WEST SENECA COURT ROOM
1250 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

DRAFT TOWN BOARD
2026-21 Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2026

ROLL CALL: Present: Supervisor Gary Dickson
Councilmember Scott Robertson
Councilmember Mary Sherman
Councilmember Robert Breidenstein

Absent:

SUPERVISOR CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Fire Safety Notification
3. Roll Call

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Accept agenda as published

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, to accept the agenda as published.

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

1. Town Clerk Newton re Meeting Minutes 2026-20 of October 26, 2026

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, to approve Meeting Minutes 2026-20 of October 26, 2026.

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried

LEGAL NOTICES

1. Town Clerk Newton re Proofs of Publication and posting of legal notice "OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE 2027 TENTATIVE BENEFIT BASIS BUDGET & 2027 TENTATIVE ADVALOREM BUDGET" in the Town of West Seneca.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to open the public hearing.

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried

Director of Finance Wnek gave a presentation about the budget process and highlighted the following items:
- The Recreation Department will offer a Summer Day Camp Program
- Utilities, electricity and gas, are increasing
- Increase of $263,000 for the Police Department for overtime
- Increase of $139,000 for the Buildings and Grounds Department to add more labor
- Increase of $100,000 for blacktop paving, an increase of $120,000 for machinery and parts, and an increase of $75,000 for salt and chemicals in the Highway Fund
- Decrease overall of 6.05% in the Sewer funds
- Continue to be within the NYS tax cap

Councilmember Sherman requested confirmation that the increase in health insurance is 7.5% and who gives the town this increase. Director of Finance Wnek stated the LMHF Board of Trustees voted on the contract. Councilmember Breidenstein stated that he and Detective Dave Jarczyk represent the town on the board of trustees.

The following comments and questions were received:

James Randolph, West Binrwood Drive:
- Regarding the bar graph, the Highway Fund showed a large surplus in 2026 and there is a substantial reduction for 2027 and questioned how this would impact the following year — Supervisor Dickson stated the town does not want to keep more than is needed, noting the fund balance is taxpayer money and that the fund balance was at 7% when he became Supervisor.

Councilmember Breidenstein asked if the increases in 2022 and 2023 were reflective of the insurance claim. Director of Finance Wnek stated the insurance claim would have been recorded in the Capital Projects Fund and the increases were reflective of ARPA funds the town received. Supervisor Dickson stated sales tax increased and interest rates increased during this time.

Beverly Leising, Harwood Road:
- Referred to page 10 of the Tentative Ad Valorem budget and asked if it is correct that the interest earnings increased $500,000 because of the large amount of money in the town's bank account - Director of Finance Wnek stated Interest Casualty and Liability and Interest Investment were recorded separately and both have been allocated to the Interest Earnings ($340,000 total) and the balance of the increase is due to town being proactive and shopping interest rates.
- Had understood that increases would be limited to the increases negotiated in the contracts and was surprised to see that the Deputy Supervisor's salary was increased by 6% - Supervisor Dickson stated, as a general rule, that is the case, but there are a couple of exceptions. Mrs. Leising stated that in her opinion, the exceptions are not very good.
- In her opinion, the increase in postage is low
- Referred to the Town Attorney's increase of $9,700 for equipment and asked what was being purchased - Town Attorney Trapp stated the funds are for a machine that will fold and send out correspondence for the prosecutors, noting the volume of mail in pleas has continued to increase.
- Referred to the increase of $117,000 in Police Department overtime and asked what the increase was based on, for example, Civic and Patriotic events - Chief Cosgrove stated the Community Policing and Warrant Clerk lines were reduced and allocated to the Ovetime line for 2027 and noted the net increase is $50,000.
- Referred to the Recreation Department and the almost $15,000 increase in the slay of the Assistant which, in her opinion, is excessive for one year - Supervisor Dickson stated one cannot mistake the budget line for a salary line and, in his opinion, the budget line was low in 2026 and the employee will receive a Step increase and a cost of living increase this year.
- Why is the salary of the Director of Senior Services higher than the Supervisor's salary - Supervisor Dickson questioned what Mrs. Leising was referring to. Mrs. Leising stated the Supervisor's salary. Supervisor Dickson reviewed the line and stated it is just the way it is, and he will not comment on this, and it is up to the public to decide. Mrs. Leising stated that is not accurate, the Town Board votes on the salaries. Further, Mrs. Leisng commented that the Director of Senior Services assistant is being paid well. Supervisor Dickson stated this is typical in government and commented that the Deputy County Executive makes more than the County Executive, and Deputy Mayors make more

than Mayors. Supervisor Dickson stated that he would not be opposed to Mrs. Leising starting a petition to increase his salary.
- What is the status of employee's healthcare contributions - Supervisor Dickson stated employees are contributing, and health insurance is expensive. Mrs. Leising reminded the Town Board that her own healthcare costs are increasing, and her social security is not, and encouraged the Town Board to make adjustments to the budget to benefit taxpayers.

