

148) Roll Call

Board Members	Present	Excused	Town Officials	Present	Excused
Supervisor Joe Denis			Town Clerk, Paige Phillips	X	
Councilmember/Deputy Supervisor Carol Dimond	X		Highway Superintendent, Jay Rust	X	
Councilmember Gina Sarazen	X				
Councilmember Angela Rust	X				
Councilmember Tom Snye		X			

Guests:Patty Reandeau, Marlene Ashton, Tony D’Amico, Nicole Whitman, David Siegel, Elaine Sarazen, Leo Sarazen, Bookkeeper Linda Pickering.

149) Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond.

150) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the minutes of August 14, 2025 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved AYES: Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen, and Rust. NAYS: 0

151) Monies Received

Refuse & Garbage	\$2,973.00
Licenses	\$30.00
Licenses&Permits	\$3,052.50
Fines,Forfeits of Bail	\$298.00

Privilege of Floor

152) Patricia Reandeau

Inquired whether the hole at the end of Lake Street could be fixed. Highway Superintendent Jay Rust informed her that part of the road is owned by the state but he will look into the possibility of putting material there as a temporary fix. Patty was present at a court case and, in her opinion, considers the intervention of the court clerk to be inappropriate towards the defendant. Councilmember Angela Rust advised her that the Town Justice would be responsible for taking any action if he deemed the behavior to be inappropriate.

153) Nicole Whitman

Nicole came to follow up from the meeting last month letting Jay know “things are looking great.”

154) Marlene Ashton

In regards to the trash bags being left at the pump house that was discussed at last months meeting, Marlene said a car was seen dropping their bags off. Jay informed her to get a license plate number if they are seen again. A discussion was had about purchasing a camera and no dumping signs. Councilmember Carol Dimond would like it to be known that if anyone sees clear bags in that area on the lawn it is from the residents of Raquette Flow Road who do a highway cleanup, which is a different situation from the black bags left by the pump house.

Marlene requires suggestions for advertising her petition to increase visibility. Going door to door alone is neither safe nor practical. A conversation took place among board members and guests. Some recommendations included Sevey’s Point, the community bulletin board at the post office, and a copy in the Town Clerk's office. Councilmember Dimond also proposed contacting friends of Mt Arab, the Gull Pond Association, and Peg Mauer, who possesses the contact details for residents of Raquette Flow Road.

Councilmember Angela Rust spoke with Town Attorney Kirk Gagnier in regards to the letter of support Marlene had previously requested. Kirk advised there is no reason the town couldn’t write one. Councilmember Carol Dimond has offered to write the letter of support and will send it to the Town Clerk to have it put on the town letterhead for Marlene to take to the meeting with the District Legislators on September 15th.

Marlene thanked Jay Rust for addressing some concerns brought up at the last meeting in regards to the towns appearance. Jay addressed the cone near the fence by the playground mentioning how it has been filled numerous times but keeps getting washed out. He stated that he will always make an effort to address any reasonable complaint that he is able to resolve.

Councilmember Carol Dimond received an email from Legislator Rick Perkins asking if we would like him to be in attendance at the monthly meetings. Carol responded inviting him to attend the meeting on December 11th.

155) David Siegel

David owns property on rt 421 and has come to request assistance from the town board. His first concern is the Speed limit on State Route 421. The current speed limit is 55 mph. He would like to propose a speed limit reduction to 35 mph. “The road has many sharp turns and rollers, and also passes picnic, camping and sightseeing areas around the Bog River. There are frequent pedestrians, cyclists and nature photographers on the road that are being placed at unnecessary risk by the excessive, but legal, speed at which the cars and trucks travel. The people who own homes on SR 421 have requested, from the New York State Dept of Transportation, a reduction of the current 55mph to 35mph with no response to date.” He understands that 421 is a state and not a county road. so, he would like to request a letter of support from the Town of Piercefield that states that the board requests and is in full support of a speed limit reduction. The board is all in favor of offering a letter of support for the speed limit reduction.

Another topic of discussion was safety buoys at the south end of Tupper Lake. “In the south end of the lake between the Bog River flow and Warren Point (the land just south of Hamlin Bay), there are several areas of protected wetlands. At least three Loon families as well as canoes and kayaks are regularly present. In addition, and most importantly from a safety perspective, children and adults swim in the water all summer. Motor boats and jet skiers often exceed the known speed limit of 5 mph when less than 100 feet from shore. This, of course, puts the shoreline, wetland habitats and humans at significant safety risk.” David has requested that safety buoys be placed that specifically say 'Speed Limit 5 mph' and No Wake Zone. They would be placed at the entrance to the cove between Warren Point and Paradise Point. “In the absence of funds to pay for the buoys, the home owners in the area are willing to pay for and maintain the buoys as long as the Town of Piercefield is willing to allow them. In addition, the residents will place the buoys in the Spring and remove them in the Fall. A letter that states that the Town supports the placement of the buoys will be kept as a record that the owners did not act solely on their own.” All councilmembers are in favor of the placement of buoys.

