

Town Board Minutes of August 11th, 2026

The meeting of the Wales Town Board was held on the 11th day of August, 2026 at the Wales Community Center, 12345 Big Tree Road, Wales Center, New York.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor 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 Councilman Butcher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Councilman Gallo

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: MOTION # __ By Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman, approving the agenda, with the addition for Executive Session. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: MOTION # __ By Councilman Newman, second by Councilwoman O'Connor, approving the Town Clerk's minutes of July 11th. Carried. ayes-5 noes-0

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Supervisor Howard said everyone got a copy of the final draft of the law. Colden hasn't passed their law yet, but It's been updated. I suggest the board reviews it before the next meeting, unless anybody wants to comment now? We should make a motion to table until the next meeting.

MOTION# __ By Councilman Gallo, second by Councilman Newman, to table item until next month. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

2. Dog Control

Supervisor Howard said July 31st, we received a call about a lost dog from a resident at 5335 Reiter Road. The resident held the dog overnight, Dan Whitehaed was out of town, so William Garland helped with the complaint. He was appointed along with the other constable as back up for dog control at the organizational meeting in January 2026. We have the dog being held for \$50 a day since then. Dan Whitehead had the dog get a health check and shots on August 4th , in's was a large St. Bernard dog. Dan is planning for the dog to be sent to a foster home tomorrow. A dog rescue group that will adopt the dog out. No owner has claimed the dog. Dan is still negotiating, trying to get us something more permanent for kenneling dogs.

3. Draft Law Intro. 4-2026 Short Term Rental

Supervisor Howard said there are rumors of the new state law and short-term rentals and tiny homes. The research at this point suggests nothing at all would cause us to change our draft. Councilman Newman said he sees nothing like, opt-in, opt-out state law. Basically, what happened or what they did and what the state did in 2020 is included in building codes tiny homes. So, our town code or the town master plan doesn't support that. We could if we wanted to, but that's having to go through and update Chapter 200. So, at this point we need to table till our workshop, its not ready to be sent to the planning board yet.

MOTION# __ By Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Gallo, table the draft law intro. 4-2026 Short Term Rental till the next meeting. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

4. Expenses from the 250th Anniversary Celebration

Supervisor Howard said We have a bill with no breakdown. Wales was 17% of what was originally budgeted. With no breakdown, we don't have any assurances, without seeing the full breakdown. The time that made it pretty clear, they stated that absent any monies raised that it would have reduced that amount. So, we just need something from Marilla saying that our total costs. Table till we receive the full breakdown of the cost .

NEW BUSINESS

1. Renewal of annual Microsoft Office 365 licensing

MOTION# __ By Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Gallo, approving the renewal of Microsoft office 365 licensing. Carried yes-5 noes-0

2. Approval for payment of 2027 Western Star Truck for \$196,980.00

MOTION# By Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Butcher for the payment of the truck and chasis for \$196,980. Carried Ayes 5 noes 0

3. Highway Superintendent request to order plow, salter and box for 2027 Western Star Truck

MOTION# By Councilman Gall second by Councilman Butcher to sign the agreement to start working on the box,plow and salter for the 2027 Western Star. The amount \$155,000 will be coming from the 2027 Budget. Carried Ayes 5 noes 0

4. Annual Erie County Road Salt contract

Discussion on a critical shortage of salt for winter

Highway Superintendent Billy Sywers said our current contract with the County expires on August 31st, 2026, but we budget somewhere between 600 and 900 tons that will get mixed with sand so you double it basically to fill the barn. The barn holds about 2,000 tons. I went to order 120 tons on Thursday, and I got an email back in 15 minutes and said there wasn't any. So, if we're obligated to buy over 400 tons, they should be obligated to provide us with 400 tons. Councilman Newman said he send an email to the board about this. There's an OGS contract and there's a County Contract. The OGS contract actually says that if they can't supply the salt, we need to document that and submit it to OGS. We have a 100-ton OGS contract. Generally, the OGS contract is lighter because their contract generally costs more. Their price per ton is more than the county price because the county gets the bid from the supplier. Sounds like an issue you want to take up with our attorney or county attorney Bill Gerry, to see what he's got to say as far as the contract goes. I'm just saying that regardless, we're still going to need salt. In the meantime, it's needs resolved before the snow.

5. Bookkeeper request to raise IRS standard mile rate changed 7/1/26 to \$.76

MOTION# __ By Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Gallo, approving the increase of \$.76 from \$.72.5 as 7/1/2026. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Sheriff Deputy Matthew Malican - July 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. Setting up meeting with the union -
- Supervisor Howard said the second-quarter sales tax report indicated higher revenue than the previous year and exceeded budget projections.
- Councilman Butcher discussed the camera on Goodlberg Road. It was identified as belonging to a "National Data Survey" company, used for traffic flow monitoring, but placed in an unusual and unnotified location. The town had attempted to contact the company without success. The camera has been removed.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS: received Highway Dept., Town Clerk and Building Inspector.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:

Councilwoman O'Connor presented Billy Sywers a certificate on behalf of the 250th Committee, for the Wales Center Fire Co. for participating in Marilla's parade.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

MOTION# __ by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving July 2026 Supervisors monthly report, including transfers. 3. Carried ayes-5 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 July 2026 as presented. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

GENERAL FUND BILLS:

MOTION # __ by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving General Fund Abstract # 008 voucher #281-312 total of \$40,784.37. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

HIGHWAY FUND BILLS:

MOTION # __ by Councilman Newman, second by Councilman Gallo, approving Highway Abstract # 008 voucher #78-312 total amount \$227,749.08. Carried ayes-5 noes- 0

MOTION# __ Supervisor Howard made a motion to go into Executive Session. He advised that no voted will be taken. It was seconded by Councilman Newman. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

MOTION# __ by Supervisor Howard and seconded by Councilman Newman to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm.
Carried ayes-5 noes-0

Respectfully submitted, Melinda Eaton, Wales Town Clerk