting, 7/14 - Bead and Wire Workshop.
11. The Friends will be hosting a Cookie Contest on Sunday August 30th from 2-4 pm at the All Saints Parish center.
12. The Lansing Community Co-Working Club will be meeting Mondays (11:30-3:30) at the Library and Wednesdays at the Community Center. This is an opportunity for remote workers to connect.
13. Summer Reading has started and you can still register! For the month of July: 9th - Owl Pellet Dissection, 11th - Jack and the Turnip Root, 16th - Tanglewood Nature Center, 24th - Dino Storytelling, 28th - Brian has an Uke, 30th - Museum of the Earth.
14. The Library will be closed on July 4th (Independence Day) and 13th (upgrade to the computer system).

LANSING YOUTH SERVICES REPORT – RICK ALVORD

No report.

TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT – MIKE SIGLER

Reported the following:

He reported a significant cockroach problem at the Asteri building downtown which is being handled by professional pest control. He noted the issue has begun to spread to other downtown locations, including the bus station and the bus driver’s lounge. The current property owner is attempting to evict dozens of residents and is looking to sell the building.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **RESOLUTION SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTING LOCAL LAW # OF 2026 TO AMEND TOWN CODE CHAPTER 80: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

RESOLUTION 26-87

**RESOLUTION SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF
LOCAL LAW NO__ OF 2026 OF THE TOWN OF LANSING TO AMEND THE
CODE OF THE TOWN OF LANSING CHAPTER 80, DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, The Town Board proposes to amend Town Code Chapter 80 as follows:

- **§80-2. Transfer of Highway Department and Other Town Functions.**
The public works and construction and maintenance functions of the Parks and Recreation Department are emplaced within the Public Works Department. Additional town functions, responsibilities, offices, duties, departments, and

personnel may be added to or removed from the Public Works Department as determined from time to time by the town board.

- **§80-3. Responsibilities.**
 - A. The Public Works Department's responsibilities shall include: (i) the town's highway functions, along with responsibilities for the construction, improvement, repair, care, and maintenance of the highways, roads, bridges, sluices, waterways, culverts, and sidewalks; (ii) construction, excavation, maintenance, and repair of all town real estate, buildings, building-related facilities, parks, recreational fields, walkways, trails, and pathways; (iii) water and sewer infrastructure and stormwater facilities; and (iv) cemeteries of, owned by, or which are the responsibility of the town.
 - B. The Public Works Department will undertake and perform all public works, construction, general maintenance, repairs, and improvements in all town parks and recreation areas, working with the Town Park and Recreation Department as needed or required. For purposes of clarity this does not include the management of recreational programming or management of the parks and trails themselves.
 - C. Unless the town board shall specify to the contrary, or applicable state or federal law require otherwise, whenever any positions, work, responsibilities, or duties are transferred or assigned to the Public Works Department, it shall be the responsibility of the Administrator of the Public Works Department to collaborate and assist other town staff, officers, and department heads relative to the coordination and management of such work or duties.
 - D. The Public Works Department shall provide all services required or desirable in order to enable the highway superintendent to fulfill any duty or responsibility imposed upon such official, whether or not in their capacity as town highway superintendent, by this chapter, or by any other local law, ordinance, or regulation of the town, or further by any lawful directive of the town board or any statute or regulation of the State of New York.
 - E. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this chapter shall not prohibit the town board from providing for construction of any public building, street, highway, road, park, trail, pathways, walkways, or other improvement or facility by public contract.

