

230) 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: Patricia Reandeau, Marlene Ashton, Karen Brownell, Leo Sarazen, Chris LaHart

231) Pledge of Allegiance

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

232) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the minutes of November 13, 2025 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers Sarazen, and Rust. NAYS: 0

233) Monies Received

Refuse & Garbage	\$1,506.00
Fines,Forfeits of Bail	\$193.00
Vital Statistics	\$100.00
Insurance Recovery	\$3,949.12
Mt. Arab	\$17,146.06

Privilege of Floor

234) Marlene Ashton

Marlene attended the meeting with the intention of sharing Bob's story with Rick Perkins, who was expected to attend; however, he was unable to join this month's meeting. Despite his absence, Marlene decided to present Bob's story to the Town Board. Additionally, she provided copies of his story to the Patients Advocate, Case Management, and the Director of the Hospital at Adirondack Medical Center. Bob's story is accessible at the Town Clerk's office for anyone who wishes to view it. In response, Councilmember Gina Sarazen mentioned that she participated in a virtual meeting where a topic of discussion was the healthcare crisis in the North Country. She noted that there is a larger network consistently working towards the goal of addressing the challenges we are currently facing.

235) Patty Reandeau

Patty and Gina have been working on cleaning the main room of the youth center. If all tasks are completed a potential opening date of December 19th from 5:30-7:30 was discussed. Patty inquired whether the town can have volunteers help with tasks so they can avoid depending on the highway department. Carol will get in contact with Jess, the towns insurance carrier to discuss the possibility. Additionally, Patty mentioned that the upstairs toilet is broken but she knows someone who is willing to donate a new one.

236) Highway Report

Jay reported that the highway crew has been actively plowing.

The boiler has not been inspected since 2021; an insurance company representative is scheduled to do an inspection on December 12th at 9:00 a.m.

A resident has moved without notifying the Town regarding water shutoff procedures. Jay expressed concern that the water line could freeze and break. Water cannot be turned off without notifying the property owners, as any resulting interior damage could be attributed to the Town. Resident Karen Brownell volunteered to contact the property owner to obtain the necessary information and relay the details to Jay.

Old Business

237) Election Results

Town Supervisor: Joe Denis
Councilmember: Carol Dimond
Councilmember: Thomas Snye
Town Clerk: Paige Phillips

New Business

238) Town Supervisor

The Councilmembers invite anyone interested in the Town Supervisor position to present their vision for the Town of Piercefield during the meeting on January 8, 2026. Following the discussions, a brief executive session will be conducted to appoint the Town Supervisor for the term concluding on 12/31/2026.

239) Reappoint Registrar

On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, Paige Phillips be reappointed as Registrar of Vital Statistics term ending on 12/31/27 be approved: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Sarazen and Rust . NAYS: 0

240) Thirsty Moose

The Thirsty Moose Pub and Grub has made a request for the town to waive the standardized notice to the municipality regarding their liquor license application. Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond has agreed to waive the notice and has written a letter addressing the State Liquor Authority after informing all Councilmembers of this request. The letter has been sent to the owner, who will forward it to the State Liquor Authority.

241) Fire Dept Contract

A new contract effective February 15, 2026 was presented to the Town Board. A public hearing will be scheduled for 7:00 pm on January 8, 2026. Town Clerk will post an ad in the Tupper Lake Free Press.

242) Grants

Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond contacted Heidi Ames, the Grants Manager at the St. Lawrence County Planning Office. Most of the grants that the town gets notice of are intended for 501c(3) nonprofit organizations. Heidi recommended that the town explore grants available from the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation. It is important for the town to be prepared for these grants when they become available in late spring or early summer. The grant process involves many steps and also requires a 50-75% match of the funds received. Councilmembers discussed the possibility of establishing a line item in the budget to begin setting aside funds for future grant opportunities.

243) Cash Payment for Taxes be exact Amount

RESOLUTION No.: 43-12-2025

DATED: December 11, 2025

A RESOLUTION REQUIRING ALL CASH PAYMENTS FOR LOCAL TAXES TO BE MADE IN THE EXACT AMOUNT DUE

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield is responsible for the collection of local taxes, including but not limited to property taxes, local sales taxes, fees, and assessments; and

WHEREAS, the national mint has discontinued production of the one-cent coin ("penny"), resulting in potential limitations on the availability of such coins within general circulation; and

WHEREAS, the continued decline in availability of one-cent coins may cause difficulty in providing change for cash transactions at the Town's tax collection offices; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of efficiency, accuracy, and fiscal responsibility to ensure that cash transactions for tax payments can be completed without the need for the Town to maintain or distribute one-cent coins; and

WHEREAS, the Town seeks to maintain consistent and reliable tax collection practices while minimizing administrative burden and inconvenience to taxpayers and staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, all cash payments made to the Town of Piercefield for any taxes, fees, or assessments must be tendered in the exact amount due.

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, resolution #42 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust and Sarazen NAYS: 0 Approved.

244) Town Attorney Agreement

RESOLUTION NO.: 44-12-2025

Dated: December 11, 2025

TOWN ATTORNEY RETAINER AGREEMENT

The Firm of Kirk Gagnier, Attorney has agreed to perform legal services for the Town of Piercefield for the year 2026 for the sum of \$4,800.00 (\$400.00 per month). Services are described as follows:

1. Consultations as needed with the Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, and Board Members.
2. Attendance at Town Board Meetings only when necessary to consider legal issues and when requested by the Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor. We have agreed that you will place legal matters and executive sessions as early items on the agenda, to the extent that you are able to do so.

229) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, December 11,2025 **DRAFT**

- 3. Preparation of various documents for the Town, including bonds, notes, resolutions, contracts, leases, deeds, road dedications and related documents, ordinances and local laws, other than district law; and other usual documents required by the Town in ordinary course of business.
- 4. We will handle enforcement proceedings in the Town Justice Court, but more extensive litigation, collection matters, disputes or matters in the County Court or Supreme Court, are not included herein and, will not be required of us under this arrangement but can be contracted separately.
- 5. This Agreement does not include consultations with the Planning Board. It also expressly excludes any matters regarding tax assessment, tax grievances or related matters. Nothing in the Agreement shall prevent our firm from handling matters such as tax grievances or subdivisions on behalf of private persons and the parties agree that no confidential information regarding such matters shall be shared.
- 6. We will continue to provide Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes and consultations with the Town Board with regard to existing Town financing matters. However, the establishment, modification, and financing of improvement Districts or new facilities within existing Districts related to any districts would not be included in this arrangement. Those matters can be contracted separately and paid for by the property owners within the districts.

Notwithstanding that this contractual arrangement will be for the 2026 year, we agree that either of us may terminate this agreement upon thirty (30) days' written notice, provided of course, that we will complete any matters that may be pending upon such a termination if the Board wishes us to do so.

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into this agreement as outlined above.
A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond and seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers.Rust and Sarazen

245) 2026 Dog Lic Fee **RESOLUTION 45-12-2025** **DATED: December 11, 2025**

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DOG CONTROL CRITERIA

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County, New York establishes the following for dog control for the year 2025 pursuant to Local Law No. 1 of 2012 and New York State Ag&Mkts Law:

- All dog licenses expire on August 31, 2025 and must be renewed within 30 days, fees payable as described below:
- Statutory Purebred Fee 1-10 dogs \$25.00
- Statutory Purebred Fee 11-25 dogs \$50.00
- Spayed/Neutered Dog Local Fee: \$5.00
- Spayed/Neutered Dog State Fee: \$1.00
- Unspayed/Unneutered Dog Local Fee \$13.00
- Unspayed/Unneutered Dog State Fee \$3.00
- Dog License Tag Fee \$1.00
- Lost Tag Replacement Fee \$2.00

Should the Town Board order the Dog Control Officer to conduct a Town-wide Dog Enumeration (Census), the Local Fees shall be increased by \$5.00 for previously licensed dogs and \$10.00 for previously unlicensed dogs.
On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, resolution establishing dog control criteria be approved: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers Sarazen and Rust NAYS: 0 Adopted.

246) Pay Incoming Bills **RESOLUTION No.: 46-12-2025** **DATED: December 11, 2025**

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

WHEREAS, all bills for the month of December had not yet been received
RESOLVED, the Town Board approves to pay incoming bills for the month of December that were not received before the monthly meeting.
A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers Sarazen and Rust. NAYS: 0 Approved:

247) Budget Transfers **RESOLUTION NO. 47-12-2025** **DATED: December 11,2025**

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:

StreetLight					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
51824.07	ST Lights CE	\$503.79	1120.07	Sales Tax	\$503.79
	Total	\$503.79		Total	\$503.79

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, resolution #47 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust and Sarazen NAYS: 0 Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 48-12-2025

DATED: December 11,2025

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
83404.13	Trans Distibution	\$471.41	83402.13	PW EQ	\$471.41
	Total	\$471.41		Total	\$471.41

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, resolution #48 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust and Sarazen NAYS: 0 Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 49-12-2025

DATED: December 11,2025

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	\$4,849.81	1120.03	Sales Tax	\$24,934.16
51421.03	Snow Removal	\$6,741.86			
51124.03	Permanent Imp	\$5,781.02			
90608.03	Medical Insur	\$7,561.47			
	Total	\$24,934.16		Total	\$24,934.16

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, resolution #49 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust and Sarazen NAYS: 0 Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 50-12-2025

DATED: December 11,2025

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
71101.01	Parks Mt Arab	\$2,262.51	19904.01	Contingency	\$3,221.88
81604.01	Refuse CE	\$789.10			
51324.01	Garage CE	\$170.27			

229) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, December 11,2025 **DRAFT**

	Total	\$3,221.88		Total	\$3,221.88
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On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, resolution #50 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust and Sarazen. NAYS: 0 Approved.

248) Executive Session

On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the Board, as well as Town Clerk Paige Phillips entered into an executive session at 8:38 pm to discuss collective bargaining negotiations under the Taylor Law. No action was taken. Executive session was closed at 9:35pm.

249) Approval of Town Clerk Monthly Reports

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

250) Payment of Bills

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

General Fund:	\$22,476.71
Highway Fund:	\$87,380.47
Lighting District	\$503.79
Conifer Water:	\$155.34
Piercefield Water:	\$228.95
Trust and Agency	\$10,552.25
Total	\$121,297.51

251) Adjournment

On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Paige Phillips, Town Clerk

Date Approved