Town Board Minutes of October 13th, 2026

The meeting of the Wales Town Board was held on the 13th day of October 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: Taken at the Public Hearing

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 Old Business #9 Dog control. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: MOTION # __ By Councilman Newman, second by Councilwoman O'Connor, approving the Town Clerk's minutes of September 8th Carried. ayes-5 noes- 0

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1.Town of Wales 2027 Tentative Budget.

Any Changes to the tentative budget? If not, we will be going right to item #2.

2. Request to approve the Town of Wales 2027 Tentative Budget as the Town of Wales 2027 Preliminary

MOTION#__ by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman to have the Wales 2027 Tentative Budget as the Town of Wales 2027 Preliminary Budget with no changes. Carried ayes-5 noes- 0

Reminder Public Hearing October 27th South Wales Courthouse.

3. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Councilman Newman said that Colden is extending their moratorium on the (BESS) law. So, they are not finished. I will take what they have and work on putting it in a format for Wales. I am going to have a committee with one planning board, one conservation board and one zoning board member and the Town Engineer for a meeting. Hopefully in the next few weeks, a meeting will be planned with the committee.

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

Supervisor Howard stated at this point, I would recommend scheduling a public hearing. We have done all we can at this point and see how the residents are feeling. Rather than us trying to guess any further.

MOTION#__by Councilman Gallo and second by Councilwoman O'Connor scheduling a Public Hearing for Nov10th prior to the regular Town Board meeting. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

5. Approve payment for the 250th Celebration to Marilla

MOTION#__ by Councilman Newman, second by Councilman Gallo, approving the $10,000 payment for the 250th Celebration to Marilla. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

6. Salt Contract

Town Attorney Phyllis Tordaro stated we are still waiting to hear back from Erie County Attorney. We will continue to be going on based on the existing contract. Phyllis asked the Highway Superintendent Bill Swyers if they settled on a new contract and Bill stated that he settled on the new contract. Phyllis stated we may go after them for the few months we didn't get the salt. It's a county bid. Going forward we will be getting it at the new rate. What we are looking for is to get a per diem at the old rate for what was unsatisfied.

7. **Approve Rural Transit as 1# Ranked for the ECCBG**

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2027-2028

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Wales, Erie County, New York, held on October 13th, 2026, the following Resolution was adopted. BE IT RESOLVED, that Supervisor Timothy Howard, of the Town of Wales, New York, is hereby authorized to sign, submit and execute a contract with the Erie County Community Development Block Grant (ECCDBG) program for the following projects, upon the approval of the ECCDBG funding committee.

PROJECT RANKING #1:

RURAL TRANSIT SERVICES VAN IN COOPERATION
WITH THE TOWNS OF ELMA, MARILLA, AND AURORA
FOR THE YEAR 2027-2028

MOTION#__ by Councilman Newman, second by Councilman Gallo approving Rural Transit Van as project ranking #1. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

8. Approval of Building Inspectors Clerk

MOTION#__ by Councilman Gallo second Councilman Newman, approving the Building Inspectors appointment of Melanie Shriver. as the Building Inspectors Clerk. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

9. Dog Control

Dan Whitehead, acting Dog Control Officer, said he has two potential contracts. NYS Ag & Market requires that any town that licenses the dogs must maintain a kennel facility for dog control. There is a stipulation there that they can purchase the services from a nearby municipality. However, this new law started at the end of December and every single town in the state must find a kennel that they can use. The state mandates that we have a contract with one kennel, at the minimum, depending on our dog calls. We do not have a lot of calls or dog complaints. I am a retired police officer from Cheektowaga. I have reached out and they are building an addition to their kennel. We might be able to contract with them. Now, in East Aurora on Olean Road, R&R Canine Kennels have a kennel at $40.00 a day. But I wrote up a temporary contract that I am going to ask them to sign as long as you guys approve it. Mary Healy from the NYS Ag & Markets contacted me at the beginning of the month and meeting within a few weeks. We also have a contract with the SPCA, far as I'm concerned, I don't think that's much of a guarantee.

