203) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, October 15,2026 **DRAFT**

204) Roll Call

Board Members	Present	Excused	**Town Officials**	Present	Excused
Supervisor Karen Brownell	X		Town Clerk, Paige Phillips	X	
Councilmember Carol Dimond	X		Highway Superintendent, Jay Rust	X	
Councilmember Gina Sarazen	X				
Councilmember Angela Rust	X				

Guests: Marlene Ashton, Ginger Storey-Welch

205) Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Supervisor Karen Brownell.

206) Public Hearing Taxcap Override

Town Supervisor Karen Brownell convened a public hearing at 7:00pm on Proposed Local Law #3 of 2026: 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.

207) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, the minutes of September 10, 2026 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved. AYES: Town Supervisor Brownell, Councilmembers Sarazen, Rust, and Dimond. NAYS: 0 Councilmember Gina Sarazen questioned whether the Town could bill the State DOT for the apron repair instead of using CHIPS money (details in September's meeting minutes).

208) Monies Received

Insurance Recoveries	$1,721.08
State per Capita Aid	$6,124.00
Transport Services	$809.46

Privilege of Floor

209) Ginger Storey-Welch

Ginger will be on the ballot for the November 3rd General Election, running for St. Lawrence County Legislature in District 7. Ginger expressed that she has enjoyed attending the Town Board meetings and would like the opportunity to continue serving the Town of Piercefield.

210) Highway Report

- Culverts along with the areas that were tore up on the Mt Arab Road have been blacktopped.
- Hauling/mixing sand and salt for winter.
- Assisted Village of Tupper Lake with blacktopping.
- Cut brush on Conifer Road and Carriage Road. Will bill St Lawrence County for the work.

Supervisor Brownell recommended postponing a new truck order until Jay is present to review the proposed purchase and related details with the Board. The board is in agreement and will review prices/details at a future meeting.

Old Business

211) Councilmember Appointment

RESOLUTION NO.: 28-10-2026 **Dated: October 15, 2026**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARLENE ASHTON TO FILL THE VACANCY OF TOWN COUNCILMEMBER

WHEREAS, Thomas Snye resigned from his position as Town Councilmember, creating a vacancy on the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield; and

WHEREAS, the vacancy occurred after the statutory deadline for placing the office on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 General Election; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Town Law §64(5), the Town Board is authorized to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy in an elective town office; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that Marlene Ashton is qualified to serve as a Town Councilmember and desires to appoint her to fill the vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby appoints Marlene Ashton to the office of Town Councilmember to fill the vacancy by the resignation of Thomas Snye; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Marlene Ashton shall serve in accordance with New York State Town Law §64(5), until the commencement of the calendar year following the first annual election at which the vacancy may be filled, her term ending 12/31/27.

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, Marlene Ashton be appointed as councilmember term ending 12/31/27.AYES: Supervisor Brownell, Councilmembers Sarazen, Rust, and Dimond NAYS: 0.

New Business

212) Tax Cap Override

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2026 TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C

WHEREAS, local law number 3 of 2026 was duly introduced to the Town Board on September 10, 2026; 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 15, 2026 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 2026 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 2027 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 2026 titled "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-C."

213) TL Rescue Contract

RESOLUTION NO.: 28-10-2026 DATED: OCTOBER 15, 2026

CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION WITH TUPPER LAKE RESCUE SQUAD

WHEREAS, Tupper Lake Rescue Squad requested a donation to operate for the Town of Piercefield due to inflation in prices for their supplies, equipment, pay roll, etc.

RESOLVED, That the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with Tupper Lake Rescue Squad. for the purpose of operating emergency vehicles such as an ambulance to the Towns People of Piercefield as needed in an emergency, and will pay the amount of $2,500.00 which represents the Town's share for 2027, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the sum of $2,500.00 is hereby appropriated to Account No. 4540.4 for payment to Tupper Lake Rescue Squad.

