

Bennington Town Board

March 11, 2026

Draft #1

Workshop Session 6:30 p.m.
Audit of bills; review Board meeting agenda

In Attendance: Supervisor Mark Prior, Council Members Jeff Burger, Bernard Frounick, Joyce Mohun, Maria Prior. Clerk Joanne Rosenthal.

Regular Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order at 7:35 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Prior

Set Agenda – no changes.

Conflict of Interest – none to report.

Financial Matters Approve annual WLB software support contract for Town Clerk Plus (\$863) and Water/Sewer (\$1,581).

Motion by Maria Prior, seconded by J. Mohun to approve renewal of contract with WLB

Ayes: 5. Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

General Fund vouchers	#439 to #460	\$15,985.05.
Highway Fund vouchers	#254 to #275	\$86,642.18.
Cowlesville Water vouchers	# 23 to # 30	\$ 5,852.87.
Cowlesville Light vouchers	# 2	\$ 172.78.
Cowlesville Fire Protection	#602	\$99,630.00.

Motion by J. Mohun, seconded by Maria Prior to approve vouchers for payment.

Ayes: 5. Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Financial Reports Supervisor Report

Council J. Mohun requested confirmation of the negative balance in escrow account for Niagara Solar.

Motion by Maria Prior, seconded by J. Mohun to approve the Financial Reports ending March 31, 2025.

Ayes: 5. Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Unfinished Business

None to report.

Bennington Town Board

March 11, 2026

Draft #1

New Business

Resolution #2026-3-1 Accept resignation and appoint new bookkeeper

Be it Resolved, that Supervisor Prior accepted the resignation of Melissa Lieder as Town bookkeeper effective Feb 15th 2026. In the best interest of the Town, Supervisor Prior has assumed the role of Town bookkeeper effective March 1st 2026 and will serve in this capacity until a willing and qualified replacement is secured.

Motion: Maria Prior. Second: J. Mohun.

Ayes: 4. Noes: 0. Abstain: 1 (Supervisor Prior). Absent: 0.

Resolution #2026-3-2 Appointments to various town boards

Be it Resolved, that the Town Board hereby appoints the following residents to serve on various town boards effective March 1st 2026 through December 31st 2028.

Town Planning Board

Jacob Fitzpatrick, Member, S. Shore Drive, Alden NY 14004

Town Zoning Board of Appeals

Richard Jensen, Member 1909 Clinton St., Attica NY 14011

Kim Keicher, Member Clinton St., Cowlesville NY 14037

Board of Assessment Review

Christopher Hickey, Member 1308 Folsomdale Rd., Cowlesville NY 14037

James Wawrzyniak, Member Getman Road, Alden, NY 14004

Motion: J. Burger. Second: B. Frounick.

Ayes: 5. Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Bennington Town Board

March 11, 2026

Draft #1

Resolution #2026-3-3

Establishing a Procurement Approval Policy

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Bennington NY is responsible for ensuring that public funds are expended in a manner that is prudent, transparent, and consistent with the best interests of town residents; and

Whereas, New York General Municipal Law §104-b requires every town to adopt written internal policies and procedures governing all procurements of goods and services not required by law to be publicly bid; and

Whereas, the Town Board finds it necessary to establish clear internal controls regarding purchasing authority for town officials, including the Highway Superintendent and all other elected and appointed officials, in order to promote fiscal oversight and accountability;

Now, therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Town of Bennington hereby adopts the following procurement approval requirements as part of its internal procurement policy pursuant to General Municipal Law §104-b:

1. Purchases by the Highway Superintendent

Any purchase, order, or commitment of town funds by the Highway Superintendent exceeding \$500 shall require prior approval of the Town Supervisor.

2. Purchases by All Other Elected or Appointed Town Officials

Any purchase, order, or commitment of town funds by any other elected or appointed town official exceeding \$100 shall require prior approval of the Town Supervisor.

3. Applicability

These requirements apply to all procurements of goods and services not subject to competitive bidding under New York State law.

4. Administration

The Town Supervisor shall maintain documentation of all approvals issued under this policy and ensure that such approvals are incorporated into the town's procurement records.