WHEREAS, upon deliberation there upon, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing will be held on the 19th day of August, 2026, at 6:31 pm, to consider public input and comments upon such proposed Local Law, and to hear all persons, at 29 Auburn Road, Lansing, NY, interested in the subject thereof, and to take such action thereon as is required or permitted by law; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of Lansing, Tompkins County, New York, is hereby authorized and directed to cause a Notice of Public Hearing to be published in the official newspaper of the Town of Lansing, and also to post a copy thereof on the Town signboard maintained by the Town Clerk, in accord with the law.

b. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT FROM ABS SOLUTIONS, LLC, FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

RESOLUTION 26-88

RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT FROM ABS SOLUTIONS, LLC, FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, in August 2024, the Town of Lansing approved a budget for the new Department of Public Works (DPW) building, which included a budget line of \$100,000 for Technology Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment for the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Town requested a quote from ABS Solutions, LLC, for network equipment and installation, utilizing the New York State Office of General Services bid list; and

WHEREAS, the equipment has been chosen for the new facility, and Proposal #47896 has been received from ABS Solutions, LLC, with pricing per the New York State contract in the amount of \$40,549.00; and

WHEREAS, upon and after due deliberation upon this matter, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has determined as follows, and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves contracting with ABS Solutions, LLC for the network equipment and installation for the new DPW building; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Highway Superintendent/Director of Public Works be and hereby is authorized to affect the following purchase of the equipment and installation as itemized in Proposal #47896 from ABS Solutions, LLC.

c. **RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL BRADFORD TO THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-LEVEL 1 IN THE CODES & PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

RESOLUTION 26-89

RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL BRADFORD TO THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-LEVEL 1 IN THE CODES & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2025, the Town Board approved establishment of the position of Administrative Assistant-Level 1 by Resolution 25-95; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Town Budget includes the addition of an Administrative Assistant in the Codes and Planning Department; and

WHEREAS, the interview committee has determined that Rachel Bradford possesses the necessary knowledge and skills to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Groff, Town Supervisor, appointed Rachel Bradford as an Administrative Assistant-Level 1, effective Tuesday, July 7, 2026; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lansing does hereby ratify the appointment made by the Town Supervisor of Rachel Bradford as Administrative Assistant-Level 1 as follows:

1. Effective Tuesday, July 7, 2026, Rachel Bradford is hereby appointed as an Administrative Assistant-Level 1, with the same Town perquisites and benefits as are available to all employees of the Town and to such position. This position will be in the non-competitive class under the New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (NY HELPS) program. At such time as the NY HELPS program concludes, these appointments will convert to a competitive classification;
2. This appointment will be full-time at 36.5 hours per week;
3. The hiring wage rate will be \$24.00 per hour, as listed in the Office Staff Job Classification System "Class AA Step 1";

4. The probationary period for this appointment is hereby set at 26 weeks with no further action by the Town Board if there is successful completion of the probationary period as determined by the Town Supervisor;
5. The Town Personnel Officer be and hereby is authorized to make such changes to the Town's employment and civil service rosters and file required civil service forms to place into immediate effect such changes and these resolutions, including by the filing of form MSD 428, if required.

d. **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN
CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FROM ONRHO HOME IMPROVEMENT CORP.**

RESOLUTION 26-90

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN
CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FROM ONRHO HOME IMPROVEMENT CORP.**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, the contractor, Onrho Home Improvement Corporation, was awarded the bid to replace the roofs on the Community Center and the School House, with the work commencing in April, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2026, Onrho submitted a Change Order request, stating that "During construction operations at the School House Building, additional deteriorated soffit conditions and associated exterior finish carpentry work were identified that were not included within the original contract scope;" and

WHEREAS, "Following field review and project coordination, sections of the existing soffit assembly, decorative exterior wood molding, and supporting wood blocking were determined to be deteriorated beyond reuse and require replacement in order to properly restore the affected areas and maintain the architectural character, appearance, and structural integrity of the historic building.;" and

WHEREAS, the scope of work included installing approximately 230 square feet of replacement pine soffit, approximately 152 linear feet of decorative exterior wood molding, wood blocking, surface preparation, priming, painting, equipment, fasteners, cleanup, and incidental work; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the additional work, inclusive of 10% overhead and profit, as itemized in the Onrho Change Order Request No. 02 is \$11,110.00; and

WHEREAS, upon due deliberation thereupon, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby

RESOLVED, to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign Change Order No. 2 from Onrho Home Improvement Corp.

e. **RESOLUTION APPROVING AUDIT AND BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**

RESOLUTION 26-91

RESOLUTION APPROVING AUDIT AND BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

The bills were reviewed by Councilperson Joseph Wetmore and Councilperson Christine Montague. The Bookkeeper or the Accountant is hereby authorized to pay the following bills and to make the following budget modifications.

