

178) Roll Call

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

Guests: Leo Sarazen, Karen Brownell, Marlene Ashton, Loren Bailey, Chris and Leslie Lahart, Bookkeeper Linda Pickering.

179) Pledge of Allegiance

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

180 Public Hearing

Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond convened a public hearing at 7:00pm on Proposed Local Law #3 of 2025: TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW 3-C. Notice of the public hearing was advertised in the Tupper Lake Press, no residents attended to speak on the proposed local law. The public hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

181) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor/Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the minutes of September 4, 2025 and the minutes from October 3,2025 special meeting as presented by the Town Clerk be approved AYES: Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen, Snye, and Rust. NAYS: 0

182) Monies Received

Refuse & Garbage	\$2,411.00
Licenses	\$60.00
Licenses&Permits	\$3,588.75
Vital Statistics	\$150.00
Transportation services	\$778.32
State Aid	\$6,124.00

Privilege of Floor

183) Chris Lahart

Chris, a resident of Conifer, expressed his concerns regarding the speed limit in the area. He mentioned that during his brief time living in Conifer, his wife was sideswiped by a vehicle traveling too quickly, and his dog was also hit on a separate occasion. Additionally, Chris raised concerns about the safety of local children playing outside near the road. Currently, there are no speed limit signs displayed, which means that the legal speed limit through the town is 55 mph. Chris suggested that the speed limit be reduced to 15 mph. Highway Superintendent Jay Rust supports Chris's proposal. The Town Clerk will investigate the legal aspects of placing speed limit signs throughout the town. Jay will also install 'Children at Play' signs in the vicinity.

184) Loren Bailey

Loren Bailey, a resident of Eagle Crag, acknowledged Jay and the highway crew for their work on the Mt. Arab Road. Loren inquired whether there are plans to pave any parts of the road this year, and if not, whether the potholes will be repaired. Jay responded that they intend to repair the potholes, but there will be no paving this year. The plan for 2026 is to pave all areas that have been excavated so far. Jay is submitting the request to the county this fall, hoping to receive their assistance before the fall of 2026.

185) Marlene Ashton

Marlene went to the district legislator’s office regarding her public health efforts to help residents age in place. She spoke to Virginia Welch from Colton, who oversees a newsletter distributed to nearly 500 individuals each month. Virginia is interested in collaborating with Marlene to write an article telling Marlene’s story, with the intention of increasing awareness.

186) Highway Report

After the special meeting on October 3rd where the board approved the purchase of a Hitachi loader, Tracy Road Equipment quoted a Caterpillar loader for a cheaper price with a longer warranty. Jay proposed to rescind the purchase approval of the Hitachi loader and requested a new resolution

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approving the purchase of the Caterpillar loader from Tracy Road Equipment. The highway crew has been tailgate spreading and rolling crusher run from Tahawus on the Raquette Flow Road along with a section on Gull Pond. There remains some crusher run available for use should any areas require it. Councilmember Gina Sarazen informed Jay that the bathroom sink in the office is clogged and has asked the crew to fix it if they have some free time.

187) Fire Department Budget

Councilmember Sarazen expressed her discomfort with reducing the fire department's budget to \$25,000 for the year 2026. Fire Chief Jay Rust communicated that there is no longer a truck payment, and that the \$25,000 will be enough to cover the expenses this year, allowing the budget to remain within the tax cap.

188) Code Enforcement Officer Report

Issued Building Permits:5
Site Inspections: 13
Calls of non-complaints: 48

Bookkeeper Linda Pickering asked if there is a Local Law giving Nicholas the authority to take action against derelict buildings in the Town. A discussion followed, considering the possibility that if no Local Law is in place, there may be a New York State Law that Nicholas could utilize. The Deputy Town Supervisor will contact Nicholas for additional clarification.

Old Business

189) Town Beach

Councilmember Gina Sarazen has been in contact with assessor James Snyder. James confirmed that the “beach” has been reclassified. Jay inquired whether The Board intends to install restrooms and provide running water. If so, the Department of Health will need to be involved. A discussion took place regarding the future plans for the area, and it was decided that this discussion would be tabled until spring of 2026.

190) Youth Center

The opening date of the youth center is still uncertain. Councilmember Gina Sarazen will contact Patty Reandeau for confirmation on her position as youth center director and report back next month.

