

# TOWN OF ARIETTA

**June 1, 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 – Councilperson - present  
Jennifer Smith – Councilperson - present  
Douglas Stobo – Councilperson - present  
Christy Wilt – Councilperson - present  
Marie Buanno – Town Clerk - present

## OTHERS PRESENT:

Mel LaScola – Zoning Officer  
Bill Hotaling – Assessor  
Steve Woehrle  
Kevin Kennedy  
Mike Hughes  
Matt Sullivan  
Wayne Schermerhorn  
John Mosenthin

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the May 18, 2026, meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk. Jenny Smith offered the motion to accept those minutes. Doug Stobo seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 5:0.

Resolution 26-06-28 was read. (Rescind Resolution #26-05-21 and #26-05-23) The same Town Board members who originally made and seconded the motion must rescind. Res #26-05-21 was motioned by Christy Wilt and seconded by Jenny Smith. Christy Wilt offered the motion to approve the rescinding of it, seconded by Jenny Smith. Res #26-05-23 was motioned by Doug Stobo and seconded by Jenny Smith. Doug Stobo offered the motion to approve the rescinding of it, seconded by Jenny Smith. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 5:0. The Agenda and Resolutions are attached to these minutes.

Supervisor Rhodes explained that Deputy Town Clerk Marion Parslow used to be in his office and the Town Clerk is now in a different office. There is a procedure to file Local Laws with the Secretary of State including a copy of the legal ad. It was discovered there was an oversight and the Local Law had not been advertised so the process needed to start over with a new Resolution.

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Resolution #26-06-29 was read. (Authorizing a Public hearing to Consider Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026 “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”). Doug Stobo offered the motion to approve. Jenny Smith seconded it. Chris asked if there was any discussion. There was none. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 5:0.

## **COMMITTEES:**

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- Jacqui Grier said there was nothing at this time except for addressing the RFQs (request for quotes) that the members of two snowmobile clubs in the audience are here about. Supervisor Rhodes said he and Highway Superintendent Craig Small were in discussion and planned on discussing with the other Board members about how the contracts for the dragging of the snowmobile trails should be awarded going forward. He felt to be fiscally responsible, the Town will be having all snowmobile clubs fill out RFQs to see what plans each club has for the dragging and taking care of all trails, not just the ones in lower Arietta. This will give a fresh take on the fee that the Town is paying, what the state provides, the high snow, the trails and the unfunded trails. Chris, Craig and Jacqui Grier will be working on that and getting it out to all the clubs. Once received back, they will go over them and award contracts. Everything needs to be submitted to the state by September 1<sup>st</sup>. It is hoped they can be sent out and received back for review at the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to see what trails the clubs are interested in maintaining. Contracts will go out shortly after that. It is believed the Pleasant Riders will still have the same trails. The Town would like to see the trails that the Town does in lower Arietta added on to the contract down there. If clubs take care of some of the Town trails there would probably be a surplus of equipment to auction off. There was plenty of snow and plenty of help this past year. Some years the Town Highway Dept. had to groom, and it sometimes resulted in overtime. On another note, Chris said he would like to talk about the airport fuel system. It has been talked about several times. There is money in the airport account we were hoping to use for a generator. Chris asked Jacqui Grier if she thought we should use it now for the fuel system or wait until budget time. It was a toss-up as to which was more important. A generator for the airport would certainly be useful, especially if there was an emergency situation. It was agreed that it should be used for a generator and the fuel system will be put in the budget for next year.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo reported he got ahold of Kayly of Adirondack Extreme Cleaning about the remaining cobwebs and that the windows and doors were not cleaned at the Community Hall. She was in disbelief about the cobwebs, but Supervisor Rhodes actually took pictures of them the next day. Nevertheless, she claims the windows and doors are not included

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in the “deep cleaning” and would be an additional \$500.00. After a little discussion, Christy Wilt made the motion to hire Kayly for the \$500.00 to do all the windows upstairs and downstairs, inside and outside. Seconded by Jacqui Grier. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 5:0. Doug said he would be sure both floors were included. Doug said he also gave Chris Hotaling the stain colors. He is still planning on doing the job in June on the garage.