Be it Further Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect on March 11th, 2026.

Motion: Maria Prior. Second: J. Burger.

Ayes: 5. Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Bennington Town Board

March 11, 2026

Draft #1

Resolution #2026-3-4

2026 Retainer Agreement with Hopkins, Sorgi & McCarthy

Be it Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to sign the 2026 Retainer Agreement with the law firm Hopkins, Sorgi & McCarthy, 574 Main Street, Suite 204 East Aurora NY 14052 for the compensation for basic and additional services to the Town as structured in said agreement, for the period March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Motion : J. Mohun. Second: J. Burger.
Ayes: 5. Noes: 0. Abstain: 0. Absent: 0.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Town Board meeting minutes of February 11, 2026 accepted as presented by Clerk.

Communications

Clerk

1. Certificate of Liability Insurance – insured: CIR Electrical Construction Corp. 3/136-3/1/27.

2. **DEC UPDATES**

Spring Burn Ban March 16 – May 14. The burning of brush is prohibited. Backyard fire pits and campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width or diameter are allowed, as are small cooking fires. Only charcoal or dry, clean, untreated or unpainted wood can be burned. Burning garbage or leaves is prohibited year-round.

Summer Camp – Seven weeks of environmental education-focused outdoor fun is suitable for children aged 11-17 and is offered at four camps located across NYS. Information is located on the back table for your review.

2026 Free Freshwater Fishing Days – The requirement for a freshwater fishing license is waived during the following days in 2026: **JUNE 27-28, SEPTEMBER 26 (National Hunting & Fishing Day), NOVEMBER 11 (Veteran’s Day)**. All other fishing regulations remain in effect. Fishing licenses are available for purchase at your Town Clerk’s office during regular business hours.

GOGO Challenge – Get Offline, Get Outside Challenge encourages kids aged 12-18 to take a break from technology, enjoy recreation and outdoor social gatherings and put their mental and physical health first. Information is located on the back table for your review.

Bennington Town Board

March 11, 2026

Draft #1

Supervisor - Address to the Town and Monthly Newsletter presentation

Hometown Hero Banner program

Elevator repair

Noco Energy presentation

Town hall event with Assemblyman David DiPietro in May or June

Grants

Town committees vs Town Board in drafting/creating/finalizing laws

Speed Cow

Camp Wyomoco

Waste Management

Easter Egg hunt – April 4th at 11 am. Pine Tree Park

Social media network

Taxes 2027

Departments

Highway - no report.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

1. Town Clerk monthly report for February 2026.
2. Vital statistics YTD: Births: 0. Deaths: 1. Marriage permits issued: 0
3. March 31 is the final day to pay County/Town taxes. Late notices will be mailed out March 16.

4. Meeting Dates at the Town Hall Offices

Tuesday March 17. Zoning Board of Appeals. 7:00 pm

Wednesday March 15. Workshop to discuss Zoning topics. 6:00 pm

Wednesday April 8. Town Board meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday April 15. Planning Board meeting 6:00 pm

Assessor – no report

Zoning/Planning – no report

Recreation/Park – no report

Water District – no report

Historical Society –

Historian Michael Mohun - New roof donated two years ago. Gutter and fascia sustained winter damage. Estimate approved for repair. Suggested that venting for the building be discussed as a future project.

July 2026 celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our country. A walking tour of the local cemetery on Kern Rd will take place on July 4.

Bennington Town Board

March 11, 2026

Draft #1

Petitions and public concerns

Zoning - clarification regarding vacancy of secretary on the zoning board.

Bookkeeper requirements; no town residency requirement.

Town emails to be assigned to Town officials.

Taxes – Supervisor to clarify numbers with the financial auditor.

Governor Hochul announcement of lower taxes for people 65 years and older.

Approved retainer for legal services; attorney paid per invoice. No funds given as retainer.

Placement of Hometown Hero banners.

Road plan – assessment of stone type used on roads. Profile packer used when frost is cleared.

Teamsters – CBA. Schedule appointment for review of issues.

Any other Business to Come before the Board/County Matters

None presented.

Adjourn. Motion by: J. Mohun

Time: 9:15 pm

Attendance: 70+