

TOWN OF ARIETTA

July 20, 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:

Craig Small – Highway Superintendent
Mel LaScola – Zoning Officer
Kevin Kennedy
Wayne Schermerhorn
John Mosenthin
Matt Sullivan
Richard Hart

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the July 6, 2026, meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk. Jacqui Grier offered the motion to accept those minutes. Doug Stobo seconded the motion. Christy Wilt was not present at that meeting and did not vote. All were in favor. Motion passed 4:1.

Resolution 26-07-33 was read. (Animal Shelter Change) Jacqui Grier offered the motion to approve. Christy Wilt seconded it. Doug Stobo asked what the statutory stray hold period was. Chris noted it is 24 hours as stated further in the resolution. He further explained that the NYS Agriculture and Markets changed the requirements on shelters that we just can't meet. We don't have the quantity of dogs that the bigger cities have so this is a way around that, by literally just changing the name from a Dog Shelter to a Temporary Holding Facility. Town Clerk Marie Buanno noted the facility was just inspected and passed, and the state is agreeable to this change. Chris asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none he asked if all were in favor. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 5:0. The Agenda and Resolutions are attached to these minutes.

Resolution 26-07-34 was read. (Voluntary Animal Shelter Contributions) Jacqui Grier offered the motion to approve. Jenny Smith seconded it. There was no discussion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 5:0.

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COMMITTEES:

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

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo reported the lower barn had been stained. He said he inspected it and it looks good and Chris Hotaling did a great job. He also said Kayla of Adirondack Cleaning cleaned all the windows at the Community Hall and took care of the dead flies. She took pictures as she didn't want to hear anything more about the dead flies. Doug said there are already more dead flies since she cleaned. Chris said this is bound to happen especially in an older building.

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy Wilt said she told the Regional Planning Board about the water testing that was done at the brush facility and gave them a copy of the 176-page report from Atlantic Testing Laboratories. They work with a company called Weston who work in conjunction with the EPA and the DEC. They are going to review it and determine if it qualifies for any kind of funding or if there are more phases that need to happen. They will determine eligibility and find EPA funds if applicable. She has a meeting Friday and hopefully they will have something for her by then.

*Chris said as far as the website goes; he has been working on it and got TownofArietta.gov approved and registered. Heide is actually the guinea pig right now and they hope it is a smooth transition. There is a lot of our correspondence through the state that is still .com and some that is still under the previous Town Supervisors' names that they can't seem to figure out how to change. We will still receive them until such time it gets resolved. It will be a much more secure domain. He asked Christy to start looking into different types of websites so this can be transitioned. She may want to try to contact Zach Small at the county IT department for help.

Lake/Dam/Cemetery- Jenny Smith said she spoke with Jerry Lucia at the DEC, and they are all for us entering into a stewardship for Poplar Point campsite. The boat steward there said the tree had been taken down that was an issue and put in a big pile. For the time being, she was recommending the PLA (Piseco Lake Association) fill in the stewardship paperwork and oversee the area and get it cleaned up as they see fit. They would have insurance coverage. Some things they would be able to do is get the sand off the ramp, put barricades up to keep people from driving on the lawn and over the septic plus getting rid of the dead tree brush. She has a sign-up sheet prepared and is hoping she can post it or get it to someone in the PLA. Chris suggests PLA President Doug Phelps. Bill Hotaling could probably help with contacting

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Doug. This sign-up sheet would show DEC just how many people were interested in doing this. Once this is done the stewardship could move forward. Chris Rhodes asked if the Board members saw any reason not to move forward. No one did. Jenny said she could send a link to anyone who requests it so they can see the application, the agreement policy, what is allowed and what isn't and how they are covered. The perk of becoming a steward is also there. Chris said the lake level is minus 9 inches. Everything is done as far as the tree in the cemetery.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- *Chris is getting prices on generators. He has one and another organization is scheduled to come and look at it. Another has not gotten back to him yet. A formal request will have to be made. There is a \$10,000.00 threshold and he is hoping it will be less than that. He and Craig Small checked to see what the load size may be and where the location should be.

*Chris had info to share about the cemetery water. The well at the cemetery also serves a neighbor. She is under the impression there is an agreement with the Town whereas if anything goes wrong with the well or pressure tank or pump system that the Town is responsible for the expense to fix it. Chris told her she will have to provide something official stating this as the Town has nothing on file indicating that. She has inquired through the Town Clerks office. Chris has gone back in filed minutes of Town Board meetings and cannot find anything speaking to that. The well is actually in the cemetery and according to NYS DOH regulations the well needs to be at least 100 feet from any burial plot. JC Parslow takes care of opening and closing our water supply to the building at the cemetery. This spring there was a leak in the line going from the neighbor to the well. Chris gave the order to shut it off as he did not think it wise to bring in water that does not meet NYS DOH regulations. He felt it was a liability. There is a sign that says non potable but that doesn't always stop people. He asked if anyone knew of any history about the well and had any thoughts about it. Christy Wilt asked if there was anything included in the deed. Chris said there wasn't anything in the deed and that was one of the first things he checked. The neighbor had low water pressure in 2024 and had Allen & Palmer check it out. They claimed there was a leak at the well head. Chris and some of the highway crew dug it up, found the leak and fixed it. There was no charge to the neighbor for fixing it. She gave the Allen & Palmer invoice to the Town (in excess of \$700.00) and Chris declined to pay it. This spring JC Parslow replaced her pressure tank that was failing. She sent the invoice to the Town to pay. Again, Chris declined to pay it unless she could come up with official proof that there was an agreement. Chris said he just wanted to bring everyone up to speed. He feels the water should remain off until such time she decides what she wants to do with the well. He doesn't feel she needs to have the well removed. We are not paying for anything concerning the well or paying her to bring water to Town property. It only serves as a