Chris Rhodes noted Bob Thomson looked at the roof on the Community Hall. He located where the potential leaks were occurring and replaced screws and used silicone to seal it. The fix will probably last for a while but is not a permanent fix.

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy Wilt said the website is up to date. She has had no new contact with DEC to discuss the campsite care. She has two new banners coming from the county for the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of America county wide celebration. She was hoping for one to be placed on Route 8 and one at the Piseco Museum.

There is a kickoff to the celebration at the county building on June 4<sup>th</sup> at noon for the public to attend. It will only be about half an hour with a couple of speakers, and the Lake Pleasant school kids will be reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris asked if Christy had heard from Recreation Director Sheila Crouse. She has not but will reach out to her.

Lake/Dam/Cemetery- Jenny Smith said in lower Arietta there are plans for a kayak get together on the west Branch on July 11<sup>th</sup>. 150 kayaks are expected. Chris Rhodes asked if she had heard from Patrick Vedder about taking down the tree(s) in the cemetery. It was scheduled for some time in May and now we are in June. Jenny will check in with him to see what is going on. His trucks have been seen in the area. On another note, Jenny said she noticed that the cemetery is not on Google maps. She said she has the capacity to add it if that’s what we want to do. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to do so.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- Chris noted he did not have much new to add.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Chris knows that the Highway Dept. has been doing truck repairs. Major repairs were needed on the truck that was used for Route 10 this past year. It has a lot of rust. That is the one that will be leaving when the new truck is outfitted. They are trying to limp it along to get through hauling this summer. They are

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getting ready to pour the floor in the small building behind the Community Hall where the snowmobiles are stored.

Codes and Zoning- Zoning Officer Mel LaScola had nothing new to add.

Bill Hotaling noted Greivance Day was last Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>. No one came in during the 4 – 8 PM time frame. He had a couple of calls. The taxable value is up 4.2 million from last year.

Chris noted the Local Law public hearing is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Marie will put the legal ad in the Hamilton County Express and the Leader Herald. Christy will post on the website.

A motion was required to pay the bills as presented. Jenny Smith offered the motion. Doug Stobo seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 5:0.

General Fund	Vouchers 342 through 352 and 364	\$5,978.21
Highway Fund	Vouchers 353 through 363	\$7,712.89

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 5:0.

## PUBLIC COMMENT-

Bill Hotaling asked about the lake level. Chris said it is 12 inches high. After the weekend rain, it was 14 inches high. It was 3 inches high when the boards went in.

Mel LaScola asked how the tower was coming. A contractor has been hired for it. They ran into some rock ledge on the Spy Lake tower site. The same contractor is doing both Spy Lake and Morehouse. The power line is all dug. They had to blast the last 100 feet. That was done as of last Friday. Right now, they are waiting for National Grid to lay the high voltage line to the top. The tower foundation had to be redesigned because of the ledge. It was an oversight by the contractor as the original plan had the ledge down two feet. They are now waiting to get that redesigned. Originally, they had planned on having the tower erected by the end of July but feel they are about a month behind. Verizon is committed to being on both towers by this fall. This will allow for cell coverage in Piseco. The Morehouse tower is going to help with emergency services a lot. Unfortunately, there will still be a dead spot between Morehouse and Spy Lake around the town line but that has always been an issue. It should be better though.

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Kevin Kennedy noted the Half Moon beach residents are very happy about the brush dump being open all the time. He said they are committed to doing their part in keeping it open. Chris said it would be appreciated if everyone could police the other to be sure it stays open.

