

Town of Wayne Town Board

Draft Minutes – July 14, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present:

- Supervisor Mahr
- Councilmember Freeman
- Councilmember Terwilliger
- Councilmember Haar
- Councilmember Kenyon

Others in Attendance:

Jay White, Joe Serphillips, Patty Gray, Wendy Allen, Bill Hassockt, Tom Meyers, Mary Tucker, Mary Ellen Ellis, Martin Ellis.

Guest Speaker – Jay White (Lamoka Waneta Lake Association)

Jay White introduced himself as President of the Lamoka Waneta Association and explained that the organization works with municipalities around the lake to improve water quality. He emphasized that the Association is available as a resource and is not seeking financial support from the Town. Instead, they are interested in partnering on projects that benefit Waneta Lake and may be able to provide funding assistance or help secure grants.

Mr. White discussed previous funding provided for projects in Steuben and Schuyler Counties and encouraged the Town of Wayne to bring forward potential projects that could improve lake health.

Discussion included:

- The canal area and concerns about stagnant water.
- Previous conversations with NYSEG regarding possible improvements.
- Water quality testing conducted by the Association.

- Elevated bacteria levels found in stagnant water samples, including E. coli levels well above recommended swimming standards.
- Biological and water chemistry testing being performed throughout the watershed.
- Nutrient loading into Waneta Lake from septic systems and other sources.
- Public education efforts encouraging lake-friendly practices, including reduced fertilizer use and proper lawn maintenance.
- Ongoing exploration of water and sewer infrastructure improvements with engineering firms.
- Grant opportunities and the need for municipal participation in future applications.
- Continued monitoring of lake conditions and collaboration with state agencies.

Mr. White stated that the Association has spent the past several years collecting data and working proactively to identify water quality issues. He noted that while funding is available for studies, funding for construction and corrective projects remains limited. The Association plans to continue working with municipalities throughout the watershed to pursue long-term solutions.

The Board thanked Mr. White for his presentation.

A motion to approve the June 2026 Board minutes was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon, all are in favor.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Mahr explained that additional CHIPS funding had been received from the recently approved New York State 2026 budget that was not included in the adopted 2026 Town Budget.

This additional funding can be used for the Town Highways second half of road projects. However, the funding will not be reimbursed to the Town until late in 2026. In the interim that Town should consider increasing the Highway 2026 budget by transferring money to it from the fund balance. When the Town receives the CHIPS funding it can replenish the Highway fund balance.

A motion to approve Resolution 9 to move \$230.00 from Assessor Postage/Printing to Assessor-Advertisement \$50.00, Town Clerk Ed/Training \$100, Board of Assessment Review \$25.00, Supt of Highway Ed/Training \$55.00, was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon. Voting as follows. Councilmember Terwilliger, yes. Councilmember Haar, yes. Councilmember Freeman, yes. Councilmember Kenyon, yes. Supervisor Mahr, yes.

A motion to approve Resolution 10, authorizing the Town Board to increase the Highway 2026 Budget to utilize the additional anticipated funding made available from New York State 2026 CHIPS program not to exceed a maximum amount of \$135,595, was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon. Voting as follows. Councilmember Terwilliger, yes. Councilmember Haar, yes. Councilmember Freeman, yes. Councilmember Kenyon, yes. Supervisor Mahr, yes.

A motion to approve Resolution 11, authorizes, if necessary, a temporary loan from its General Fund Balance to the Highway Fund if needed for cash flow purposes not to exceed \$135,595. It is anticipated that this loan would be paid back to the General Fund on or before 12/31/26, was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Terwilliger. Voting as follows. Councilmember Terwilliger, yes. Councilmember Haar, yes. Councilmember Freeman, yes. Councilmember Kenyon, yes. Supervisor Mahr, yes.

A motion to approve the Supervisor's report was made by Councilmember Kenyon, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, all are in favor.

Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported activity for the month, including:

- Animal population reports submitted
- Dog licenses issued
- Birth and death certificates processed
- Property transfer completed
- Variance application received
- Subdivision application processed

- Road use permit issued
- Short-term rental activity
- Building permits issued
- Rabies clinic donations received
-

A motion to approve the Clerk's report was made by Councilmember Kenyon, seconded by Councilmember Haar, all are in favor.

A motion to approve the vouchers in Abstract 7 was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, all are in favor.

Justice report

Civil fees collected was \$175.00, Mand Surcharge was \$93.00.

Highway Superintendent's Report

The Highway Superintendent reported:

- Highway crews continue seasonal maintenance work.
 - Staff remains limited due to one employee on vacation and another out with an injury.
 - Boat launch informational and regulatory signs have been ordered and will be installed upon arrival.
 - Questions remain regarding speed limits on Town roads. The Superintendent plans to work with the New York State Department of Transportation to determine the legal speed limits on roads where signs have been removed or replaced.
 - Any future reductions in speed limits will require engineering studies and State approval.
-

July 4 Traffic Accident

The Board discussed the serious motor vehicle accident that occurred on July 4 at a Town intersection.