191) Teamsters

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

New Business

192) Local Law #3 of 2025 Override Tax Levy

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2025 TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C

WHEREAS, local law number 3 of 2025 was duly introduced to the Town Board on September 4, 2025; and

WHEREAS, legal notice of the Public Hearing regarding the proposed local law was published and advertised and copies of the proposed local law were made available at the Town Clerk’s office for public review; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the proposed law was held on October 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the town of Piercefield Town Hall, with 0 public comment being offered; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Piercefield, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board has acted as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS the adoption to said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, the said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria; and

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 and other town purposes; and

WHEREAS this resolution is adopted pursuant to subdivision five of Gen. Municipal Law section 3-C, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a resolution approved by vote of 60% over the Town Board;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2025 is an unlisted action, there are no other involved agencies, and this Board acts as lead agency in this matter for purposes of SEQR review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the Town Board has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; and that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQR; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County, 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 prescribed in General Municipal Law section 3-C; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 3 of 2025 titled “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-C.”

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193) Increase Justice Salary

RESOLUTION No.: 32-10-2025

DATED: October 9, 2025

AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE SALARY FOR TOWN JUSTICE JONN KOPP

WHEREAS, Jonn Kopp, Piercefield Town Justice salary was reviewed by The Town of Piercefield Board,

RESOLVED, That the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby authorizes the Supervisor to increase the salary from \$5,500.00 a year to \$5,750

RESOLVED, That the sum of \$5,750 is hereby appropriated to the payroll budget for the Town Justice, Jonn Kopp effective January 1st, 2026

Motion Offered by: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond

Seconded by: Councilmember Angela Rust

Vote: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond
Councilmember Thomas Snye
Councilmember Gina Sarazen
Councilmember Angela Rust

NAYS: None

194) Increase Court Clerk Salary

RESOLUTION No.: 33-10-2025

DATED: October 9, 2025

AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE SALARY FOR COURT CLERK SHERRI SNYDER

WHEREAS, Sherri Snyder, Piercefield Court Clerk salary was reviewed by The Town of Piercefield Board,

RESOLVED, That the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby authorizes the Supervisor to increase The Town Court Clerks salary from \$4,700.00 a year to \$4,950.00

RESOLVED, That the sum of \$4,950.00 is hereby appropriated to the payroll budget for the Town Court Clerk, Sherri Snyder effective January 1st, 2026

Motion Offered by: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond

Seconded by: Councilmember Gina Sarazen

Vote: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond
Councilmember Thomas Snye
Councilmember Gina Sarazen
Councilmember Angela Rust

NAYS: None

195) Adopt Tentative Budget

RESOLUTION NO: 10-27-2025

DATED: October 9, 2025

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the following resolution be adopted: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers Snye, Rust, and Sarazen NAYS: 0 Adopted.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield adopts the Tentative Budget for the year 2026, the amount to be raised by taxes being 495,098.00 not exceeding the NYS tax cap over the final budget of the previous year.

RESOLVED, the adopted Tentative Budget shall henceforth be known as the Preliminary Budget for the year 2026, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby ordered to publish a legal notice of Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget to be held at 7:00 PM at the Piercefield Town Hall on the 6th day of November, 2025, at which time all interested persons may be heard.

196) Water User Fee

RESOLUTION NO.: 22-10-2025

DATED: October 9, 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2026 PIERCEFIELD AND CONIFER WATER DISTRICT AND USER CHARGES

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield authorizes the establishment of the 2026 Piercefield Water User fee at \$225.00 and the Conifer Water User fee at \$245.00; and

RESOLVED, payment schedule established with full payment being made by February 28, 2026 without penalty, and 2% interest in March and 1% interest per payment month thereafter. Collection period set from January 1, 2026 through October 1, 2026, and

RESOLVED, payments not made by October 1, 2026 shall be assessed a total of 12% penalty for the year, which penalty plus Water User Fee shall be re-levied onto the January 2027 Town/County Property Tax bill, and

RESOLVED, establish the 2026 Piercefield Water District Debt Service at \$11,661.00 (83 @ \$140.39) and the Conifer Water District Debt Service at \$4,379.00 (43 @ \$101.84), which will appear on the January 2026 Town/County Property Tax bill.

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

197)

November Meeting

The November meeting will be held on November 6th adhering to past practice of holding the meeting the Thursday following election day. Town Clerk will post an add in the Tupper Lake Press as well as on the town website.

