

- 1) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 8,2026
- 2) Roll Call

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

Guest: Karen Brownell, Marlene Ashton, Leo Sarazen, Christ LaHart, District 7 Legislator Rick Perkins

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond.
- 4) Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Councilmember Thomas Snye, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the minutes of December 11, 2025 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved. AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers Rust, Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0

Public Hearing

- 5) Fire Department
Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond opened the public hearing on the Fire Department Contract at 7:01pm. There were no comments from any residents in attendance at the meeting or councilmembers Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond closed the public hearing at 7:03.
- 6) Monies Received

Refuse & Garbage	\$975.00
Insurance Recoveries	\$43.92
Licenses & Permits	\$25.00
Licenses	\$34.00
CHIPS	\$246,868.65

Town Supervisor Appointment

- 7) Town Supervisor Candidates
Conifer resident Chris LaHart and Piercefield resident Karen Brownell each shared brief statements explaining their interest in serving as Town Supervisor.
- 8) Executive Session
On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust the Councilmembers entered into executive session at 7:12 to discuss appointing a Town Supervisor. On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, Karen Brownell be appointed as Town Supervisor term ending on 12/31/2026. AYES Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers Rust, Sarazen, and Snye. NAYS: 0. Approved. Councilmembers returned to the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:15.

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Privilege of Floor

9) District 7 Legislator Rick Perkins

Rick Perkins District 7 Legislator addressed health care concerns that he has received from residents. He acknowledged that access to services is particularly challenging due to the town's location at the far end of the county, where many home health agencies are reluctant to travel. He noted that county-provided nursing services have not been available for approximately 13–14 years, having been discontinued due to staffing and financial constraints. He further stated that the ongoing nursing shortage is a statewide issue.

Angela Rust asked whether the county has any current programs in place to incentivize high school graduates to pursue careers in nursing. Perkins responded that he was unsure of any active outreach programs at this time. Perkins also stated that the county does not have plans to reinstate a county nursing position, explaining that doing so would require a significant tax increase on an already \$340 million budget. He added that any potential changes would need to be funded at the state level. At present, towns rely heavily on volunteer-provided services, which are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain due to a declining number of volunteers.

10) Highway

Highway Superintendent Jay Rust was unable to attend the meeting. Councilmember Angela Rust reported on his behalf. Jay reports “there’s little to report since the last meeting. We’ve had to put tires on one of the trucks. Keeping roads safe for school buses and general traffic has been our daily priority. This year’s weather has been constant for over two months now. Piercefield and Conifer water are in good working order. All daily checks were properly maintained, as usual, even throughout the holidays. January water samples have already been collected and submitted for testing.”

Old Business

11) Youth Center

The youth center has opened 3 times since the previous meeting. The center is open Fridays and Saturdays from 5:30-7:30. Patty reported the kids are thankful the youth center is back open and they are enjoying themselves. Patty thanked the highway department for placing the pool tables and mounting a tv. The basketball nets need to be replaced Patty question whether the ones that were taken from the playground could be used. Town Clerk will contact Jay to see if the highway department can install new nets in their free time.

New Business

12) Proposed Local Law #1 of 2026

A public hearing for proposed Local Law No.1 will be held on February 12, 2026 at 7:00pm.

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2026

TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE A LOCAL LAW REPEALING TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD LOCAL LAW NO 3 OF 2025 (A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C)

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield as follows:

Section 1.

Town of Piercefield Local Law No 1 of 2026 (“A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Piercefield”) is hereby repealed in its entirety

Section 2. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State

- 1) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 8,2026 **DRAFT**
13) Fire Company Contract
RESOLUTION NO.:01-01-26 **Dated: January 8, 2025**

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this 11th day of December, 2025, between the TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, St. Lawrence County New York, hereinafter designated as the “Town” and the PIERCEFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC. of Piercefield, New York, hereinafter designated as the “FIRE COMPANY”.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, there has been duly established in the Town a fire protection District known as “TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT” (hereinafter referred to as the “District”), encompassing the entire territory of the Town, pursuant to the Resolution establishing such District and duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town on August 7th, 1951, and the Order of the Town Board confirming the establishment of the District dated March 11th, 1997, and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing on January 8, 2026, duly called, the said Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into a contract with the Fire Company for fire protection to said District upon the terms and provisions herein set forth, and

WHEREAS, this Agreement has also been duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Fire Company,

NOW THEREFORE, The Town does engage the Fire Company to furnish fire protection to said District and the Fire Company agrees to furnish such protection in the following manner:

1. The Fire Company shall at all times during the period of this Agreement be subject to call for attendance upon any fire occurring in such District and when notified by alarm or telephone call from any person of a fire within the District, the Fire Company shall respond and attend upon the fire without delay with suitable ladder, pumping and hose apparatus of the Fire Company. Upon arriving at the scene of the fire, the foreman of the Fire Company attending shall proceed diligently and, in every way, reasonably suggested to the extinguishment of the fire and the saving of life and property in connection therewith.
2. In consideration of the furnishing of aid and the use of its apparatus as aforesaid, the Fire Company shall receive from the Town the sum of \$25,000.00 annually payable on or before February 1st annually. The Town may furnish gas and/or diesel fuel to the Fire Company for its vehicles and equipment in the amount of up to \$1,000.00 annually, the determined value of which shall be provided in lieu of a portion of the foregoing compensation. The value of any gas and/or diesel fuel furnished by the Town to the Fire Company shall be deducted from the payment due the Fire Company the following year.
3. All monies to be paid under the provisions of the Agreement shall be charged upon said District to be assessed and levied upon the taxable property in said District and collected with the Town taxes.
4. **This Agreement shall continue for the term of one (1) year from the 15th day of February, 2026 through the 14th day of February, 2027.**
5. The Fire Company hereby agrees that it will provide a liability insurance policy in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 with limits of \$1,000,000.0 for personal injury and \$125,935.00 for property damage, naming the Town as loss payee. A certificate of said insurance shall be furnished by the Fire Company to the Town before the effective date of this Agreement.
6. The Fire Company hereby agrees that it will maintain a minimum of 7 volunteer firefighters.

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7. The Fire Company hereby indemnifies, defends, and holds harmless the Town from any and all claims, suits, actions or liabilities of any kind or nature that occur in connection with this agreement.

8. In the event that a new agreement is not negotiated by the date that the term for this Agreement ends, this agreement and its terms shall remain in full force and effect for ninety (90) days.

14) Bank Depository

RESOLUTION NO.: 03-01-2026
2026

Dated: January 8,

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE A DEPOSITORY FOR ALL TOWN FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby designates Community Bank N.A. as the official depository for all Town funds, the total of which shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), and be it further

RESOLVED, that all public deposits in excess of the FDIC-insured amounts shall be secured by a pledge of eligible securities by said Community Bank, N.A., and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following Town Officials are authorized to audit all Town accounts held at Community Bank, N.A. and to sign checks as required:

- Town Supervisor Karen Brownell
- Councilmember Gina Sarazen
- Councilmember Thomas Snye
- Councilmember Angela Rust
- Councilmember Carol Dimond

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

15) Health Officer

RESOLUTION NO.: 04-01-2026

Dated: January 8, 2026

APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, each Town must appoint a Health Officer.

WHEREAS, we, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby appoint St Lawrence County Health Department, Director of Public Health to be our Appointed Health Officer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield approve the appointing of SLC Health Department Director of Public Health be the Town's Health Officer.

RESOLVED, that any needs for said Health Officer can be directed towards the SLC Dept of Public Health, reached by Telephone (315) 386-2325. 80 SH 310 Suite 2. Canton, NY 13617

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

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16) Audit of Town Books

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

17) Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION NO. 06-01-2026

DATED: January 8, 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONEY IN THE 2026 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield needs to transfer money in the 2026 Budget because of increased expenditures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following transfers be made in the 2026 budget:

General					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
51324.01	Garage CE	\$275.00	19904.01	Contingency	\$4,798.23
81601.01	Refuse PS	\$958.77			
90308.01	Soc Security	\$155.13			
90408.01	Workers Comp	\$604.75			
906.08	Health Ins	\$2,804.58			
	Total	\$4,798.23		Total	\$4,798.23

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, resolution #06 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust, Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0 Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-01-2026

DATED: January 8, 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONEY IN THE 2026 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield needs to transfer money in the 2026 Budget because of increased expenditures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following transfers be made in the 2026 budget:

Highway					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
51101.03	General PS	\$1,179.99	51424.03	Snow CE	\$3,592.71
51421.03	Snow PS	\$10,529.96	90508.03	Unemployment	\$2,500.00
90308.03	Soc Security	\$672.63	90558.03	Disability Ins	\$177.00
90408.03	Workers Comp	\$1,867.21	97897.03	Debt Int	\$1,483.00
90608.03	Health Ins	\$7,335.87	909.03	Fund Balance	\$13,832.95
	Total	\$21,585.66		Total	\$21,585.66

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, resolution #07 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust, Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0 Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-01-2026

DATED: January 8, 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONEY IN THE 2026 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield needs to transfer money in the 2026 Budget because of increased expenditures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following transfers be made in the 2026 budget:

Highway					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
83404.13	PW Expense	\$23.94	83402.13	PW Equipment	\$23.94

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	Total	\$23.94		Total	\$23.94

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, resolution #08 be approved.: AYES: Deputy Town Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust,Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0 Approved.

