

# **TOWN OF ARIETTA**

**March 2, 2026**

Town Board Regular Meeting  
Piseco School Meeting Room

Supervisor Rhodes opened the meeting at 5:02 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Christian Rhodes-Supervisor-present

Jacquelyn Grier- present

Jennifer Smith-present

Douglas Stobo-present

Christy Wilt-present

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Craig Small-Highway Superintendent

Bill Hotaling-Assessor

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the February 17, 2026, meeting as presented by the Town Clerk via e-mail. Doug Stobo offered the motion to accept with corrections previously pointed out by Supervisor Rhodes. On the Resolution for T-Mobile Doug Stobo had seconded the motion before Supervisor Rhodes asked for discussion. Also, during that discussion Christy Wilt wondered if anything energy efficient had been considered for the SRE building, not the main Highway building. Jenny Smith seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

Resolution 26-02-13 was read. (Setting Salary for Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Salary) Doug Stobo offered the motion to approve. Chris asked for a second on the motion. Christy Wilt 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 Resolutions are attached to these minutes.

Resolution 26-03-14 was added to the agenda within an hour and a half of the meeting. It was read. (Requesting and Authorizing the County Highway Superintendent to post Weight Restrictions on Town Roads for the year 2026) Jacqui Grier offered the motion to approve. 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.

## **COMMITTEES:**

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- Jacqui Grier had nothing new to report.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo reported he heard from the man from Sacandaga Paint & Stain Company again. He will be here to look at the project tomorrow. (Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>).

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy Wilt has been working up a letter of support for the T-Mobile Grant to help out the Irondequoit (The Inn on Piseco Lake) and the Oxbow Inn. Jenny Smith is also getting some letters. Chris Rhodes suggested approaching the PLA to write a letter. Christy will contact PLA President Doug Phelps. Christy also suggested that at some point the Town recognize the 23 volunteers that are responsible for the Community Pride Day cleanup of roads in Piseco by possibly posting them on the website and/or Facebook.

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

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- Chris Rhodes noted that he reached out to our engineer that is doing the Land Air Space Acquisitions. They received the initial survey drawing on Friday. It had been delayed by the snowfall this season. They are checking it over to be sure they have everything they need. It looks like the surveyor needs to correct a few things before he can send it to us for review. It is progressing but very slowly.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Craig Small said he attended The Highway Superintendents Association meeting. They had invited Assemblyman Smullen and Senator Walczyk. The Senator attended. The focus was to dispute the lack of CHIPS funding. The Association are going on their annual trek to the Capital to advocate for more funding. There are about 490 signed up to attend.

Also, getting back to the discussion on exit interviews from the last meeting, Craig said he talked to some of his staff who left, and he knows why they left. Current staff do not want to talk to office staff or the Town Board about issues but are willing to talk to an impartial person. He said County Personnel Officer Carole Ruiz is willing to do this but needs to find out if she is allowed to. Craig said he knows the main reason for leaving is the pay and the other is with the lack of manpower they are tied down to the job during the winter months to work when needed with the plowing. There is no flexibility being short-staffed. Every town has the same issue. Pulling from another town is not probable as they cannot afford to buy a place to live. Everything that comes up for sale sells immediately and becomes a short-term rental. Jenny Smith wondered if there could be some tax breaks offered to anyone who makes their purchase a long-term rental. Chris said that is part of the discussion with the Town of Washington format he has distributed concerning short-term rentals. The goal is to make more long-term rentals. Caroga Lake is considering that, but Jenny did not have the details to share. Jacqui Grier did not think it was necessary for Carole to do interviews while they are still employed. It is not like we are negotiating anything. It would be good to have Carole do the exit interviews. Craig said he will wait to hear from Carole.

Codes and Zoning- Zoning Officer Mel LaScola is attending training classes in Lake Placid this week.

Old Business- T-Mobile Grant – Jenny Smith said she is working on getting the letters of support and also needs some pictures to submit. Christy Wilt thought she may have pictures of the fly-in. Jacqui Grier thought someone may have pictures of the gazebo at the airport. Jenny and Christy will research pictures. The grant needs to be submitted at the end of the month.

New Business- Chris Rhodes gave everyone a copy of the Town of Washington regulations on short-term rentals to look over. Craig found it and brought it to his attention. He thought it reminded him of what we had in effect, but it went much deeper. He thought some of these could be considered to make more housing available and possibly push them towards more longer-term rentals. He doesn't want to make more rules and regulations but a lot of it makes sense concerning the septic and occupancy limits. It covers safety, fire escape issues plus fireworks to name a few. If the Town Board thinks this is something we could integrate into ours, we could send it to the Planning Board for review for changes to our codes book. He felt it would go under Bed and Breakfast in our codes book. Christy noted the county has regulations for a proposed registry requiring an evacuation diagram, a minimum of \$300,000.00 property injury insurance, fire extinguishers, etc. There would probably be an overlap we could take out of ours seeing it is already covered by the county. Christy will forward the county registry to everyone so it could be compared to determining what is duplicated. Safety is the biggest concern as well as the overtaxing of septic systems. Septic standards should apply the same as motels. Jenny Smith said Caroga Lake is working on theirs and she will forward a copy.

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

A motion was required to accept the financial statements as presented. Doug Stobo offered the motion. Christy Wilt seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT-

Bill Hotaling asked if Mel LaScola had been reappointed to the Assessment Board of Reviews. Chris said he had.

He also said the county Historical Society was discussing the Revolutionary War and is looking for a cannon if anyone knows of one, let him know. He noted that the county has nice banners that Christy Wilt is responsible for. She will forward info to Bill.

He said he has been talking with the APA about the change in the lateral expansion code. It does not seem they are going to go along with us not requiring a variance. He thought maybe the re-wording of the code could work. Chris will remind Planning Board Eric Griener to also contact the APA.

Jenny Smith said now that she is on the Dam Committee she was wondering if there was anything she should be concerned about with all the rain in the forecast. Chris said more towards summer is when she should be concerned. The boards are out (usually October).

When the lake level gets more towards zero in the spring, the boards go in. Craig Small keeps a close eye on the storms to suggest determinations of action to be taken.

Chris noted if everyone agrees, the mid-March meeting scheduled for March 16, 2026 will be cancelled. Everyone agreed.

The next meeting will be on Monday April 6, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Piseco School Meeting Room.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacqui Grier offered the motion, and Doug Stobo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Marie C. Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

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## **Agenda**

**March 2, 2026**

5pm at Piseco Common School

**Town of Arietta**

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Motion to accept the minutes for the February 17, 2026, meeting
  
- Resolutions
  - **26-03-13**      **Setting Salary for Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Salary**
  
- **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 Grant update
  
- **New Business**
  -
  
- Motion to accept the bills
- Motion to accept financial statements
- Public Comment
- Designation for next Meeting Monday, April 6, 2026
- **Motion to adjourn**



