

Town Board Minutes of September 8th, 2026

The meeting of the Wales Town Board was held on the 8th of September 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
Councilwoman O'Connor

Present: (4) Residents whose names are on file.

INVOCATION: led by Councilman Butcher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Councilman Gallo

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: MOTION # __ By Councilman Gallo, second by Councilman Newman, approving the agenda with the addition of Executive Session for Highway contract. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

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

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Doug Sernoffsky 11036 Centerline Rd – Wanted to thank the town historian Pat Sphan and her crew for their wonderful display at the fair.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Battery Storage Systems

Councilman Newman, so the town of Colden has not approved their battery storage. We got copies of their law at the last meeting. As the chairman of the code committee, I'll setup a committee meeting with a member of someone from the planning & zoning and conservations boards. This is an important law and we need as many eyes on it as possible.

2. Update - Dog Control

Supervisor Howard explained that the town received the new SPCA contract renewal. He explained some of the changes to this years contract. The Dog Control officer - Dan Whitehead said the few times that he has reached out to the SPCA, they don't answer or say they can't help. Dan said he doesn't think we need the SPCA as much as they think we need them. I still have my foot in the door in Cheektowaga. When their construction is done, I'm almost guaranteed a spot. Supervisor Howard said it doesn't cost the town anything to sign the SPCA contract, we only pay for them if we use them. Supervisor Howard said we can just sign the contract as a backup if we need it.

MOTION# __ by Supervisor Howard and second by Councilman Butcher to sign the new contract with the SPCA, the new contact starts Oct 1st, 2026. Carried ayes -5 noes -0

3. Draft of short-term rental applications and fees

Supervisor Howard would like to make a motion to forward to the Planning Board for their recommendation, from the latest draft of July 20th, 2026.

MOTION# __ by Supervisor Howard and second by Councilman Newman to forward to the Planning board for their recommendations. Carried ayes -5 noes -0

4. 250th Celebration payment request from Marilla

Councilwoman O'Connor said we should put on hold, so Marilla has time to sort things out since the passing of Skip Gingerich. Any further discussion will be tabled for now.

5. Update on Annual Salt Contract

Supervisor Howard spoke with Phyllis Todor, our Town Attorney. She stated we should be getting a letter from the county attorney who has taken the position that all the towns are entitled to purchase the salt at the previously agreed upon price. The county attorney will be pursuing that with the company that's trying to default. Highway Superintendent Billy Swyers said that right now the barn is about 85% full but you're supposed to fill the barn by August 31st so that it's full for the winter season. Then it gets filled again after the winter's over, for the following season. So, this might carry over for next season. We need a solution Well, we need a solution for this going forward anyway, so we're going to have to figure that out. Supervisor Howard said we will table this for now, maybe by the next meeting we'll have it resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

1.Call for a Special Board Meeting to present Town of Wales 2027 Tentative Budget on Sept. 22nd, 2026

MOTION # __ By Councilman Newman, second by Councilwoman O'Connor, approving a Special Board Meeting to present the 2027 Tentative Budget. Carried. ayes-5 noes-0

2. Call for Public Hearing on Erie Community Erie Community Development Block Grant on October 13th

MOTION # __ By Councilman Gallo, second by Councilwoman O'Connor, approving a public hearing for the Erie County Erie Community Development Block Grant on October 13th. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

3. Renewal of annual maintenance for e-code for the website \$1295.00

MOTION # __ By Councilman Newman, second by Councilwoman O'Connor, approving the annual maintenance the town code on the website at \$1295.00. Carried. ayes-5 noes-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Newman mentioned a letter to town received from the Erie County Comptroller's office, regarding the county's short-term registry. A copy of the letter is on the town website, September 8th meeting as one of the important documents.

9/11 ceremony at 7pm

Matt Malican Deputy Sheriff – August had 87 calls. 60 traffic stops, 2 accidents and 1 DWI charge.

Councilman Newman - I have a question about the building inspector report; I noticed that stop work order up on Carpenter Road is off the report. Is everything taken care of with that? Dan Whitehead said, "No, I haven't heard from the Town Attorney." I was at a meeting with her several weeks ago, and I discussed my opinion that the buildings need to be removed. Supervisor Howard said we probably should not be discussing this since it's in litigation, you should contact the Town Attorney if you have any questions.

MOTION# __by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving the Supervisors monthly reports. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

MOTION # __by Councilwoman O'Connor second Councilman Newman, approving the Town Clerk's monthly reports. For August 2026 as presented. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

MOTION #__ by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving General Fund Abstract # 009 voucher #315-350 total of \$ 42,257.15. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

MOTION # by Councilman Newman , second by Councilman , approving Highway Abstract # 009 voucher # 78-89 total amount \$7,287.01. Carried ayes-5 noes- 0

ADJOURNMENT in MEMORY OF: The Town of Marilla Supervisor Earl “Skip” Gingerich

MOTION#__ by Supervisor Howard and seconded by Councilman Newman to adjourn the meeting 8:19 pm.
Carried ayes-5 noes-0 Respectfully submitted, Melinda Eaton, Wales Town Clerk