

TOWN OF ARIETTA

February 2, 2026

Town Board Regular Meeting
Piseco School Meeting Room

Supervisor Rhodes opened the meeting at 5:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Christian Rhodes-Supervisor-present

Jacquelyn Grier- present

Jennifer Smith-present

Douglas Stobo-present

Christy Wilt-absent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Small-Highway Superintendent

Mel LaScola-Codes and Zoning Officer

Bill Hotaling-Assessor

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the January 20, 2026 meeting as presented by the Town Clerk via e-mail.

Doug Stobo offered the motion to accept the January 20, 2026 minutes. Jenny Smith seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

Resolution 26-02-09 was read. (Highway Purchase Surplus Equipment) Jacqui Grier offered the motion to approve. Doug Stobo asked if this was contingent on the County Board of Supervisors approval. Chris Rhodes said they had discussed it on Committee Day last week and there wasn't any objection so the Resolution is on the agenda for the Thursday February 5th meeting. If it is not approved then this Resolution will be null and void. Chris asked for a second on the motion. Doug Stobo seconded it. Chris asked if there was any other discussion. There was none. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed. The Agenda and Resolution are attached to these minutes.

COMMITTEES:

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- Jacqui Grier said everything is going great with the trails. There is lots of traffic on the trails. Chris asked if there was any new information on the fuel system at the airport. Jacqui said they want a lot of money. Chris noted that was the reason for

reaching out to see if there were alternatives to the card reader. So far there is nothing else to share.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo reported the third contact he had decided it was too far for him to travel to bid on the painting job at the ~~Community Hall~~. Lower Town Equipment Garage. Doug did call Sherwin-Williams and they referred him to Sacandaga Paint & Stain Company so he called them. Doug took it as a good sign because the man was on vacation out of the country and called him back. Hopefully when he returns, he will be the third bid.

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy Wilt was absent. Jenny Smith had nothing to report.

Lake/Dam/Cemetery- Jenny Smith had nothing new to report.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- Chris Rhodes noted that the insurance concerning the Piseco Volunteer Fire Department and the town was upgraded to receive more revenue at a higher interest rate. The plan should be more on schedule to be fully funded as was originally planned. It was locked in at 4.25%. We have only been getting about 3%.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Craig Small noted he attended a meeting of the county and town highway departments recently. They discussed projects happening around the county. They are trying to be sure there is continuity between the towns. He handed out the Hamilton County DPW Snow & Ice Policy to all present and has copies if the public has questions about how these matters are handled. Craig told everyone of a new plow blade of which we have two. The blade is sectioned off into one foot sections each having it's own carbides and good sized springs. Each section works independently. The county obtained a grant for them. The blade works really well using less salt and scrapes more. It works well with sand too. They do require more maintenance but other than that, they are a welcome addition. He noted right now the guys are working on cutting back the snowbanks for better visibility to motorists especially at the intersections.

Codes and Zoning- Zoning Officer Mel LaScola noted he is working with the Planning Board about the signs. He also wants the other issues concerning lateral expansion and fences worked in while they are doing it. Bill Hotaling is waiting for a response from Robin Burgess of the APA to see if the APA is defining as we are. (i.e lateral expansion). Chris suggested when Mel sees Planning Board Chairman Eric Greiner to suggest Eric reach out to Robin Burgess as Bill has. It would be a good idea if the changes we are making on signs are going to be accepted by the APA before we go through the process to change them. He should also check on if they consider fences a structure.

Old Business- T-Mobile Home Town Grant – Town Board members had agreed to bring ideas to submit as possible uses for the grant Jenny Smith presented at the last meeting.

Chris Rhodes suggested enhancement of the airport including buying 5 weatherproof folding picnic tables, 1 weatherproof ADA accessible table, 4 weatherproof 5 ft. benches, upgrade the public bathroom fixtures to energy saving, low water usage and a new roof to improve

aesthetics and make the building more inviting. The total including shipping comes to \$46,806.00 which is under the \$50,000.00 grant amount. Currently there are benches up there that are dilapidated. We just got rid of picnic tables that were in bad condition. The energy saving, low water usage fixtures would be on target for what the grant is requiring. The town had the roof painted but it is peeling again. He asked if anyone had other suggestions.

Jacqui Grier indicated she wanted us to pursue the park idea next to the Piseco Community Hall, not the airport. She also did not think a bandstand as Jenny Smith had suggested at the last meeting was good for us to explore. They do a great job in Speculator with the Music On The Point. It is not funded by the town or village there so we should not compete with them.

Doug Stobo agreed with Jacqui on making use of the area next to the Piseco Community Hall. Chris felt there is a lot of traffic at the airport with the playground, warming hut and walking path. Picnic tables and benches would be utilized there.

Craig Small noted it would be great to extend the walking path that goes to the end of the airport. It would be done with natural products like wood chips, nothing paved. It would also extend to cross-country skiing possibilities. He would also like to see something done about a park by the Piseco Community Hall.

Chris noted the Lake Champlain, Lake George Regional Planning Board has applied for a design and feasibility grant which is more of a study.

Mel LaScola thought it would be great if grills could be provided where the picnic tables would be situated. It was unknown how it would be managed as wood or propane would need to be provided.

Jenny Smith noted the grant is a revitalization grant and it is quarterly. Jenny asked if she should take this information and get it in a format so as to apply for it. Everyone agreed both the park idea and the ideas for the airport should be considered when applying. Jenny will create a draft for everyone to look over.

New Business- Highway 2026 Form 284 – Highway Superintendent Craig Small puts this form out to designate where CHIPS funds are spent. (\$135,000.00) Jacqui Grier offered the motion to approve this as presented. Doug Stobo seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed. The agreement was passed around by the Town Clerk for all to sign.

A motion was required to pay the bills as presented. Doug Stobo offered the motion. Jenny Smith seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

Chris Rhodes asked for a motion to approve the financial statements for January. Jacqui Grier offered the motion. Doug Stobo seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT-There was no public comment.

Jenny Smith asked when there is an accident and a stuck vehicle needs to get pulled out of the woods, who do you contact? Craig Small said DEC. If there are injuries, call the Sheriffs Dept. and they will dispatch whoever is needed.

Town Clerk – The first month resulted in no fees being collected. Taxes are coming in regularly, very few problems. It was noted she went to Newly Elected Officials School January 14 – 16, 2026 in Albany. Good conversations with other Town Clerks. There are many new Town Clerks. Minutes are now Accepted, not Approved.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday February 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Piseco School Meeting Room due to the Monday Presidents Day holiday.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacqui Grier offered the motion, and Jenny Smith seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Marie C. Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

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Agenda

February 2, 2026

5pm at Piseco Common School

Town of Arietta

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Motion to approve minutes for the January 20, 2026, meeting

- Resolutions
 - **26-02-09 Highway Purchase Surplus Equipment**

- **Snowmobile Trails – Grier**
- **Town Buildings / Grounds - Stobo**
- **Recreation / Website / Campsite – Wilt/Smith**
- **Lake / Dam / Cemetery - Smith**
- **Finance / Airport / Internal Management / Insurance - Rhodes**
- **Superintendent / Building and Grounds Report /Parks & Recreation– Small**
- **Codes and Zoning – Lascola**

- **Old Business**
 - T-Mobile Home Town Grant discussion

- **New Business**
 - Highway 2026 Form 284

- Motion to accept the bills
- Motion to accept financial statements
- Public Comment
- Designation of next Meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- **Motion to adjourn**