Lastly, reduction of road salt use by NYSDOT. “Road salt has been applied by New York State since 1940. After the winter Olympics in Lake Placid in 1980, the amount of salt applied has increased significantly. In high concentrations, sodium chloride, the main ingredient in road salt, is toxic to humans, animals and plant life. High levels of salt have been found in many waterways in New York State. I have personally complained about excessive levels of road salt being applied on State Routes 3, 30 and, because it is close to my home, 421. Throughout every winter there are piles of salt crystals, often 2-4 inches thick, applied to the road. I have personally had two water wells poisoned by salt. There is no other source of salt other than that which is applied by DOT. It does not occur naturally unless adjacent to a salt mine. Some recent tests done with a calibrated meter revealed the following salt levels

- a) in the middle of Tupper Lake: 14-18 ppm (parts per million)
- b) Lumberjack (Goodman) Spring: 140 ppm
- c) reverse osmosis drinking water: 0-2 ppm
- d) tap water in the town of Tupper Lake 14 ppm
- e) water runoff from SR 421: 252 ppm. The measurement was repeated at several time periods at the mouth of the stream that enters Tupper Lake directly. This is especially striking since the measurement was taken in the beginning of September, at least 5 months after the last significant snowfall and salt application. For those people with high blood pressure, heart, lung or kidney disease, safe levels of salt in drinking water are generally less than 20 ppm. In 2019, Mirror Lake in Lake Placid recorded a level of 129 ppm which prompted the town to address the issue of salt immediately. Tupper Lake is not near that level yet but the water that flows off SR421 runs directly into the lake. In other words, the lake is slowly being poisoned by its home state. A letter supporting immediate reduction of salt application on SR421, in Piercefield county, would be very helpful in my effort to save the lake and surrounding forest and wetlands.”

156) Highway Report

The Highway crew is currently working on the Mt Arab Road. They have installed 13 culverts and are continuing to excavate the road and perform ditching. The Town Clerk has assisted Jay with the CHIPS reimbursement process for the culverts, and they will keep applying for reimbursement for the crusher run and stone that was purchased. Delivery of stone from Tahawus is anticipated, and it will be utilized to surface Raquette Flow.

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157) Notification for rescheduled meetings

In addition to publishing announcements in the local press about the rescheduled board meetings, the Town Clerk will inform all staff via email.

Old Business

159) Town Beach

Councilmember Gina Sarazen has been diligently pursuing the objective of reopening the "old beach" for residents under a use-at-your-own-risk policy. Gina reached out to our Assessor, James Snyder, inquiring whether the area could be reclassified for recreational purposes. Currently, the old beach has been redesignated as a municipal park and picnic area. Gina plans to follow up with James to discuss the type of signage the town will need to implement, and she will also provide the insurance company with the documentation confirming its reclassification.

160) Verizon Tower

Councilmember Carol Dimond reported that the APA has indicated that the application for this project remains incomplete. Once it is finalized, there will be a period of only two weeks to submit opinions regarding support or opposition to the project.

161) Town Supervisor Vacancy

Town Supervisor Joe Denis has officially submitted his resignation letter, which takes effect today, September 4, 2025. The Town Clerk will inform the Board of Elections about the vacancy and will ask if the position can be advertised for an appointment to complete the term which ends on December 31,2025.

162) Tentative Budget

Budget discussion for 2026 has begun and will continue over the next 2 months. A budget meeting has been scheduled for September 24, 2025 at 4:00pm. The Town Clerk will put notice of this meeting in the Tupper Lake Press. The Tentative Budget will be available for viewing in the Town Clerks office by September 30th.

163) Teamsters

Councilmembers Gina Sarazen and Carol Dimond report negotiations with the teamsters union are still ongoing.

164) APA Major Project Notice

Councilmembers reviewed a major project notice from the APA. The project is an expansion of a currently authorized mine for future sand and gravel extraction. No change to the method or manner of mining is proposed. DEC will be acting as the lead agency for the SEQR review.

165) CEO Salary

It is unknown whether the salary of \$9,000 discussed at last months meeting was presented to Code Officer Nicholas Snyder. The details regarding what can be negotiated will become clearer following the budget meeting scheduled for September 24th.

166) Letter of Support to DOT

Councilmember Tim Larkin from Tupper Lake reached out to Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond regarding a bump before the bridge on Route 3 entering Piercefield. Tim believes this poses a risk for trucks and trailers. Carol asked if Gary Lutz, the regional head of the DOT, has been contacted since this is a state highway, and the Town of Piercefield lacks jurisdiction over the repair of state roads. Tim informed her that Gary has been notified, but the issue remains unresolved, prompting him to request a letter of support from the Town. The council members concurred that they have not observed the bump but would like to examine it more closely once the road construction is completed. They also expressed a desire to wait and review the letter that Tupper Lake will be sending to Gary.

167) Pay Incoming Bills

RESOLUTION No.: 20-09-2025

DATED: September 4, 2025

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

WHEREAS, all bills for the month of September had not yet been received

RESOLVED, the Town Board approves to pay incoming bills for the month of September that were not received before the monthly meeting.