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convenience for people to water the flowers. On occasion it is used to make cement for the bases for the headstones or to clean the headstones. If they know ahead of time, they can bring in water to do the job. Chris asked how everyone felt. Everyone agreed to leave the water off.

*The draft aviation easements are getting very close. They have been sent to NYS DOT and have been accepted. They are getting plot plans together and hopefully they will be reaching out to the landowners by the end of the month.

*Chris met with McFarlane - Johnson who are the engineers for the airport and Ralph Gatto from the FAA who oversees the FAA grants to discuss the Airport Capital Improvement Plan and a general review of the airport. Everything went well. Mr. Gatto saw some things he is willing to help us with concerning the taxiway. Overall, he was impressed with what we have.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Craig reported they started on Arrowhead Road. They are mowing and then replacing the culverts. He is waiting on the blacktop for East Shore Road but it isn't scheduled yet. He figures sometime in October. He is unsure if he will do an FDR or not. What they are able to do depends on when they get done and the funds they have left.

Chris wanted it to be noted that Craig spent a lot of time with the FAA and the NTSB due to the recent airplane accident at the airport. There was no damage to the grounds. We were in touch with our insurance representative. Chris wanted to thank Craig for all the time he put in at the site.

Codes and Zoning- Zoning Officer Mel LaScola reported there was a ZBA hearing concerning the Phelans putting up a 30' x 40' garage. They needed a variance as it is in the "Special District" and it was approved. The APA has 30 days to comment. Mel said he received notification today that they received it. The next night the Planning Board had a discussion on signs. The APA sent a detailed comment about what was sent to them. The Planning Board is trying to make it more user friendly and will meet again next month then bring it to the Town Board.

*Mel is acting as liaison for the Planning Board and ZBA and is asking for permission to use the large meeting room for all meetings and hearings starting in August. Heide has made a sign for the old meeting room door directing people to the new meeting site who may want to attend. Chris asked Christy to put this change on the website.

*Mel noted he has new filing cabinets that he needs room for. There is a copier near Bill Hotalings desk that he does not need and could be moved to provide space for the filing cabinets. Chris Rhodes said there is a process for getting rid of old equipment and had talked to Joyce about starting a resolution to get rid of excess equipment. Joyce claims it was one of the

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best copiers we've ever had and there are two new toners for it. Chris asked if Craig needed it. Craig said he has two but could replace his desktop copier with it.

RFQ's for Snowmobile trail grooming. Chris noted there are several people in attendance from snowmobile clubs. Chris, Craig and Jacqui will be getting together sometime soon to update the check lists needed to approve the RFQ's. There will be a determination at the next meeting which is August 3rd. Shortly after that, there will be contracts to be signed. They are also working on updating those as they haven't been updated in a while. Jacqui and Craig agreed.

Brush dump update: Jenny Smith said she can get pricing on a possible scannable gate to put up. A resident would register at the office and put a scanning bar sticker on the windshield. It would scan the sticker to open and record who is coming in. We do not have enough staff to man the brush dump. Jacqui Grier asked what happened since the last meeting whereas the PLA was organizing volunteers to man it. Chris said when it went back to the PLA, it was rejected. They did not want the responsibility of it. They felt it was the Towns responsibility to figure it out. Jenny Smith continued with what she had brought to present. She said a yearly \$10.00 fee could be charged to offset the cost of putting this gate in. She also said there would be a gate with a camera and a speed bump to make you stop and show the camera your RFID before the gate would open to let you in. She felt volunteers from the community could go in and do a sweep of the facility upon closing and lock the doors at a certain time. If there was anything that shouldn't have been dumped, they could mark down the date and time, and the camera SD cards could be reviewed to see who dumped it. Four or five cameras would be set up with one right where you show your ID. Board members felt you would need at least three cameras. One for the showing of the RFID, one showing what is in the load and one for the license plate. Jenny will e-mail everything to the Board members and get pricing. Chris will share some ideas he and Craig have found.

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 5:0.

General Fund	Vouchers 451 through 465	\$9,520.85
Highway Fund	Vouchers 466 through 449	\$800.18

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Kevin Kennedy reiterated what Jenny had noted that the porta-potty did appear at Poplar Point. He is unsure what was done or said but it is there. Chris said he and Christy called Jerry Lucia the day after the last meeting but did not get a response so maybe that is why.