Joe O'Donnell, Nancycrest Lane:
- Asked if a line in the budget indicated grant revenue the town receives - Supervisor Dickson stated funds are applied to each project and a grant summary is provided at Town Board meetings to provide this information.

Councilmember Breidenstein referred to the estimated revenues, for example, the Clerk Fees, and asked who sets the amounts - Town Clerk Newton stated fees are set by several entities including the Town Clerk's Office, State and local laws, noting that the town has one of the lowest solicitor fees in Erie County.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, to close the public hearing.

Ayes: 4	Noes: 0	Abstain: 0	Motion Carried

REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board will now entertain public comments for an item on the agenda or for any topic of concern. Each speaker should state your name and street for the record. Please be respectful in your comments and do not divulge any personal or confidential information (for example: names, specific situations, etc.). Speakers should recognize that not all questions or comments can be answered immediately and may require additional research. It is the Board's goal to respond in a thoughtful, timely, and accurate manner.

The following comments and questions were received:

Beverly Leising, Harwood Road:
- Please consider donating to West Seneca Cares
- Commented on a close call with a deer
- Requested an update on an agreement with the Civic and Patriotic Commission requiring financial disclosure - Mr. Trapp stated he forwarded an agreement to the Director of Recreation for his review and has contacted the commission's attorney. Mrs. Leising questioned the increase to the line. Supervisor Dickson stated the current revision will lower the levy by $22,000.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

1. PRESENTATIONS

1. Director of Finance re Budget Hearing Presentation

2. COMMUNICATIONS TO BE VOTED ON

1. Director of Finance re Letter of Authorization

Director of Finance Wnek stated delinquent ECWA bills will be added to tax bills in 2027 in addition to charges for grass cutting and demolition.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to adopt the attached Letter of Authorization as Part of the 2027 Town of West Seneca Budget.

Ayes: 4	Noes: 0	Abstain: 0	Motion Carried
			Appendices

2. Director of Finance re 2027 Benefit Basis Budget

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, to adopt the Town of West Seneca 2027 Benefit Basis Budget, which includes the Sewer, Water, Industrial Park, Gas Lighting and Electric Lighting Funds, as previously filed by the Town Supervisor and known as the “Tentative 2027 Benefit Basis Budget” as set forth on the document filed with the Supervisor and entitled “2027 TWSNY Benefit Basis Tentative.”

Ayes: 4	Noes: 0	Abstain: 0	Motion Carried

3. Director of Finance re 2027 Ad Valorem Budget

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to adopt the Town of West Seneca 2027 Ad Valorem Budget, which includes the General and Highway Funds, as previously filed by the Town Supervisor and known as the “Preliminary 2027 Ad Valorem Budget” entitled “TWSNY 2027 Preliminary Budget.”

On the question, Councilmember Breidenstein asked Supervisor Dickson what budget line the funds for the additional postage costs to mail tax receipts would be allocated. Supervisor Dickson stated he understands M&T Bank will no longer send receipts for escrow payments the Lockbox services processes and the costs would be incurred by the town, but does not have a breakdown for each of the factors involved, for example, labor, postage, and other. Supervisor Dickson stated that based on the amount of $22,000 provided by Town Clerk Newton, he has allocated $25,000 to the contingency account to cover the additional costs. Town Clerk Newton stated the new procedure applies to both the Town and County bills and the School bills. Supervisor Dickson stated the town would charge the school districts to cover the associated costs.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sherman, to amend the original motion to incorporate the attached changes.

Ayes: 4	Noes: 0	Abstain: 0	Motion Carried
			Appendices

Supevisor Dickson asked the Town Board members if they had any other amendments.

Councilmember Breidenstein stated that he would support an additional patrol position for the Police

Department. Supervisor Dickson stated the current salaries of Police Department personnel make the addition of another Police Officer prohibitive and asked if there are retirements in 2027. Chief Cosgrove stated there will be two retirements in February - March 2027. Supervisor Dickson stated that he understands Chief Cosgrove would hire someone later in 2027 and would support this. Chief Cosgrove stated he intends to hire for the July academy. Councilmember Breidenstein stated one candidate hired this year did not complete the academy. Chief Cosgrove confirmed this is true and is short a police officer. Supervisor Dickson stated the Police Department budget would support the hiring of a candidate later in the year.

Councilmember Breidenstein asked Director of Finance Wnek what the tax levy would be with the adjustments. Director of Finance Wnek stated 2.7% instead of 2.77%.

Councilmember Breidenstein commented that the town has done an exemplary job over the past 7 years and asked what the impact would be by bringing the Highway Fund balance down to 15%. Supervisor Dickson cautioned that the town is closer to the bottom of the acceptable range and has worked very hard over the last 7 years to be fiscally responsible to the residents. Director of Finance Wnek stated $60,000 is the amount that could be used to bring the Highway Fund balance down to 15% and decrease the tax levy to 2.5%. Councilmember Sherman also spoke of the efforts made to keep the increases to the very minimum.

Motion by Councilmember Breidenstein, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to use $60,000 from the Highway Fund balance to lower the overall town tax levy from 2.7 % to 2.5%.

The initial vote was Councilmembers Breidenstein and Robertson voting for this and Councilmember Sherman voting against this. Supervisor Dickson then stated that he had not cast his vote, but he would vote in favor of the motion and asked Councilmember Sherman if she would like to change her vote. Councilmember Sherman stated she would change her vote and go with the majority decision.

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to adopt the Town of West Seneca 2027 Ad Valorem Budget, which includes the General and Highway Funds, as previously filed by the Town Supervisor and known as the “Preliminary 2027 Ad Valorem Budget” entitled “TWSNY 2027 Preliminary Budget" with the changes attached and the use of $60,000 from the Highway Fund balance.

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried

3. WARRANT

1. Director of Finance re Approval of Warrant

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to approve the vouchers submitted for audit, chargeable to the respected funds as follows::

General Fund: $ 412,395.27
Highway Fund: $ 213,097.37
Capital Fund: $ 426,539.40
Trust & Agency Fund: $ 0.00

Sewer Districts: $ 169,273.29
Water Districts: $ 0.00
Drainage District: $ 0.00
Gas Conversion Lighting Districts: $ 240.59
Electric Lighting Districts: $ 1,382.45

Total: $ 1,222,928.37

Ayes: 4	Noes: 0	Abstain: 0	Motion Carried

4. REPORTS FOR FILING

1. Town Clerk Newton re Town Clerk monthly report for October 2026

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to receive and file the Town Clerk monthly report for October 2026 .

Ayes: 4	Noes: 0	Abstain: 0	Motion Carried

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

The following comments and questions were received:

James Randolph, West Bihrwood:
- Recognized Veterans Day

Joe O'Donnell, Nancycrest Lane:
- Referred to the Letter of Authorization and asked if the funds collected for the delinquent water bills would be remitted to the county - Director of Finance Wnek stated the town would remit the payments to the ECWA. Mr. O'Donnell asked if the town received compensation for this. Supervisor Dickson stated the town would gain interest on the funds until they are remitted to the county. Director of Wnek stated the Letter of Authorization process is not a new process. Mr. O'Donnell asked if assessment challenges were billed back to the challenger. Supervisor Dickson stated he was not aware of this.

COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Director of Recreation Cox
- Reminded all of the day camp scheduled for Veterans Day and all school holidays
- Additional pickle ball sessions have been added
- Full and half day camps are scheduled for Summer 2027

Chief Cosgrove
- The winter parking ban is delayed until December 1st
- An initiative to educate people regarding e-bikes will begin with stricter enforcement in 2027
- The benefit for Scott Windover was very well attended and made Chief Cosgrove proud of the community

Councilmember Robertson
- Recognized all involved in creating the 2027 budget and lowering the rate
- Congratulated the West Seneca High Schol football teams for making the playoffs

Supervisor Dickson
- Anticipates a demolition of a dilapidated building on the property of 1194 Seneca Creek Road
- Addressing the concerns of Covington Drive residents and the Engineering Department will have quotes available for the next Town Board meeting
- A Veterans Day Ceremony is scheduled for November 11th at 11 A.M. outside at the Veterans Walkway to Freedom
- Joined members of the Joint Veterans Committee to meet with veterans at the Seneca Healthcare Center
- Newly elected Councilman John Rusinski should be going the Town Board at the next meeting after the election results are certified

Councilmember Breidenstein
- Agreed with Chief Cosgrove about the benefit for Scott WIndover and encouraged everyone to get screened for skin cancer
- A schedule will be released for meeting dates for 2027
- Thanked the Police Department for their food collection drive

Highway Superintendent Adams
- Leaf collection underway
- Playgrounds at Daniel J. Shaw Memorial Park, formerly Westgate, and Peter J. Donlon Memorial Park, formerly Carriage Park have been completed and the new signs will be installed when delivered with a proper dedication to follow

Town Attorney Trapp
- Regarding tax assessment challenges, the parties filing the challenges are paying for this

Town Clerk Newton
- The outstanding water delinquencies are being collected by all Town Clerks/Tax Receivers in Erie County
- Currently in the final penalty phase for the school tax collection through November 30th before unpaid taxes are returned to Erie County

Deputy Supervisor Greenan
- An Request For Qualifications for on demand demo engineering services has been released and questions are due November 18th and submissions are due December 4th - Councilmember Breidenstein stated that received two inquiries and will forward them to Ms. Greenan.