Wayne Schermerhorn from the Snow Drifters of Stratford Snowmobile Club introduced John Mosenthin, a club board member. He thanked the Town Board the consideration taken to try to rectify the grooming situation in lower Arietta.

Town Clerk Marie Buanno noted that Chris had wanted her to look into changing our Dog Shelter to a Holding Facility. She contacted Renee Hotaling at DOH and it is all but a done deal. Renee told Marie it was just a matter of changing the terminology on paper once DOH has received a signed copy of the agreement between the town and the Brennan Humane Society. Marie has sent that information and is waiting for confirmation from them in some way. Chris said it would then have to be presented as a Resolution to be voted on.

Marie also reported she took in \$667.00 in fees for May. 8 building permits, 1 tent permit, 2 dog fees and 1 fishing license.

Jacqui Grier noted there have been small red flags posted in the cemetery in memory of those who were volunteer fire department members. Some of the neighbors have complained as they feel the red flags at quick glance denote a foreign country as there are so many and they overpower the American flags. Fire Chief Steve Woehrle stated they are in many cemeteries. They are there to honor the deceased who gave service to volunteer fire departments. He was told he needed permission to put them there. Town Board members and most in attendance at this meeting thought they were tasteful and did not take away from the looks of the cemetery. Jenny Smith is on the cemetery committee and thought it looked awesome. Chris Rhodes will talk to George Sherman to get his take on this as he is on the cemetery committee.

The next meeting will be on Monday June 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Piseco School Meeting Room and will also be the Local Law hearing.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacqui Grier offered the motion, and Doug Stobo seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Marie C. Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

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*in*  
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## **Agenda**

**June 1, 2026**

5 pm at Piseco Common School

**Town of Arietta**

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Motion to accept the minutes for the May 18, 2026, meeting
  
- Resolutions
  - **26-06-28**      **Rescind Resolutions Local Law #01**
  - **26-06-29**      **Public Hearing for Local Law #01**
  
- **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**
  -
  
- **New Business**
  - Rescind Resolutions and Set the Public Hearing for Local Law #01
  
- Motion to accept the bills
- Motion to accept financial statements
- Public Comment
- Designation for next Meeting Monday, June 15, 2026
- **Motion to adjourn**

**TOWN OF ARIETTA**

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School at 1722 State Route 8 in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York, on:

June 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Resolution # 26-06-28

Subject: **Rescind Resolution #26-05-21 and Resolution #26-05-23**

Resolution Offered By: Christy Wilt

WHEREAS: the Town Board of the Town of Arietta must restart the process for Local Law #1 of 2026 because the required advertisement for public notice was not met, and

WHEREAS: the Town Board will need to rescind both Resolution #26-05-21 and #26-05-23 to restart the process to follow public notice requirements, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town of Arietta Town Board will rescind both Resolution #26-05-21 and #26-05-23 and will restart the process for Local Law #1 of 2026.

Seconded by: Jenny Smith and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:

Jacquelyn Grier X  
Jennifer Smith X  
Douglas Stobo X  
Christy Wilt X  
Christian Rhodes X

NOES:

Jacquelyn Grier \_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Smith \_\_\_\_  
Douglas Stobo \_\_\_\_  
Christy Wilt \_\_\_\_  
Christian Rhodes \_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN :

Jacquelyn Grier \_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Smith \_\_\_\_  
Douglas Stobo \_\_\_\_  
Christy Wilt \_\_\_\_  
Christian Rhodes \_\_\_\_

ABSENT:

Jacquelyn Grier \_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Smith \_\_\_\_  
Douglas Stobo \_\_\_\_  
Christy Wilt \_\_\_\_  
Christian Rhodes \_\_\_\_

Marie C. Buanno

Town Clerk

June 1, 2026

Date

**TOWN OF ARIETTA**

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School, 1722 State Route 8, Piseco, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York, on:

June 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-06-29

Subject: **Authorizing a Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Local Law NO. 01 OF 2026 “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”**

Resolution Offered By: Douglas Stobo

**RESOLVED**, that proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026 titled “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”, attached hereto and made a part hereof, be, and the same hereby is, introduced before the Town of Arietta Town Board, and in order to give interested members of the public the opportunity to be heard thereon, the Arietta Town Board shall hold a public hearing at the Meeting Room in the Piseco School on the 15th day of June, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., on the matter of the adoption of said proposed Local Law No. 01 of 2026 titled “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to give notice of such public hearing in the manner provided by law.

Seconded by Jennifer Smith and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN :	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier <u>X</u>	Jacquelyn Grier <u>    </u>	Jacquelyn Grier <u>    </u>	Jacquelyn Grier <u>    </u>
Jennifer Smith <u>X</u>	Jennifer Smith <u>    </u>	Jennifer Smith <u>    </u>	Jennifer Smith <u>    </u>
Douglas Stobo <u>X</u>	Douglas Stobo <u>    </u>	Douglas Stobo <u>    </u>	Douglas Stobo <u>    </u>
Christy Wilt <u>X</u>	Christy Wilt <u>    </u>	Christy Wilt <u>    </u>	Christy Wilt <u>    </u>
Christian Rhodes <u>X</u>	Christian Rhodes <u>    </u>	Christian Rhodes <u>    </u>	Christian Rhodes <u>    </u>

Marie C. Buanno  
Town Clerk

June 1, 2026  
Date

**TOWN OF ARIETTA**  
**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #01 OF 2026**  
**ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS**

BE IT ENACTED by the Town of Arietta Town Board as follows:

**Section 1. Title and Authority** – This Local Law shall be known as the Town of Arietta Battery Energy Storage Moratorium. It is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §10 and Town Law Article 16.

**Section 2. Purpose** – The Town Board recognizes that the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities are a key component to the viability and promotion of renewable energy Sources, however, the technology of these systems is still in its infancy. Public health, Safety and Welfare are some of the highest priorities in the Town, causing the Town Board to desire to have the ability to study the approach to and impacts of the development of BESS facilities.

This Moratorium is necessary to temporarily restrict the development of battery energy storage systems so that the Town Board may thoroughly consider the impacts of such uses, their appropriate locations in the community, and how to encourage appropriate development of such facilities within the Town’s land use development and zoning objectives. The Town Board has determined that this would best enhance and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Arietta.

**Section 3. Definitions** – “Battery energy storage system” means one or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy derived from **any source, including without limitation, solar** or wind sources, to be stored and then released at a future time.

**Section 4. Moratorium** – The Town of Arietta hereby imposes a one-year Moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review, or approval of any new battery energy storage system after the date that this Local Law takes effect. During the

pendency of this Moratorium, there shall be no construction, permits issued, nor applications considered by the Town, its officials, boards, or Departments for the construction, installation, or use of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

**Section 5. Extensions** – This Moratorium may be extended for such additional periods as The Town Board may determine it necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Arietta, and accomplish the stated purposes and the intent of this Local Law.

**Section 6. Variance Procedure** – The Town Board shall have the power, after a Public Hearing, to vary or modify the application of any provision of this Local Law upon its determination that strict application of this Local Law would impose extraordinary hardship upon an applicant, and that the variance granted would not adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the Town, or a significant conflict with the general purposes and intent of this Local Law. Any request for a variance shall be in writing and filed with the Town Clerk. The Town Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on the application on not less than five (5) days' public notice, and shall make its decision within thirty (30) days after the close of the Public Hearing. Any project that is granted a Variance from this Local Law shall be subject to all requirements under the Town Code which would have been applicable to the project if the Moratorium had not been adopted and the prohibitions set forth in Paragraph 4 of this Local law shall not apply to such project.

**Section 7. Severability** – The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph, or part thereof.

**Section 8. Effective Date** – This Local Law shall take effect upon filing by the Office of the New York Secretary of State.