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Concerning the water at the cemetery, it is Kevins understanding that the Town has a portable water tank with a pressure washer on it for the boat wash we had at the school. It was purchased by the Town in 2017 or 2018 through a grant. He wonders where it is. It is unknown where it is but research will be done to locate it.

Matt Sullivan of Adirondack Mountain Riders thanked the Town for doing the RFQ's for the trails. He noted they have several people doing training to teach the NYS snowmobile safety course. As Town of Arietta residents, they would like to teach the classes here as opposed to Stratford regardless of if they are awarded the contract for grooming the trails for Arietta. They have the fully executed contract with Fulton County for two years for the trails that adjoin the Town of Arietta trails. The Article 78 was filed, and the county should be forwarded a copy. They don't believe that will be an issue. The hearing has been postponed until August 12th.

Wayne Schermerhorn noted on behalf of the Snowdrifters of Stratford that they would appeal that if passed.

Christy said she forgot to note that hopefully by the end of August we will have our designation as a pro housing community. Chris thanked Christy and Mel LaScola for contributing to that reporting.

The next meeting will be on Monday August 3, 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. Motion passed 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.

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

TOWN OF ARIETTA
in
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Agenda

July 20, 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 July 6, 2026, meeting

- Resolutions
 - **26-07-33 Animal Shelter Change**
 - **26-07-34 Voluntary Animal Shelter Contributions**

- **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**
 - RFQ's Snowmobile Trails
 - Brush Facility – Jennifer Smith Presentation on Cameras and Gate

- **New Business**
 -

- Motion to accept the bills
- Public Comment
- Designation for next meeting: Monday, August 3, 2026
- **Motion to adjourn**

TOWN OF ARIETTA

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

July 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Resolution # 26 - 07 -33

Subject: **Authorizing the Conversion of the Town Dog Shelter to a Temporary Holding Facility**

Resolution Offered By: Jacquelyn Grier

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta currently owns and operates a municipal dog shelter located at 139 Old Piseco Road, and

WHEREAS: the Town Board desires to modify the operational scope of this facility from an animal shelter to a temporary, short-term holding facility, limiting the stay of seized, stray, or abandoned dogs strictly to the statutory stray hold period; and

WHEREAS: to properly care for and rehome animals beyond the mandatory stray hold period, the Town must contract an outside entity for full sheltering services; and

WHEREAS: a yearly contract has been executed with James Brennan Humane Society, located at 437 Nine-Mile Tree Road, Mayfield, NY 12117, which is a duly licensed facility capable of providing the necessary permanent sheltering, adoption services, and compliance with New York State Article 26-C Regulations, effective 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026; and

WHEREAS: the Dog Control Officer (DCO) is authorized to transport animals to the contracted facility following the legally required stray hold period; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town Board of the Town of Arietta hereby authorizes the conversion of the Town Dog Shelter and its immediate transition into a temporary holding facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized yearly at the organizational meeting to execute a contract with James Brennan Humane Society or any duly licensed facility for comprehensive sheltering services to receive, house, and offer for adoption dogs after the mandatory 24-hour municipal holding period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Dog Control Officer shall continue to enforce Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, notifying the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets of this operational change within thirty (30) days; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Seconded by Christy Wilt 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

July 20, 2026
Date

TOWN OF ARIETTA

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

July 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Resolution # 26 - 07 -34

Subject: Designating Recipient of Voluntary Animal Shelter Contributions Pursuant to NYS Agriculture & Market Facility Law §109

Resolution Offered By: Jacquelyn Grier

WHEREAS: New York State Agriculture & Markets Law §109, as amended effective December 2025, requires that municipalities include in dog license applications and renewals an option for voluntary contributions to support an animal shelter, and

WHEREAS: pursuant to such law, voluntary contributions collected in connection with dog licensing must be provided to the organization under contract with the municipality for animal shelter services; and

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta currently contracts with James Brennan Humane Society to provide such services, and

WHEREAS: the Town Board wishes to acknowledge and implement the requirements of §109 in a manner consistent with applicable law, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Town Board hereby acknowledges that, pursuant to New York State Agriculture & Markets Law §109, all voluntary animal shelter contributions collected in connection with dog licensing shall be for the benefit of James Brennan Humane Society, as the Town's current contracted animal shelter provider, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to update dog license applications, renewal forms, and related materials to include a clearly identified voluntary contribution option in compliance with §109, including language stating that such contributions are voluntary and not part of the license fee, and identifying the James Brennan Humane Society as the recipient; and if the Town in the future contracts with a different provider the named recipient will be changed accordingly, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk shall deposit these voluntary contributions into a dedicated municipal account for the receipt and accounting of such contributions and shall subsequently submit said voluntary funds, **specified as such**, to the Town's General Fund for remittance to the named recipient, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that all funds collected pursuant to this program shall be remitted to the named recipient no less than annually, and may be remitted on a more frequent basis as determined appropriate by the Town’s financial officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk is authorized to take all action necessary to implement this resolution and this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

July 20, 2026
Date