

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – EDEN TOWN BOARD
2795 E Church St.
Eden, NY 14057
January 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. – Executive Session
6:30 P.M. – Regular Meeting

This meeting was held in-person and virtually through GoToMeeting.com. The meeting link was made available to the public prior to the meeting.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

RICHARD VENTRY	-	SUPERVISOR
SUSAN WILHELM	-	COUNCILMEMBER
VINCENT VACCO	-	COUNCILMEMBER
TIMOTHY WALKER	-	COUNCILMEMBER
MICHAEL BYRNES	-	COUNCILMEMBER

OTHERS PRESENT:

Emily Hawkins	-	Town Clerk
Marlene Grunder	-	Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor
Lisa Winter	-	Bookkeeper
Ron Maggs	-	Highway Superintendent
Bill Trask	-	Town Counsel

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM

#1-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to enter Executive Session for a discussion regarding the bulding department; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

#2-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to close Executive Session and enter the Regular Meeting; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

The meeting was opened at 6:31 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

#3-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Vacco to accept the minutes of December 12, 2025 and December 29, 2025, as written; seconded by Councilmember Walker; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

Budget Transfers:

From Account	To Account	Reason for Amendment	Amount
A6989.4 Other Economic Assistance	A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance	Budget Adjustment	\$9,267.55
D2770 Unclassified Revenue	D5130.4 Machinery Contractual	Budget Amendment	\$2,418.00
A1640 Ambulance Charges	A899.1 Restricted EMS	Revenue Recovery Funds in excess of what budgeted to Revenue recovery Reserve	\$33,916.84
A2610 Fines & Forfeited Bail	A3120.1 Police Personal	Budget Amendment	\$7,700.00
A3620.1 Safety Inspection Personal	A1355.1 Assessor Personal	Budget Amendment	\$7,600.00
A1220.1 Supervisor Personal	A1410.1 Town Clerk Personal	Budget Amendment	\$1,172.00
A1990.4 Contingent Fund	A1680.4 Central Data Processing	Upgrades	\$2,100.00
A7140.1	A7310.4	Upgrades	\$2,000.00

Playground & Rec Personal	Youth Contractual		
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Assign from A6772.4 to Assigned non Rec \$355.00 2025 Senior Driver Thank You
A915.6 Assigned Non Rec to A1620.4 UPS Back Up Batteries and Installation \$6155.00
A899.1 Revenue Recovery to A4540.4 Ambulance \$10,000.00

#4-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Walker to approve the Budget Transfers as listed; seconded by Councilmember Vacco; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

for January 14, 2026			
A7110.1 Parks & Grounds - Personal	A1620.1 Town Hall Personal	Building Maintenance Stipend	\$1,040.00
SW2140 Wepax Water Revenue	SW8320.401 Maintenance - Wepax Water	Establish Wepax Water Budget Lines	\$2,900.00
SW2140 Wepax Water Revenue	SW8320.402 Wepax Water -Farnham	Establish Wepax Water Budget Lines	\$2,300.00
SM5031 Transfer In - Ambulance District	SM917 Unassigned Fund Balance	Partial Transfer of Rev. Recovery Funds to Ambulance District	\$100,000.00

A899.1 Restricted EMS to Transfer Out A9950.9 Partial Transfer of Funds to New Ambulance District \$100,000.00

#5-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Byrnes to approve the Budget Transfers as listed; seconded by Councilmember Vacco; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

Audit of Bills:

2025 Payables		
FUND DESCRIPTION	VOUCHER NUMBERS	AMOUNT
General	898-927	\$67,976.63
Fire	329-341	\$3,386.20
Recreation	166-167	\$375.45
Street Lights	47-49	\$2,380.67
Highway	351-358	\$22,461.57

January 2026		
FUND DESCRIPTION	VOUCHER NUMBERS	AMOUNT
General	1-23	\$35,132.13
Fire	1-7	\$24,173.68
Recreation	1-2	\$399.90
Water	NA	
Street Lights	NA	
Refuse	NA	
Highway	1-12	\$24,619.87
Ambulance	1-6	\$7,900.53