18) Year End Finances

The year end finances are as follows:

- General-\$2,461.55
- Highway-\$86,595.03
- Conifer Water-\$14,278.58
- Piercefield Water-\$61,611.89

19) Supervisor Appointments

Supervisor/Council Appointments 2026

Town Supervisor	Karen Brownell (1/26-12/31/26)Appointed
Deputy Town Supervisor:	Carol Dimond (1/2026-12/31/26)
Town Councilmember	Carol Dimond (1/26-12/31/28) elective position
Town Councilmember	Gina Sarazen (1/24-12-31/27) elective position
Town Councilmember	Angela Rust (1/24-12/31/27) elective position
Town Councilmember	Tom Snye 1/26-12/31/28) elective position
Town Clerk	Paige Phillips 1/26-12/31/26) elective position
Highway Superintendent	Jay Rust (1/24-12/31/27)
Bookkeeper:	Linda Pickering (1/1/26-12/31/26)
Registrar of Vital Statistics:	Paige Phillips (1/26-12/31/26)
Deputy Registrar:	Christielee Geiger (1/26-12/31/27)
Assessor	James Snyder(10/1/25-9/30/31)
Building Code Enforcement Officer:	Nicholas Snyder (1/1/26-12/31/26)
Health Officer:	SLC Dept of Public Health (1/1/26-12/31/26)
Planning Board Member Chair:	Dick Bentley (1/1/26-12/31/30)
Planning Board Member	Larry Lee (1/24-12/31/28)
Planning Board Member	Kate Bencze (1/24-12/28) unexpired term
Planning Board Member	Bruce Raver(1/25-12/29)
Planning Board Member	John LaHart (1/26-12/30)
Board of Assessment Review	Ben Geiger (1/8/2026-9/30/30)
Board of Assessment Review Chair	Larry Lee (10/1/23 – 9/30/28)
Board of Assessment Review	Kate Bencze (1/1/24-12/31/28)
Town Justice	Jon Kopp (1/1/24-12/31/27)
Court Clerk:	Sherri Snyder (1/1/26-12/31/26)
Dog Control Officer:	Kim Kopp (1/1/26-12/31/26)
Town Historian:	Vacant (1/1/25-12/31/25)
Caretaker of Cemetery:	Roy Benware
Cemetery Committee:	Joe Denis, Patricia Reandeau, Tom Cullen, Roger Hassler, Mark McCuen, Roy Benware, Carrie Riley
Town Safety Committee:	Vacant (Chairman), Joe Denis, Vacant, Marvin Pickering, Jr., Jay Rust
Highway Safety Coordinator	Jay Rust
Town Insurance:	Blue Line Insurance
Town Attorney:	Kirk Gagnier, Esq.
Salary paid yearly to Highway Safety Coordinator	Town Board, Historian, Dog Control Officer, Deputy Supervisor,
Salary paid monthly to Clerk, Supervisor, Attorney	Assessor, Code Enforcement Officer, Clerk, Bookkeeper, Justice, Court
Travel Cost Allowance (IRS):	\$0.72.5/mile, effective 1/26
Per Day Allowance:	\$50.00/day
Board Meetings:	2nd Thursday @ 7:00 PM at Town Hall

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Official Newspaper	Tupper Lake Free Press
Voting Machine Custodian	SLC Board of Elections
Official Bank:	Community Bank, NA
Petty Cash Funds:	Town Clerk: \$200.00 (actual cash)
	Town Hwy Supt: \$1,000.00 w/o prior Board approval
	Town Supervisor: \$200.00 w/o prior Board approval
Councilman Assignments:	Water Districts: Angela Rust
	Transfer Station: Thomas Snye
	Youth, Parks & Rec: Gina Sarazen
	Hwy Dept. Liaison: Carol Dimond

20) Approval of Town Clerk Monthly Reports

On a motion by Councilmember Thomas Snye, seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond the Clerk Reports for December 2025 be approved: AYES: Deputy Supervisor Dimond, Councilmembers, Rust, Sarazen, and Snye NAYS: 0

21) Payment of Bills

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

General Fund:	\$44,640.00
Highway Fund:	\$23,897.48
Lighting District	\$616.52
Conifer Water:	\$162.98
Piercefield Water:	\$373.58
Trust and Agency	\$9,130.60
Total	\$78,821.16

22) Adjournment

On a motion by Deputy Town Supervisor Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Thomas Snye the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Paige Phillips, Town Clerk

Date Approved