198)

Speed Limit Study in Conifer

RESOLUTION No.:

34-10-2025

DATED: October 9, 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SPEED LIMIT STUDY OF CONIFER NY IN THE TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received concerns regarding vehicle speeds in Conifer within the Town of Piercefield; and

WHEREAS, the establishment or modification of a speed limit on a town highway requires a formal engineering and traffic investigation and approval by the appropriate authorities, including the New York State Department of Transportation and County Superintendent of Highways; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board will request a study to determine whether the current speed limit on Main Street, Circle Drive, and North Street is appropriate and whether any changes should be recommended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby authorizes and directs that a speed limit study be conducted in Conifer, beginning at end of CR 62 ending at North Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to submit the necessary request to the County Superintendent of Highways and New York State Department of Transportation, and to take all steps necessary to carry out this resolution;

Motion Offered by: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond

Seconded by: Councilmember Gina Sarazen

Vote: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond
Councilmember Thomas Snye
Councilmember Gina Sarazen
Councilmember Angela Rust

NAYS: None

199)

Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION NO. 28-10-2025

DATED: October 9,2025

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:

General					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
12204.01	Supervisor CE	\$898.98	19904.01	Contingency	\$7,370.26
13554.01	Assessor CE	\$679.60			
71104.01	Parks PS	\$2,300.00			
71101.01	Parks Mt Arab	\$2,262.51			
81604.01	Refuse CE	\$789.10			
88104.01	Cemeteries CE	\$440.07			
	Total	\$7,370.26		Total	\$7,370.26

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, resolution #28 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust, Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0 Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 29-10-2025

DATED: October 9,2025

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	\$2,953.58	97896.03	Principal on Debt	\$3,490.72
51104.03	General Repair	\$537.14			

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	Total	\$3,490.72		Total	\$3,490.72

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, resolution #29 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust, Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0 Approved.

DATED: October 9, 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:

Piercefield Water					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
83401.13	PW PS	\$142.48	83402.13	PW EQ	\$310.76
83404.13	PW CE	\$168.28			
	Total	\$310.76		Total	\$310.76

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, resolution #30 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust, Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0 Approved.

200) Volunteer Transport Services

The Town of Piercefield received a request from Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc. to donate \$100.00 in support their cause. The Board reviewed their contract and weighed the impact it would have for The Town of Piercefield. The Town does not receive any services from this center; it is based out of Canton NY. The Town of Piercefield Board denied their request for donation at this time.

201) Removal of Town Historian Position for 2026

DATED: October 9, 2025

A RESOLUTION ELIMINATING THE POSITION OF TOWN HISTORIAN DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield has reviewed the current and projected budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2026; and

WHEREAS, part of this review, the Town Board has determined that reductions in expenditures are necessary to maintain a balanced budget and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that, it is in the best financial interest of the Town to eliminate the position of Town Historian effective December 31, 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby eliminates the position of Town Historian effective December 31, 2025

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond and seconded by Councilmember Thomas Snye. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond along with Councilmembers Snye, Sarazen, and Rust. NAYS 0 . Approved.

202) Gale Cemetery

Heather and Doug Grass of Childwold have requested a plot in the Gale Cemetery. It was determined that the residents meet the guidelines necessary to qualify for a plot. On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, Heather and Doug Grass are authorized to reserve a plot in the Gale Cemetery be approved: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond along with Councilmembers Rust, Snye, and Sarazen. NAYS: 0 . The Town Clerk will notify the Grass Family of the decision and forward the contact information of the cemetery caretaker.

203) Rescind Purchase Approval of Hitachi Loader

DATED: October 9, 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO RESCIND THE PURCHASE OF A 2025 HITACHI ZW180-7 WHEEL LOADER

WHEREAS the Town Highway Superintendent has received a quote for a new loader at a cheaper price with a longer warranty, now therefore be it

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RESOLVED that the Town rescind the purchase a 2025 Hitachi ZW180 7-wheel loader, on a Sourcewell contract #011723-HTI from Tracey Road Equipment for the price of \$184,135.16

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Thomas Snye and seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond along with Councilmember Snye, Sarazen, and Rust. Approved.

204) Authorize Purchase of CAT Loader
RESOLUTION NO.: 25-10-2025

DATED: October 9, 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A 2025 CATERPILLAR 930 LOADER

WHEREAS the Town Highway Superintendent has determined that the existing loader must be replaced because of the deterioration of the existing equipment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town purchase a 2025 Caterpillar 930 loader, Stock Number: EQ323705 Serial Number: F3S02108 NYS OGS Bid Number: PC69406. Purchase price: \$180,000.00 that includes trade in of the Town Highway current loader.

RESOLVED that the loader will be paid with NYS CHIPS funds and reimbursed December 16, 2025 by the NYS CHIPS reimbursement program.

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Thomas Snye and seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond along with Councilmembers Snye, Sarazen, and Rust. Approved.

205) Approval of Town Clerk Monthly Reports

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

206) Payment of Bills

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

General Fund:	\$13,814.81
Highway Fund:	\$8,127.18
Lighting District	\$415.04
Conifer Water:	\$3,942.23
Piercefield Water:	\$4,823.70
Trust and Agency	\$8,939.17
Total	\$40,062.17

207) Adjournment

On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Thomas Snye the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Paige Phillips, Town Clerk

Date Approved