MOTION#__ by Councilman Butcher second Councilman Newman, approving The Dog Control Officer to sign a contract with R&R Canine Kennels to have a kennel at $40.00 a day. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of dates for troop #34187 Girl Scout to use community center

MOTION#__ by Councilman Gallo second Councilman Newman, approving Girl Scout Troup #34187 to use the community center along with proof of insurance. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

2. Renewal of Highmark Silver co-pay Apex Health Insurance

MOTION#__ by Councilman Gallo second Councilman Butcher, approving the Highmark Silver Apex Health Insurance for 2027. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

3. Letter from Hayloft requesting the town to approve bartenders

Jenny from Hayloft contacted the town asking to issue a letter approving their contracting vendors or caterers. The caterers contract with licensed bartending services to provide alcohol. But if there are places that have anybody who would have a private party, if they are having a caterer come into service alcohol, they would have to get a license. We acknowledge that the hayloft wants to have functions in which they wish to serve alcohol. They have informed us that they have an outside caterer providing food service as required along with a licensed bartending service. In this case, there is a little bit of urgency. She is coming tomorrow to pick up the letter, for this weekend event.

MOTION #__by Councilman Butcher and second by Councilman Gallo to issue a letter in acknowledging the bartender's service to be able to do four events a year. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

Town attorney Phyllis Todoro said that we should not just blanket approve it but should give approval on a case-by-case basis in the future.

4. Request to resolution opposing county-wide planning authority

TOWN OF WALES

COUNTY OF ERIE, STATE OF NEW YORK

RESOLUTION OPPOSING COUNTY-WIDE REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Town of Wales recognizes the importance of responsible planning and land-use decisions that preserve the Town's rural character and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes that local land-use, zoning, and development decisions are best made by the municipality and its elected and appointed boards, which are directly accountable to the residents of Wales; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has been made aware of a proposal to establish a county-wide or regional planning board that could affect local land-use authority; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wales believes that each municipality has unique characteristics, needs, and community priorities that are best addressed through local planning and decision-making;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Wales hereby opposes the creation of any county-wide or regional planning authority that would supersede, diminish, or interfere with the Town's authority over local land-use, zoning, planning, and development decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board reaffirms its support for local control of land-use and zoning decisions and requests that any future proposal affecting municipal land-use authority be subject to full transparency, municipal review, and public participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be provided to the Erie County Executive, members of the Erie County Legislature, and other appropriate officials.

DULY ADOPTED by the Town Board of the Town of Wales, Erie County, New York,

MOTION#__ by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman supporting the resolution opposing county-wide regional planning authority. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

COMMUNICATIONS:

-Sheriff Deputy Matthew Malican – September Report we had eighty calls for service, eight traffic stops, six accidents

-reminder of the Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget on October 27th , 2026 at the South Wales Court House

-South Wales Fire District is holding a public hearing on Thursday Oct 22nd at 7pm

Councilman Newman, I did draft a letter from our town to make a request for their final budget, that they affix the requirements by New York State Law Section 181 for fire districts. We're just requesting what the statutory requirements say that they need to provide. So, you're using tax dollars to build a reserve to declare what the reserves are.

MOTION#____ by Councilman Gallo second Councilman Newman, approving the Board to send the letter with the request According to NYS Section 181 for Fire District. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

-Veterans Ceremony Nov 11th at 11am, with luncheon to follow at Fire Hall

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS: received Highway Dept., Town Clerk and Building Inspector report-I belong to the Niagara Frontier Building Officials Association. We have a monthly meeting. I was approached a couple months ago by our president, and he asked if Town of Wales would be interested in hosting our annual meeting luncheon. I have lined up the Wales Center Fire Hall and Kodiak Jacks is catering. It will be November 18th at noon at the Wales Fire Hall.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: none

REVIEW AND ACTION ON SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

MOTION# __by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving September 2026 Supervisors monthly report. 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 September 2026 as presented. Carried ayes-5 noes-0

G<u>ENERAL FUND BILLS:</u>
MOTION # __by Councilwoman O'Connor, second by Councilman Newman approving General Fund Abstract # 010 voucher #352-396 total of $50,82.01. Carried ayes-5 noes-0
<u>HIGHWAY FUND BILLS</u>:
MOTION #<u>___</u> by Councilman Gallo second Councilman Newman, approving Highway Abstract # 010 voucher #90-109 total amount $13,515.88. Carried ayes-5 noes-0
ADJOURNMENT
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