Offered by: Supervisor Karen Brownell

Seconded by: Councilmember Gina Sarazen

Vote: AYES: NAYS: None

Councilmember Gina Sarazen
Councilmember Carol Dimond
Councilmember Angela Rust
Supervisor Karen Brownell

214) Water User Fee 2027

RESOLUTION NO.: 30-10-2026 **DATED: October 15, 2026**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2027 PIERCEFIELD AND CONIFER WATER DISTRICT AND USER CHARGES

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield authorizes the establishment of the 2027 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 26, 2027 without penalty, and 2% interest in March and 1% interest per payment month thereafter. Collection period set from January 1, 2027 through October 1, 2027, and

RESOLVED, payments not made by October 1, 2027 shall be assessed a total of 12% penalty for the year, which penalty plus Water User Fee shall be re-levied onto the January 2028 Town/County Property Tax bill, and

RESOLVED, establish the 2027 Piercefield Water District Debt Service at $11,297.00 (83 @ $136.10) and the Conifer Water District Debt Service at $4,242.00 (43 @ $98.65), which will appear on the January 2027 Town/County Property Tax bill.

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

215) Water Relevy

RESOLUTION NO.: 27-10-2026 **DATED: October 15, 2026**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UNPAID PIERCEFIELD AND CONIFER WATER DISTRICT USER CHARGES TO BE RE-LEVIED

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield authorizes the unpaid Piercefield and Conifer Water District user charges including penalties to be re-levied onto the respective 2027 property tax bills, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Real Property Tax Services Office be notified of same with attached listings of unpaid water charges of $8,320.00, penalties of $998.40, for a combined total of $9,318.40

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Carol Dimond and seconded by Town Supervisor Karen Brownell

The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Town Supervisor Karen Brownell, Councilmembers Carol Dimond, Gina Sarazen, and Angela Rust.NAYS:0

216) Preliminary Budget

RESOLUTION NO: 33-10-2026 **DATED: October 15, 2026**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield adopts the Tentative Budget for the year 2027, the amount to be raised by taxes being $517,861.00 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 2027, 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 12th day of November, 2026, at which time all interested persons may be heard.

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Town Supervisor Karen Brownell resolution #33 be adopted: AYES: Town Supervisor Brownell, Councilmembers Rust, Sarazen, and Dimond. NAYS: 0 Adopted.

217) Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION NO. 31-10-2026 **DATED: October 15, 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:

GeneralFund					
Increase	Description	Amount	Decrease	Description	Amount
10104.01	Town Board CE	$2.02	19904.01	Contingency	$2,514.81
11104.01	Justice CE	$200.00	909.01	FundBalance	$1,612.52

12204.01	Supervisor CE	$216.15			
33104.01	Traffic Control	$542.59			
51324.01	Garage CE	$736.22			
71104.01	Parks CE	$353.87			
88104.01	Cemeteries CE	$2,078.50			
	Total	**$4,127.33**		**Total**	**$4,127.33**

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond resolution #31 be approved.: AYES: Town Supervisor Brownell, Councilmembers, Rust, Dimond and Sarazen NAYS: 0 Approved.

218) Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 31-10-2026 **DATED: October 15, 2026**

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT OF THE 2026 HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield needs to amend the 2026 Highway Fund Budget because of increased expenditures and increased revenues,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following changes be made to the 2026 budget:
Increase the revenues and increase the expenditures by the attached spreadsheet.

Highway					
Increase	Description	Amount	Increase	Description	Amount
3501.03	CHIPS	$45,304.00	51124.03	CHIPS	$45,304.00
	Total	**$45,304.00**		**Total**	**$45,304.00**

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: Town Supervisor Brownell, Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen and Rust. NAYS: 0

219) Approval of Town Clerk Monthly Reports

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust the Clerk Reports for September 2026 be approved: AYES: Town Supervisor Brownell, Councilmembers, Sarazen, Rust, and Dimond NAYS: 0

220) Payment of Bills

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

General Fund:	$7,392.96
Highway Fund:	$72,650.74
Lighting District	$472.85
Conifer Water:	$175.93
Piercefield Water:	$279.41
Trust and Agency	$9,061.41
Total	**$90,033.30**

221) Adjournment

On a motion by Town Supervisor Karen Brownell, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 7:00pm.

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Paige Phillips, Town Clerk Date Approved