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen, and Rust. NAYS: 0 Approved:

168) Payment of Monthly Credit Card Bill

RESOLUTION No.: 21-09-2025

DATED: September 4, 2025

PAYMENT OF CREDIT CARD

WHEREAS, the Piercefield Town Board recognizes that the organization incurs ongoing expenses that are charged to its credit card;

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, September 4,2025

DRAFT

WHEREAS, timely payment of the credit card bill is essential to avoid late fees, interest charges, and negative impact on the town’s credit standing;

WHEREAS, regular board meetings may not always align with the credit card payment due dates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bookkeeper Linda Pickering is hereby authorized to review and make full monthly payments of the Town’s credit card bill as needed, prior to the regularly scheduled board meetings, in order to ensure timely payment;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that such payments shall be made in accordance with the approved budget and shall be reported to the Board at the next scheduled meeting, including copies of the credit card statement and receipts for all charges incurred;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by subsequent resolution of the Board.

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen, and Rust. NAYS: 0 Approved:

New Business

169) Youth Center

Discussion was held on opening the youth center for the remainder of the year on a “trial basis.” Behaviors will be monitored and handled accordingly.

RESOLUTION NO.: 19-09-2025 **Dated: September 4, 2025**

YOUTH CENTER AGREEMENT

WHERE AS, The Town of Piercefield Board would like to reopen the Youth Center for the 2025 season

WHERE AS, The Town of Piercefield Board will appoint Patty Reandeau as Youth Center Coordinator and will allow her one assistant.

WHERE AS. The Town Board has set a limited amount of 4 hours the Youth Center can operate per week.

RESOLVED, The Piercefield Town Board will open the Youth Center, under the supervision of Patty Reandeau and one assistant for the 2025 season for no more than 4 hours per week. Days and times of operation will be subject to the Youth Center Coordinator.

A motion to open the Youth Center was made by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust. All in favor to open the Youth Center. AYES: Councilmembers Sarazen, Dimond, Rust NAYS: 0. Approved.

170) Budget Transfer

RESOLUTION NO. 16-09-2025 **DATED: September 4,2025**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONEY IN THE 2025 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield needs to transfer money in the 2025 Budget because of increased expenditures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following transfers be made in the 2025 budget:

Highway					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
51304.03	Machinery CE	\$4,097.50	97896.03	Principal on Debt	\$7,267.15
51104.03	General Repair	\$3,169.65			
	Total	\$7,267.15		Total	\$7,267.15

On a motion by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, resolution #16 be approved.: AYES: Councilmembers, Dimond, Rust, Sarazen. NAYS: 0 Approved.

171) Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 17-09-2025 **DATED: September 4, 2025**

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT OF THE 2025 HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield needs to amend the 2025 Highway Fund Budget because of increased expenditures and increased revenues,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following changes be made to the 2025 budget:

Increase the revenues and increase the expenditures by the attached spreadsheet.

Highway					
Increase	Description	Amount	Increase	Description	Amount
3501.03	CHIPS	\$210,427.00	51124.03	CHIPS	\$210,427.00

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	Total	\$210,427.00		Total	\$210,427.00

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Angela Rust and seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen, Rust, and NAYS: 0

172) Tax Cap Override

RESOLUTION NO.: 18-09-2025

DATED: SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

RESOLUTION TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C

WHEREAS, in order to meet contractual obligations, bond payments, increase facilities, fund health insurance expenses, fund pension contribution payments, fund the cost of increasing commodities, etc., and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a resolution approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield, County of St. Lawrence, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 on behalf of the Town of Piercefield that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in General Municipal Law §3-c, and be it further

RESOLVED, that, should a tax levy limit override be necessary, a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 3-2025, titled, A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c, shall be held on the 9th day of October, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Town hall, where all interested persons shall be heard.

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Carol Dimond and seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Councilmembers Sarazen and Dimond. NAYS: 0 Approved.

173) Proposed Local Law #3 of 2025

LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF THE YEAR 2025

TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE

A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this Local Law to override the limit on the amount of real property tax that may be levied by the Town of Piercefield, County of St. Lawrence pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Piercefield, County of St. Lawrence to adopt a budget for (a) Town purposes, (b) fire protection districts, and (c) any other special or improvement district governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This Local Law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the enactment of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Town Board of the Town of Piercefield, County of St. Lawrence is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in it is application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5 Effective date

This Local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

174) Approval of Town Clerk Monthly Reports

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen the Clerk Reports for August 2025 be approved: AYES: Councilmembers, Dimond, Rust, and Sarazen. NAYS: 0

175) Payment of Bills

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond the following payments be approved AYES: Councilmembers Rust, Sarazen, and Dimond. NAYS: 0

General Fund:	\$8,913.94
Highway Fund:	\$24,701.11
Lighting District	\$377.49
Conifer Water:	\$23.94
Piercefield Water:	\$1,243.91
Trust and Agency	\$5,829.51
Total	\$41,089.90

176) Adjournment

On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Paige Phillips, Town Clerk

Date Approved