CONSOLIDATED ABSTRACT # 007

TOWN OF LANSING				
Abstract # 007			07/13/26	
Summary by Fund			15:37:09	
Code	Fund	Prepays	Unpays	Totals
A	GENERAL FUND TOWNWIDE	6,631.31	197,646.99	204,278.30
B	GENERAL FUND OUTSIDE VILLAGE	147.54	19,817.28	19,964.82
DA	HIGHWAY FUND TOWNWIDE		20,721.19	20,721.19
DB	HIGHWAY FUND OUTSIDE VILLAGE	204.39	65,296.86	65,501.25
HG	DPW FACILITY PROJECT	144.48	95,750.30	95,894.78
SL1-	LUDLOWVILLE LIGHTING DISTRICT	120.15		120.15
SL2-	WARREN ROAD LIGHTING DISTRICT	797.08		797.08
SL3-	LAKEWATCH LIGHTING DISTRICT	1,329.12		1,329.12
SS1-	WARREN RD SEWER	235.12	32,564.96	32,800.08
SS3-	CHERRY ROAD SEWER DISTRICT	24.49	8,057.24	8,081.73
SW	LANSING WATER DISTRICTS	3,169.80	7,690.23	10,860.03
TA	TRUST & AGENCY	1,170.34	79,797.08	80,967.42
Total:		13,973.82	527,342.13	541,315.95

CONSOLIDATED ABSTRACT # 701				
TOWN OF LANSING				
Abstract # 701			07/13/26	
Summary by Fund			15:38:23	
Code	Fund	Prepays	Unpays	Totals
A	GENERAL FUND TOWNWIDE		2,582.73	2,582.73
HG	DPW FACILITY PROJECT		937,293.13	937,293.13
Total:			939,875.86	939,875.86

Budget Modifications for July 15th, 2026 Town Board Meeting

General Part Town

- B Fund

July 15th, 2026

FROM	TO	FOR	AMOUNT		
B599 (Appropriated Fund Balance)	B1420.401 (Attorney/Legal - Zoning Board)	To cover year to date legal expenses in excess of budgeted amount	\$1,224.00		
B599 (Appropriated Fund Balance)	B1420.402 (Attorney/Legal - Planning Board)	To cover year to date legal expenses in excess of budgeted amount	\$3,723.28		
B599 (Appropriated Fund Balance)	B1420.404- (Attorney/Legal - Cayuga Solar)	To cover year to date engineering expenses in excess of budgeted amount	\$2,718.00		
B599 (Appropriated Fund Balance)	B1440.402 (Engineering - Planning Board)	To cover year to date engineering expenses in excess of budgeted amount	\$4,491.75	\$10,933.03	Total Fund Balance to be Used
B8020.101 (Planner)	B8020.400 (Planning Board - Contractual)	To move \$\$ from personal services line to contractual, to cover MRB expenses	\$7,666.08		

B8020.101 (Planner)	B8020.404 (Planning Board - Cont. - Cayuga Solar)	To move \$\$ from personal services line to contractual, to cover MRB expenses	\$5,308.75
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Highway Fund
Outside Village - DB Fund
July 15th, 2026

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
DB3501 - State Aid - Consolidated	DB5112.400 - Improvements - Contractual	Per amended Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys, Res. 26-75	\$29,143.72

f. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS 26-87 – 26-91

RESOLUTION 26-92

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS 26-87 – 26-91

The following Resolutions were duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, upon due deliberation thereupon, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby

RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Resolutions **26-87 – 26-91**, are hereby approved as presented and amended, and

The question of the adoption of such proposed Consent Agenda Resolutions were duly motioned by Councilperson Joseph Wetmore, duly seconded by Councilperson Christine Montague, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake – Aye Councilperson Christine Montague – Aye
Councilperson Joseph Wetmore – Aye Supervisor Ruth Groff – Aye

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolutions were approved, carried, and duly adopted on July 15, 2026.

RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH MANCUSO BRIGHTMAN PLLC FOR MATTER IN THE
APPELLATE DIVISION

Prior to moving or discussing this resolution, Councilperson Joseph Wetmore recused himself to avoid the appearance of conflict. He left the meeting during the discussion and vote.

Supervisor Ruth Groff highlighted the following:

- Under NYS Town Law, Town has a legal obligation to protect and indemnify its employees and officials when they are sued for actions taken in the line of duty, citing Town Law § 65.1 and Public Officers Law § 18.
- Selected firm is less per hour than the Town’s internal legal counsel and was selected for their specific experience in this area of law.
- Town’s insurance policies were reviewed, and they only cover a financial settlement, it does not cover legal fees.
- Board performed its due diligence to ensure the agreement is financially and legally sound for the taxpayers.

Councilperson Judy Drake shared her comments:

- Emphasized elected officials, including board members, highway superintendent and town clerk are considered town employees under state law and have a legal right to a defense provided by the municipality.
 - She noted that the Town is effectively being sued through the individual, Town has a responsibility to provide that defense.
- It is best to have Town hire the attorney directly versus individual hiring their own and seeking reimbursement. This approach gives the Town more control over firm selection and total legal costs incurred.
- Proposed an amendment to the resolution presented by adding a “resolved” to the resolution stating the defendant must reimburse the Town for all legal fees if found guilty and removed from office.
- Requested Town Attorney Guy Krogh draft an agreement between the Town and the defendant to formalize the repayment obligation.
- The Board determined the most fiscally responsible path for a situation which we are legally required to address.

Councilperson Christine Montague agreed with the friendly amendment proposed by Councilperson Judy Drake and had no further comment beyond what had been previously said.

RESOLUTION 26-93

RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MANCUSO BRIGHTMAN PLLC FOR MATTER IN THE APPELLATE DIVISION

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, the Town Board and/or its individual members are the subject of a special proceeding filed under Public Officers Law §36 in the Appellate Division, and the Petitioner is represented by attorneys who also represent or co-represent the data center landowner or applicants; and

WHEREAS, Mancuso Brightman PLLC was interviewed and engaged to represent the defendant in such matter, and this matter is a Type II Action under SEQRA; so now therefore, upon due deliberation thereupon, it was

RESOLVED, that the engagement agreement from Mancuso Brightman PLLC be and hereby is approved, that the same may be executed by any responsible Town officer, and that all prior approvals, acts, and undertakings arising or occurring prior to this resolution in relation to this engagement or such proceeding be and hereby are ratified by the Town Board.

And be it further RESOLVED, that Councilperson Joseph Wetmore, defendant, be required to reimburse the Town for all legal counsel fees associated with the case, if defendant is found guilty and is removed from office.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson Christine Montague, duly seconded by Councilperson Judy Drake, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake – Aye	Councilperson Christine Montague – Aye
Councilperson Joseph Wetmore – Recused	Supervisor Ruth Groff – Aye

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution, as amended, was approved, carried, and duly adopted on July 15, 2026.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Laurie Hemmings

No report.

Christine Montague

Submitted the following report to the Town Board and it was included in the meeting packet which was available on Town of Lansing website and as a handout.

**Christine Montague
Town Board Member Report
July 2026**

Lansing Housing Authority, June 22

- Woodsedge senior apartments experienced downed trees and siding damage during the mid-June storms. Management will get quotes for repairing the damage and fixing gardening boxes.
- LHA decided on a renovation contractor and cabinet supplier to be able to upgrade kitchens during unit turnovers at Woodsedge.

