

## Town Board Minutes of July 14th, 2026

The meeting of the Wales Town Board was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026 at the Wales Community Center, 12345 Big Tree Road, Wales Center, New York.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tim Howard at 7:00 pm EST.

**ROLL CALL:** Supervisor Howard  
Councilman Gallo  
Councilman Newman  
Councilman Butcher Absent  
Councilwoman O'Connor

Present: (3) Residents whose names are on file.

**INVOCATION:** led by Supervisor Howard

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** led by Councilman Gallo

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA: MOTION #** \_\_ By Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman, approving the agenda. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: MOTION #** \_\_ By Councilman Newman, second by Councilwoman O'Connor, approving the Town Clerk's minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup>. Carried. ayes-4 noes-0

**INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

### 1. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Councilman Newman is working on following Colden's Law. They're still reviewing and it could be finalized in the next few months. Supervisor Howard said we should make a motion to table until the next meeting.

**MOTION#** \_\_ By Councilman Gallo, second by Councilman Newman, table until next month.

Carried ayes-4 noes-0

### Dog Control

2. Dan Whitehead said he has contacted the town of Cheektowaga and Grand Island. We are trying to get a kennel contract with one of them. In contract with Mary Healy from the Ag & Market; she thanked me for the update. She is being very patient, knowing we're working on it. My research shows that a private kennel like the one on Grand Island is going to be more expensive than the municipality. It maintains a kennel on government funds rather than personal funds. So, it would be easy for a town to work with another town.

### 3. Discuss Amending Short Term Law and table short-term rental application

Supervisor Howard said after talking with the town attorney, she suggests that we table the STR and application as well as seasonal residences.

**MOTION#** \_\_ By Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Gallo, table the STR and application as well as seasonal residences. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

### 4. Expenses from the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Supervisor Howard said we hosted breakfast and the community prayer service in the morning on Sunday. Coffee, juice, bananas, apples, and donuts. Councilwoman O'Connor had expense for \$126.31.

**MOTION#** \_\_ By Councilman Gallo, second by Councilman Newman, approving Councilwoman O'Connor's expenses for \$126.31. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

Mike and Kathy Lewandowski were the recipients of the \$250 prize, being the only applicants. They were very grateful and plan to donate the prize money to the fire department.

**MOTION#** \_\_ By Councilwoman O'Connor second by Councilman Newman, approving the \$250.00 payment to Mike and Kathy Lewandowski. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

Supervisor Howard said tomorrow night at 7 o'clock, we have a wrap-up meeting with the town of Marilla. According to the contract that we had signed with them in January, there had to be a breakdown of all the expenses we had committed to paying. Not more than \$10,000, as it was clarified, but they still have to do a breakdown. Both the expenses as well as any revenues that were generated might potentially offset the total amount that we have to pay. Until they do that, we will not be making a motion or paying anything toward that \$10,000.

### 5. Approval of a permit fee for New Energy Solar

Supervisor Howard said, comparing the surrounding towns the building permit fee for solar installations should be set at \$2,500. The Building Inspector agrees.

**MOTION#** \_\_ by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving the solar permit fee for \$2500.00 Carried ayes-4 noes-0

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Town Insurance Renewals

Supervisor Howard stated the insurance broker reported a slight increase of 13%, primarily due to adding a new 2025 truck and the 2018 pickup. It was noted that insurance rates have gone up. That was the only policy that increased. The equipment and vehicle policy.

**MOTION#** \_\_ by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Gallo approving the insurance policies for 2027. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

### 2. Request for Highway Superintendent to attend Fall Conference (this is a budgeted item)

**MOTION#** \_\_ by Councilman Gallo, second by Councilman Newman approving Highway Superintendent to attend Fall Conference (this is a budgeted item) Carried ayes-4 noes-0

**3. Request for Court Clerk to attend Fall Conference (this is a budgeted item)**

**MOTION#**\_\_by Councilwoman O’Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving Court Clerk to attend Fall Conference (this is a budgeted item) Carried ayes-4 noes-0

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Sheriff Deputy Matthew Malican - June we had eighty-five calls for service, seven traffic stops, seven accidents three with injuries and two arrests. The Sheriff also praised the 250th celebration as a "fantastic event."
- Supervisor Howard said that the highway workers' union contract expires at year-end.
- Supervisor Howard said the second-quarter sales tax report indicated higher revenue than the previous year and exceeded budget projections.
- Supervisor Howard stated we will keep the workshop meeting scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> for now and cancel if it becomes unnecessary.
- Councilwoman O’Connor said the Lewandowski s do plans on donating historical documents they found from the town's first doctor to the Wales Historical Society were announced.
- Supervisor Howard the gun Raffle the winner’s received bottles of Wild Turkey and Bullet Bourbon. Youth winners received money and a knife donated by Caliber Shop in Elma. A 12-year-old and his 13-year-old brother won the youth categories. Don Butcher won the senior open sites. The supervisor's wife won the overall high score in the senior division. Don Gallo won the pistol category.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS:** received Highway Dept., Town Clerk and Building Inspector. Councilman Newman said, I did have a chance to read the Building Inspectors report before the meeting, and I don't have any questions for Dan about the cease-and-desist order. I just want to say that Dan, he has been. doing an outstanding job. He gives a fair but firm stance on things happening in the town,

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:**

South Wales has their sportsman's raffle at the end of August.

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:**

**MOTION#**\_\_by Councilwoman O’Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving June 2026 Supervisors monthly report, including a \$3,100 transfer from page 3. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

**REVIEW AND ACTION ON TOWN CLERK’S REPORT:**

**MOTION #**\_\_by Councilman Gallo second Councilman Newman, approving the Town Clerk’s monthly reports for June 2026 as presented. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

**GENERAL FUND BILLS:**

**MOTION #**\_\_by Councilwoman O’Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving General Fund Abstract # 007 voucher #236-280 total of \$ 46,856.48. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

**HIGHWAY FUND BILLS:**

**MOTION #**\_\_by Councilman Newman, second by Councilman Gallo, approving Highway Abstract # 007 voucher #61-71 total amount \$76,865.90. Carried ayes-4 noes- 0

**MOTION#**\_\_by Supervisor Howard and seconded by Councilman Newman to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm. Carried ayes-4 noes-0

Respectfully submitted, Melinda Eaton, Wales Town Clerk