The Supervisor reported:

- County Highway officials have been contacted.
- The intersection will be reviewed for possible safety improvements.
- Potential measures include improved warning signs, flashing stop signs, pavement markings, and other traffic control devices.
- The County will review accident history and engineering data before recommending improvements.

The Board agreed that distracted driving appears to be a significant contributing factor but supported continued evaluation of the intersection.

Illegal Dumping

The Highway Superintendent reported ongoing problems with illegal dumping at the Town disposal area.

Recent incidents involved unauthorized dumping of gravel and other materials.

Possible solutions discussed included:

- Additional warning signs
- Security cameras or trail cameras

The Highway Superintendent will provide costs for these solutions at the August meeting.

Code Enforcement Report

Zoning officer, Tom Meyers reported :

- Summer activity has significantly increased.
- Numerous complaints involving short-term rental properties have been investigated.

- Parking violations near Sylvan Beach and the boat launch have been addressed in cooperation with Finger Lakes Premier Properties.
- Occupancy complaints are investigated as they are received; however, enforcement requires evidence that occupancy limits are exceeded.
- Property maintenance complaints continue to be investigated.
- Several zoning and planning matters remain active.

The Board thanked Mr. Meyers for his work and responsiveness to resident concerns.

Planning and Zoning

The Board received updates regarding Planning Board and Zoning Board activities, including:

- A recently completed subdivision.
- Ongoing zoning matters.
- Continued review of pending applications.

Watershed report,

The number of violations is decreasing. The next KWIK meeting is next month.

Ethics report,

No activity this month.

Dog Control Officer,

June Dog Control Report – Dog Bite Incident

On June 20, the DCO received a phone call from the police department regarding a dog-on-dog bite incident. The responding officer instructed both parties to contact me on Monday, June 22, to discuss the incident and determine any further action.

On June 22, the DCO spoke with the owner of the dog that was bitten. They advised that their dog had been examined by a veterinarian and that the other party had offered to pay the veterinary bill. The owner stated they did not wish to pursue any further action but wanted the incident documented in case another incident involving the dog occurs in the future.

The DCO also spoke with the owner of the dog that initiated the bite. They explained they were taking the dog outside at their cottage and, before they were able to get it on a leash, it ran over and bit the other dog. They stated the dog is a rescue, and they are unsure of its history, but this was the first biting incident they are aware of. The bite involved only the other dog; no people were bitten. Several individuals reportedly assisted in separating the dogs.

The owner of the dog who had bitten, advised they would no longer be bringing their dog to the cottage, as it belongs to their in-laws, in an effort to prevent any future incidents.

Both parties were cooperative, respectful, and appreciative of one another throughout the process. Neither party wished for any further action beyond documenting the incident and resolving the veterinary expenses.

The owner of the dog that bit the other dog will be issued a ticket for Dog Running at Large. Judge Freeman authorized the Dog Control Officer to mail the ticket to the owner's home address, as the owners do not have a scheduled date to return to the Town of Wayne.

History report,

Volunteer Hours: 59 hours

Accomplished:

1. Ordered bookcases for History Room
2. Completed planning for August 8th Open House

3. Created Open House poster.
4. Wrote article for Summer issue of Wayne's Welcome.
5. Decided that the History Group will not participate in the Steuben County 250th Anniversary event on Labor Day weekend in Bath.
6. Followed up with Marble's concerning the protective box for the 1857 Steuben County map. The work is scheduled for mid September or later.
7. Responded to two inquiries for History information.
8. Buddy Leech will not be working at the History Group during his time in the area this summer. We are hoping he will be able to return next year.
9. Arranged to have a Ben Reno trout boat brought from the Finger Lakes Boating Museum for display at the Open House.
10. Continued database organization and data entry.

Goals for July:

1. Receive bookcases and assemble.
2. Plan what artifacts we will display in the History room (will include many of the items that are on loan from the Hallett family) and set up the displays.
3. Plan display for Open House.
4. Prep work for Open House: Advertising, food, social media.
5. Hang paintings and pictures in the History Room.

Web Statistics report,

Total users were 892. Sessions were 1,186

Announcements

The Board announced the Wayne Historical Society Open House will be held on August 8, 2026.

The next Board meeting is on August 11, 2026

A motion to adjourn to Executive session to discuss a potential personal change, at 7:23 pm was made by Councilmember Kenyon, seconded by Councilmember Haar, all are in favor.

A motion to adjourn Executive session was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon. All are in favor

Executive session ended at 7:28 pm with no action taken.

Executive Session

At the conclusion of regular business, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Meeting adjourned to Executive session at 7:28pm No action taken.

Adjournment;

A motion to adjourn the monthly meeting was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Freeman. All are in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm
