

Town Of Ashland
12094 State Route 23
Ashland, New York 12407
May 11, 2026
Town Board Meeting

Attendance of the Board

Supervisor- Chris Hamilton

Councilperson- Deputy Scott Tuttle

Councilperson- Jeff Gonzalez

Councilperson- James Garraghan

Councilperson- John Mattice

Town Clerk- Dawn Thorp

Attending: Planning Board member Barbara Cooke- Heather Younes- Robert Myers

1-2] Supervisor Hamilton opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the American Flag.

3] Comments from the floor: Heather asked about Minekill Supervisor advised her it's on the agenda. There were no comments or concerns.

Councilperson Scott Tuttle arrived 7:35

4] Planning Board updates: Barbara Cooke Planning Board Vice Chairperson came with some questions on behalf of the planning board.

*They are wondering about the ordinances and the laws the attorney is working on. The supervisor will check on the updates with Tal, and get back to you.

*The planning board have people arriving at the Planning Board meetings without being on the agenda. They have their documents and paper work to be reviewed by the planning board. The Planning board members understand people are anxious to start a project as the season is not very long. They feel this is not fair to the Planning board members or their secretary Heather. How should this be addressed? The Town board members agreed, at your meeting you can table it for review and set it up for the next meeting.

*She asked about the illegal shed on the Michael Harte property. Councilperson Scott Tuttle advised her after Michael Harte's request for a proposed variance, after review by the board, he was not given a variance- A letter was sent for him to remove the shed from the current location once the weather would allow. Must be removed by the end of this month (May).

5] Purchase of Chairs- for both Town and Fire Department: The fire department needs to replace chairs and buy additional chairs- both the town and fire district work together with meetings and dinners. The Fire District would like the Town to share half the cost with new chairs. After discussion, Motion by Councilperson James Garraghan, seconded by Councilperson John Mattice to pay for half of the chairs. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

6] Park Flag Pole Lighting: The board reviewed the options for the flag pole lighting. Solar vs Electric. They noted the solar may not have the light they want for this project. Motion by Councilperson John Mattice, seconded by Councilperson James Garraghan- to authorize the electric lights for the flag pole, Motion; Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

7] Minekill: The board and Heather discussed the Minekill costs –the cost of paying counselors- the cost of background checks for each counselor, of whom take care of the children, the cost of the bus, and the liability to the town, has made

the amount budgeted, way short of what is needed. Heather thinks we should have it, as the kids need to learn to swim, and everyone should know how to swim it's important. After further discussion of amounts and increases and the liability to the town; Supervisor Hamilton asked the board what they wanted to do. Councilman Gonzalez stated it is a great program, and we have had this for so many years, he would like to keep it. Motion by Councilperson Scott Tuttle to end the Minekill program, seconded by Councilperson John Mattice, Motion: Adopted; 4 Aye Tuttle, Mattice, Garraghan, Hamilton- 1 Nay Gonzalez opposed.

8]Employee Benefit Policy: set aside till later in the meeting.

9] Bookkeeper Update: We have several people interested in the position. We will set up interviews.

10] New Website Update:

Resolutions: (all resolutions are signed sealed and kept in the office)

11] Town Board Resolution #21 Councilperson James Garraghan, seconded by Councilperson John Mattice to authorize the Town Supervisor to use the sum of \$960.60 from General Fund unappropriated fund balance to balance General Fund accounts in 2026. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

12]General Fund Resolution # 4 Councilperson James Garraghan, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Gonzalez to authorize the Town Supervisor to make the transfers to balance accounts in the General Fund 2026. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

13] Highway Fund Resolution #4 Councilperson Jeff Gonzalez, seconded by Councilperson James Garraghan to authorize the Town Supervisor to make the transfers to balance accounts in the Highway Fund 2026. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

14] Water District Resolution # 3 Councilperson Jeff Gonzalez, seconded by Councilperson James Garraghan to authorize the Town Supervisor to make the transfer to balance accounts in the Water District Fund 2026. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

15] Town Clerk's Monthly Report for April 2026: After review, Councilperson James Garraghan, seconded by Councilperson John Mattice authorized the Supervisor to sign the Town Clerk's April Report. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

16] Tax Collection Report 2026: Dawn give the board members copies of the tax summary through to May 2, 20226. The board reviewed the report. Showing 87% of taxpayers have paid to date. Councilperson James Garraghan, seconded by Councilperson John Mattice approved the report. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

17] typo

18] Naming the Town-Additional Insured for the Fire District: This was agreed. Motion by Councilperson

19] Motion by Councilperson John Mattice seconded by Councilperson Scott Tuttle to go into executive session at 8:09 PM- regard personnel. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Jeff Gonzalez, seconded by Councilperson Scott Tuttle to close the executive session, return regular town board meeting at 9:11 PM, Motion carried.

20] Old Business:

21] Pay Warrant Bills: Motion to pay the bills as written and audited by Councilperson Jeff Gonzalez, seconded by Councilperson Scott Tuttle motion carried.

General Fund Warrant #5 31 Claims \$31,718.63, Highway Fund Warrant #5 9 Claims \$1,932.65, Streetlight Warrant #5 1 claim \$ 196.91, Ashland Water District Warrant #5 5 Claims \$2,142.10, Ashland Ambulance Warrant#5 13 Claims \$7,055.27, Waste Water Treatment Plant Warrant # 5 13 Claims \$23,811.98.

Reviewed by the Board- Minutes- Town Board and Planning board, Travis Castle's Water and Sewer reports.

Trent Post Laborer: Motion by Councilperson Scott Tuttle, seconded by Councilperson James Garraghan to approve the hiring of Trent Post as laborer at \$23.57 per hour. Motion: Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

Former Code Enforcement Officer-Robert Myers: The Town, since Tal Rappleyea is unable to represent Robert Myers in an on-going Winery issue during his time as Code Enforcement Officer. The town board will pay for the attorney to

represent Robert Myers with prior years of issues of the winery. Motion by Councilperson Scott Tuttle, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Gonzalez. Adopted; 5 Aye- Garraghan, Mattice, Gonzalez, Tuttle, Hamilton 0 Nay.

22] Correspondence:

Rev 250 Event Funding Requests: The County reviewed the requests decided to give \$2,500.00 to each town/ village that submitted funding requests.

Cannabis Showcase Event Overview & Municipal Approval Form: The supervisor explained that this is a state approved. There must be a form application sent 45-day before an event, they must be represented by a licensed dealer in order to sell their product.

8] Employee Benefit Policy: Supervisor Hamilton stated due to the late hour, he asked that the board review and go over the 3 options for the policy and we will finalize next month.

Reviewed by the Town Board; Water and Sewer Reports, Planning and Town Board minutes.

Motion to Close at 9:27PM by Councilperson John Mattice, seconded by Councilperson Scott Tuttle, motion carried.

Dawn Thorp, Town Clerk

Dated: May 11, 2026