#6-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Byrnes to approve the Audit of Bills as listed; seconded by Councilmember Vacco; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

Departmental Reports:

Department reports for the month of December were submitted by Rick Kirst, East Eden Fire Chief; Malcolm VanKoughnett, Eden Fire Chief; Robert Lazarczyk, Eden Police Chief; Nicholas Blaszczyk, Dog Control Officer; Glenn Christner, Code Enforcement Officer; Drew Reidel; Recreation Director, and Emily Hawkins, Town Clerk. All Department Reports are available to the public and on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Committee Reports:

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only: None

New and Unfinished Business:

- 1. Designate Delegate and Alternate for AOT Meeting:

#7-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Walker to designate Richard Ventry as delegate and Susan Wilhelm as alternate for the 2026 Business Session of the Association of Towns of the State of New York; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

2. Agreement to Spend Highway Funds:

AGREEMENT TO SPEND TOWN HIGHWAY FUNDS

YEAR 2026
TOWN OF Eden
COUNTY OF Erie

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that monies levied and collected for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

1. GENERAL REPAIRS

The sum of \$ 615,000.00 may be expended for general repairs upon 49.05 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewal thereof.

#8-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Wilhelm to approve the agreement to spend as presented; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

3. Revise Scot Christiansen’s Retirement Date:

#9-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to amend the retirement date of Scot Christiansen to 3/30/2026; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

4. Resignation of Part-Time Police Officer:

The Town Board recognized the resignation of Daniel Welch effective October 22, 2025, with gratitude for his service.

5. Resignation of Part-Time Police Officer:

The Town Board recognized the resignation of Carl Lograsso effective October 17, 2025, with gratitude for his service.

6. Resignation of Part-Time Code Enforcement Office, Dave Rice:

The Town Board recognized the resignation of Dave Rice effective January 1, 2026, with gratitude for his service.

7. Intermunicipal Agreement with Town of Evans for Mutual Aid Services for Code Enforcement Officer:

#10-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Eden and the Town of Evans for Mutual Aid Services for Code Enforcement Officer effective 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2026; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

8. Consultant for the Farmland Protection Plan Grant:

#11-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Walker to approve CPL to provide professional services to oversee and coordinate an update to the Town’s 2008 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan in an amount not to exceed \$28,600; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

9. HELPS Resolution:

HELPS PROGRAM RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Town of Eden board has the authority to manage the Town of Eden Personnel efficiently and effectively in accordance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and collective bargaining agreements, including New York State Civil Service Laws and the Erie County Rules for the Classified Service; and

Whereas, New York State Civil Service Commission has developed and the Erie County Personnel Department has adopted the NYS HELPS (Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide) program, which allows for the inclusion of titles where qualified individuals may be appointed to a non-competitive version of a competitive title in order to gain permanent status without competitive examination and upon completion of a necessary probationary term be

placed in the competitive class without further exam; and
Whereas, Erie County has recommended that the below resolve clause regarding the appointment process be approved to allow the Town of Eden to appropriately utilize the NYS Helps program in its most efficient form so as not to delay the ability of employees hired through the program to gain permanent status.
Now therefore be it resolved, that any individual appointed by this honorable body prior to or going forward which is afforded the opportunity to utilize the NYS Helps program, as approved and administered by The County of Erie, shall be, without further approval of this body, appropriately placed where possible into said program and upon completion of the minimum probationary term of the position and the requirements as outlined/approved by Erie County Civil Service, be afforded the rights of that of a competitive class appointment without further exam or approval by this body.

#12-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the resolution as presented; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

10. EMS Billing Rates:

Level of Service	Current Rates	Recommended rates
Basic Life Support- E/NE	\$1,400	\$1,600
Advanced Life Support- E/NE	\$1,900	\$2,100
Advanced Life Support-2	\$2,400	\$2,600
P/I	\$1,050	\$1,100
Mileage	\$40/mile	\$45/mile
Treat and Release	\$500	\$550

#12-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the rate changes for EMS Services as presented; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

11. Ambulance Contract:

#13-226: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the agreement between the Town of Eden and the Eden Emergency Squad, Inc. for Emergency Ambulance Service in the Town of Eden effective 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2026.; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

12. Set Public Hearing:

#14-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to set the public hearing for proposed Local Law 1-2026 Establishing a new date for meetings of the Board of Assessment Review pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 512.1-a for February 11, 2026 at 6:30PM.; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

#15-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to enter the Hearing for the Order to Remove or Repair the Unsafe Building at 2520 Hemlock Road.; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

The Hearing was opened at 7:00 P.M.

Attorney Trask ask if there was anyone present that represents 2620 Hemlock Road that would like to come forward and address the Town Board. There was no one present.

Glenn Christner, Code Enforcement Officer, confirmed that proper notice was served and those records would be maintained.

#16-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Wilhelm to close the Hearing and open the Regular Meeting.; seconded by Councilmember Walker; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

13. East Eden Fire – Permission to Take Fire Apparatus Out of Town:

#17-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve East Eden Fire Department to take their apparatus out of the town, within 100 miles, for mutual aid calls, training, funerals, parades, etc. for the year 2026 at the discretion of the chief or officer in charge; Seconded by Councilmember Walker; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

14. Eden Fire – Approval of 2026 Officers:

Joseph Hart	Chief
Adam Laing	1st Asst. Chief
Chris Doyle Brown	2nd Asst. Chief
Jeremy Kunch	Captain
Jayden Bellomo	1st Lieutenant
Owen Keller	2nd Lieutenant
David Cole	Safety Officer
Rich Greeley	Safety Officer

#18-2026: MOTION was made by Councilmember Wilhelm to approve the 2026-line officers for Eden Fire; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

15. Eden Fire – Permission to Take Fire Apparatus out of Town:

#19-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve Eden Fire Departments to take their apparatus out of the town, within 100 miles, for mutual aid calls, training, funerals, parades, etc. for the year 2026 at the discretion of the chief or officer in charge; Seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

16. Eden Fire – Remove 3 Fireman from Roster:

Christopher Greeley, Matthew Szal, and Jason Henry to be removed from the active roster with gratitude for their service.

17. Set Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law Imposing a Moratorium on New Applications for Commercial Solar Uses:

#20-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to set the Public Hearing for proposed Local Law 2-2026 imposing a moratorium on issuing or processing new applications for siting and developing commercial solar uses in the Town of Eden for February 11, 2026 at 6:45 PM; Seconded by Councilmember Walker; Ayes: Ventry, Walker, Byrnes, Wilhelm; Opposed: None; Abstain: Vacco; Motion carried.

18. Declare a Dell Monitor Surplus:

#21-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to declare a Dell Monitor S/N CN-0F779N-74261-06M-114H surplus and dispose of as deemed necessary; Seconded by Councilmember Walker; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

19. Agreement with LaBella:

#22-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the agreement with LaBella for Engineering and Planning Consulting Services from 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2026; Seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

20. Set Bid Opening:

#23-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to set bid opening date for the Replacement of Larkin Road

Culvert over Franklin Gulf for February 12, 2026 at 2:30pm in the Town Clerk’s office. This will be advertised in the Hamburg Sun and NYS Contract Reporter; Seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

21. Special Use Permit for Telecommunication Tower at 8635 East Eden Road:

#24-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the Special Use Permit for Crown Castle/ Donald Mammoser for a telecommunication tower at 8635 East Eden Road, subject to existing conditions, for one year expiring on December 31, 2026; Seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

Supervisor’s Report

Hearing of Visitors

#25-2026: MOTION was made by Supervisor Ventry to adjourn the meeting and enter Executive Session for Police Personal; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

Adjournment: 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Emily Hawkins, Town Clerk