Supervisor Dickson requested that the delayed parking ban hours be added to the town sign.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Ayes: 4	Noes: 0	Abstain: 0	Motion Carried

Letter of Authorization

To: Erie County Real Property Tax Department

From: Town of

Subject: Unpaid items to be included in tax warrant

Date:

In accordance with New York State Town Law, section 198, the town board has opted to enforce various unpaid accounts for water, sewer, refuse and other unpaid town services as indicated below, by placing a lien upon the real property for which such services were provided. **Be sure to include a copy of the resolution(s) adopting all special town charges.**

In light of the aforementioned, the Erie County Legislature shall levy in such sums as indicated below and against the applicable properties as provided for on the town assessor's master computer assessment roll file, which is also hereby being delivered by the assessor with this letter of authorization.

• Total Unpaid Water	$ 720,846.94
• Total Unpaid Sewer	$
• Total Unpaid Refuse	$
• Total Ag Penalty	$
• Total Omitted Taxes	$
• Total Other Charges	$ 23565
Total of Items Above	$ 744411.94

Certification Town of West Seneca Date: 11/5/26

Town Supervisor

Kate Newton
Town Clerk

Assessors Use Only

Date RPS file submitted to County RPTS_____

I hereby certify that the entries on the master assessment roll file delivered herewith equal the amounts as required by the town board as provided for above.

Assessor

11/5/26
Date

County RPTS Use Only

Date filed received _____ By: _____

File in balance **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Proposed Change in Appropriations	Line	Prelim.	Change	Final Amount	
Town Board Continuing Education and Training	01101000.50414	$0.00	$500.00	$500.00	
Celebrations Patriotic Observances	01755000.50473	$2,000.00	$5,600.00	$7,600.00	
Historical Preservation Commission Professional Services	01807000.50451	$0.00	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	
Senior Center Cleaning & Other Supplies	01762000.50417	$4,500.00	$2,500.00	$7,000.00	
Town Clerk Postage	01141000.50411	$18,000.00	$0.00	$18,000.00	
Contingency Account	01199000.50480	$50,000.00	$25,000.00	$75,000.00	postage
Planning Board Salary of Board Chairman	01802000,50100	$6,489.00	($189.00)	$6,300.00	
Planning Board Salary of Board Members	01802000,50109	$26,883.00	($783.00)	$26,100.00	
ZBA Salary of Board Chairman	01801000,50100	$6,489.00	($189.00)	$6,300.00	
ZBA Salary of Board Members	01801000,50109	$17,922.00	($522.00)	$17,400.00	
Recreation Salary of Director	01714000.50100	$82,558.00	$2,442.00	$85,000.00	
Town Attorney Litigation	01142000.50452	$175,000.00	($5,000.00)	$170,000.00	
Highway Garage Repair & Maintenance	01513200.50445	$25,000.00	($4,000.00)	$21,000.00	
Buildings & Grounds Equipment	01711000.50200	$125,000.00	($5,000.00)	$120,000.00	
Tree Maintenance Consultant & Replacement	01856000.50485	$30,000.00	($4,000.00)	$26,000.00	
Police Department Other Expenses	01312000.50415	$213,000.00	($7,000.00)	$206,000.00	
Highway Department Guard Rail & Curbing Repairs	02511000.50455	$45,000.00	($2,500.00)	$42,500.00	
Drainage Culvert, Pipe, Lumber, Sand, Etc	01854000.50498	$20,000.00	($2,500.00)	$17,500.00	
Recreation Youth Summer Programs	01714000.50476	$65,000.00	($5,000.00)	$60,000.00	
	TOTAL CHANGE IN APPROPRIATIONS		**$9,359.00**		

Proposed Change in Revenue	Line	Prelim.	Change	Final Amount	
Share of Joint Activity Other Governments	01000100.42390	$80,000.00	$11,500.00	$91,500.00	school tax receipts
Non Property Tax Distribution by County	01000100.41120	$8,500,000.00	$20,000.00	$8,520,000.00	
	TOTAL CHANGE IN REVENUE		**$31,500.00**		
	EFFECT ON BUDGET		**($22,141.00)**		