Tompkins County Youth Services Advisory Board, June 22

- We learned that DHS (Department of Homeland Security) is instituting a program to identify youth who might threaten their schools, etc, based on certain behaviors. The County Youth Services Director went to training on the program.

Conservation Advisory Council, July 1

- Members brought to the group two ideas that Cornell professors and their students have launched locally, and which the CAC could participate in:
 1. One is setting up networks of neighbors to help residents in emergencies, such as checking on elderly neighbors or those who might need generators. These could be developed as part of a climate resiliency or emergency plan, which helps a town attain Climate Smart Community status and elevate grant applications. The Town of Caroline has a report about how they set up these neighborhood networks with Cornell at <https://labs.aap.cornell.edu/sites/aap-labs/files/2025-12/Caroline%20rural%20resilience%20-%20final%20report%20v2.pdf>
 2. Another Cornell class helps local communities plan and build light structures, such as bridges on trails and stream control systems. Information about Engineering In The Community is at <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2026/06/student-built-bridges-connect-communities-thanks-engineering-course>
- The CAC is finalizing plans for its BioBlitz on Saturday, August 8 at the Lansing Center Trail. Experts will give talks at times throughout the day that are good for seeing species of birds, insects, bats, fungi and plants. Anyone can log their observations in the iNaturalist link that will be distributed along with advertising for the event. The object is to have a record of the plants and animals living in the meadow. Coordination of education, schedules, parking, and restrooms was discussed.

Judy Drake

Gave the following verbal report at the meeting:

Staffing and Recruitment:

Thank you to Bookkeeper Mary Ellen Albrecht for getting all the applications and interviews coordinated. She welcomed Code Administrative Assistant Rachel Bradford who started last week. Town has successfully found a replacement for retiring Senior Code Enforcement Officer. Should only be a two-week lag before the new hire starts. Planner interviews begin tomorrow. Vacant Maintenance Supervisor position will be

filled with an internal candidate. A laborer position will be vacant in the Parks & Recreation Department.

Supervisor Ruth Groff explained the Town has a shared services agreement with the Town of Ithaca to provide backup inspection coverage, if necessary, during the gap before new code enforcement officer starts.

Joseph Wetmore

Submitted the following report to the Town Board and it was included in the meeting packet which was available on Town of Lansing website and as a handout.

**Joseph Wetmore
Town Board Member Report
July 2026**

**Planning Board
Monday, June 22-6:30 – 8:30pm**

An application was submitted for a minor subdivision of the 6.146-acre property located at 204 Wilson Road (TPN 27.-1-36.24) in the RA Zoning District. The proposal subdivides the existing parcel into Parcel A (1.229 acres) and Parcel B (4.917 acres). The project was classified as an Unlisted, Uncoordinated Action under SEQR, requiring completion of SEAF Part 2, with a public hearing identified as the anticipated action. The applicant was present to discuss the proposal and respond to questions. Following discussion, the Board approved the project.

An application was submitted for a minor subdivision of the properties located at 6 and 8–18 Verizon Lane (TPNs 30.-1-16.31 and 30.-1-16.32) in the IR Zoning District. The proposal would formally subdivide the existing 13.21-acre property into two parcels: a 9.15-acre parcel (TPN 30.-1-16.32) and a 4.06-acre parcel (TPN 30.-1-16.31). Although the parcels are currently separated by a lease line, they have not previously been formally subdivided. The project is classified as an Unlisted, Uncoordinated Action under SEQR. Discussion focused on the Verizon Lane lease, dedication of the road to the Town, the Stormwater Operation, Management and Reporting Agreement (SOMRA), the associated site plan, and outstanding requirements needed to complete the plans before consideration of the proposed subdivision.

An application was submitted for Site Plan Review of a proposed large-scale battery energy storage facility at 339 Jerry Smith Road (TPN 16.-1-10.2) in the AG Zoning District. The project is classified as an Unlisted, Uncoordinated Action under SEQR. The Board reviewed the proposal and discussed a range of topics, including ambient noise, cooling and ventilation systems, battery charging and discharging operations, site visibility, landscaping, facility dimensions and spacing, access and emergency vehicle circulation, fire protection measures, equipment specifications, decommissioning, battery life, warranties, lease terms, financial security, project costs, host community benefits, stormwater management, potential impacts to northern long-eared bats, communication with neighboring properties, and completion of the Full SEAF. The Board scheduled a public hearing for July 27, 2026.

An application was submitted for a preliminary sketch plan review of a proposed 10-lot major subdivision at 0 N. Triphammer Road (TPN 37.1-4-2.12) in the R1 Zoning District. The project is classified as an Unlisted, Uncoordinated Action under SEQR, requiring completion of SEAF Part 2. The Board reviewed the proposed subdivision layout and discussed road design, lot sizes and frontage, water, septic, and utility services, whether the proposal should be considered a conservation subdivision, stormwater management features including ponds and berms, open space, public access easements, coordination with the Trail Committee, water main connections, soil conditions, and SEQR requirements. The Board scheduled a public hearing for July 27, 2026.

**Monthly Check-In | Lansing Smart Growth Zoning Update (C1003123)
Tuesday, July 7-10:00 – 11:00am**

Discussed the current status of the Zoning Update and reviewed the necessary steps to ensure all grant requirements are being met. Additional discussion focused on the reimbursement process, including expectations for timing. It was noted that reimbursements may take several months to process, but the first reimbursement request is anticipated soon.

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Working Group
Thursday, July 9-9:00 – 10:30am

- **Comprehensive Master Plan:** Reviewed the first draft of the Comprehensive Master Plan and provided extensive comments and feedback for revisions.
- **Myers Road Trail:** Discussed feedback received from residents following the distribution of the trail information letter.
- **ITCTC Feasibility Study Funding:** Discussed next steps for moving forward with available funding opportunities, including:
 - Approximately **\$5,000** for signage and wayfinding.
 - Approximately **\$6,000** for design and liability evaluation.

Ruth Groff
No report.

WORK SESSION

Planning Department Budget and Staffing

Supervisor Ruth Groff asked to discuss the Planning Department’s budget and staffing, particularly comparing the cost of hiring a staff planner versus the fees the Town is currently paying to the MRB Group, an outside consulting firm.

- **Cost Concerns:** Board feels internal staff planner would be more cost effective for the Town than an outside consulting firm. Last month’s MRB invoice was nearly \$7,000.
- **Workload:** Director of Planning Nathaniel Rogers emphasized the need for a staff planner, noting the upcoming Planning Board agenda packet was around 1,700 pages (all which require a review).

The consensus of the Board was to fulfill the staff planner position.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

Councilperson Christine Montague inquired on the status of developing an updated Emergency Preparedness Plan. She was inquiring about Cornell researchers assisting in creating neighborhood networks where residents check on one another during emergencies.

Supervisor Groff acknowledged the Town has an outdated plan and it needs refreshing, however, current staffing shortages and high stress levels make it difficult to prioritize the project now. She confirmed the item remains a goal for future action.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson Christine Montague moved to **ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, CREDIT OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON/CORP, OR MATTERS LEADING TO SAID DISMISSAL, REMOVAL, PROMOTION, APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DISCIPLINE, DEMOTION, OR SUSPENSION AT 7:28 PM.**

Councilperson Judy Drake seconded the motion.
All in Favor – 4 Opposed – 0

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson Joseph Wetmore moved to **EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:38 PM.**
Councilperson Judy Drake seconded the motion.
All in Favor – 4 Opposed – 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Councilperson Joseph Wetmore moved to **ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:39 PM.**
Supervisor Ruth Groff seconded the motion.
All in Favor – 4 Opposed – 0

Minutes taken and executed by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica L. Hall
Deputy Town Clerk