

TOWN OF ARIETTA

January 20, 2026

Town Board Regular Meeting
Piseco School Meeting Room

Supervisor Rhodes opened the meeting at 5:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Christian Rhodes-Supervisor-present

Jacquelyn Grier- present

Jennifer Smith-present

Douglas Stobo-present

Christy Wilt-present

OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Small-Highway Superintendent

Mel LaScola-Codes and Zoning Officer

Bill Hotaling-Assessor

Jim Colton

Eric Greiner

Jaime Parslow

Steve Woehrle

Supervisor Rhodes asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting. Everyone indicated they did. He then asked for a motion to approve of the January 5, 2026 meeting as presented by the Town Clerk.

Doug Stobo offered the motion to approve the January 5, 2026 minutes. Christy Wilt seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

Resolutions 26-01-05, 26-01-06, 26-01-07 and 26-01-08 were read and passed with little discussion needed. Chris Rhodes noted he reviewed the 2025 Financial records of the Town Justice, Town Clerk and Tax Collector (Resolution number 26-01-05) which appear to be in order and were here for Town Board members to review. All other Town financial records that are reviewed each meeting were also present. Jenny Smith abstained from voting on them as she felt she was not a Town Board member until November and should not vote on them. Resolutions 26-01-06 & 26-01-07 (Planning Board appointments). Chris commented that the positions were advertised and Dana Ordway was the only one to apply. He feels she will do a great job. Chris also noted that Resolution number 26-01-08 (Transferring of fuel funds) is moving the State funds to Town and County funds. Typically the fuel is on three budget lines, Town, County and State. Chris met with Highway Superintendent Craig Small and together they felt since they had to give up the state contract that the state fuel would be of better use on the Town and County fuel lines. The Agenda and all Resolutions are attached to these minutes.

COMMITTEES:

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- Jacqui Grier said everything is going great with the trails. She noted that Pleasant Rider Snowmobile Club groomer Dave "Spike" Redmond talked to "John" at DEC about possibly putting up a sign on Powley Road stating that it was off limits to anyone but snowmobilers. John indicated he should take it back to the town to see how they wanted to handle it. Jacqui asked if the town wants to do something like this. The consensus was (without actually voting) that the town does not want to make it exclusive. Highway Superintendent Craig Small elaborated on this saying that it evolved from an incident just recently. Hikers and cross country skiers alike use the trail and it has never been a problem. A

group of skiers contends that the snowmobiles come around the corners way too fast. Craig said it is a known fact that snowmobiles drive fast on that particular trail. This group recently claimed their dog almost got hit by the groomer. Craig said if you sign one trail you have to sign them throughout the county. It is well known by most that the hikers and skiers need to stay alert to snowmobile traffic. By putting a sign up to that effect is a liability to the town. The town does not want to ban anyone from using the snowmobile trails. Everyone just needs to be cautious of the other. If speed limit signs were posted then there would have to be a way to enforce it. Jaime Parslow who works for DEC was in attendance. Chris Rhodes asked if she had any comment on this. Having knowledge of the situation that occurred, she just said she was here tonight to be sure the Town wasn't going to make any rash decisions to limit public access and multiple use traffic on the trail. Since most of the non-snowmobile use is not on the weekend, she doesn't see this as an issue. Even if signs were put up they would need to be DOT approved signs and DEC and ENCON are not always available for enforcement. Chris noted that most know of the inherent risk of being on a snowmobile trail.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo reported that he is searching for a third painter for the job at the Community Hall. He contacted one suggested by Codes Officer Mel LaScola, however, he is booked well in advance and is not available until late summer or fall which is a later time frame than we are looking for. Another third possibility has not yet gotten back to Doug. He also noted there is a section of tile at the Community Hall that has fallen in on the floor. Chris Rhodes said he and Craig Small took a look at it and it is the same area that was problematic in the past. They are not sure if the roof is not properly sealed there or why it keeps happening but the roof is not leaking and there is no evidence of water. Craig replaced the ceiling tile and insulation just to prevent heat loss any further to possibly create an ice dam. After some discussion it was thought that the town needs to go out to bid to have the roof resealed.

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy Wilt reported that Community Pride Day is coming up on Wednesday May 6, 2026. Organizations and schools from the Inlet, Long Lake, Indian Lake areas down through Lake Pleasant to Wells and Lake Pleasant to Morehouse get involved in cleaning the trash from the highways. The Inlet Area Business Association who sponsors it is having a shirt design contest to kick it off. It is open only to 9th-12th grade students in the school districts of Webb, Long Lake, Indian Lake, Lake Pleasant or Wells. The winner will have their design printed on the shirts and the volunteer workers of this event will be given one to wear. The deadline for submissions is March 16, 2026. Contest details are at InletNY.com. Also, if any organizations or businesses want to become sponsors and have their name printed on the shirts, Marie Buanno is the Community Pride Day contact for Arietta and Piseco. 518-548-6002 or the Town Clerks Office at 518-548-3415.

Lake/Dam/Cemetery- Jenny Smith had nothing new to report.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- Chris Rhodes asked the Board members if they had come up with any seniors interested in the meal site should it come to Piseco School. Jacqui Grier said she talked to Lake Pleasant Town Supervisor Betsy Bain recently. Jacqui has come up with 4 so far. She will continue to talk to her neighbors to see if there may be more from the Higgins Bay area come summer. It is believed they are looking for 10 participants between the two towns to continue the program. Chris has not heard anything about any of the events the Senior Citizen Group is planning so it can be decided how much funding to send them now that the meal site there has closed. Chris said he would let everyone know if he hears anything.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Craig Small reported that his crew have been scraping and sanding regularly. They received the new Scandic the other day. Roberts in Malone went above and beyond for us. For some reason the Scandic did not come in from Ski-Doo so they went to Maine to get this for us for the same price. They told Craig that if we want one for next year, a small \$400. - \$500. deposit needs to be put in very soon, that way we will be guaranteed delivery in the fall. The deposit date is believed to be April 15th.

Craig talked to the State Comptrollers office about the bid process as this is a very unique bid situation. It is the only one you can buy but there are multiple vendors. You are going to get different discounts from different vendors. As long as we can prove we sought out bids, that is all they are concerned with. Chris noted a Resolution will be voted on to send with the deposit if that is what is decided on.

Codes and Zoning- Zoning Officer Mel LaScola noted he is working on the NYS year end report process. He needed more information and obtained it from Christy Wilt.

Old Business- Sign law changes. Chris Rhodes asked Jacqui Grier to elaborate on this as she attended the last Planning Board meeting. She said she was very impressed with the intelligence of the members of the Planning Board. They had a great meeting and shared a lot of great information within the 40 or so minutes of the meeting. She said they have all put in a tremendous amount of time to make the changes needed. The changes made were not significant from the ones suggested by the Town Board. The Planning Board sent a copy to the Town Board. It is not included with these minutes as there will be time for the public to view and critique when finalized. Planning Board Chairman Eric Greiner was in attendance and thanked Jacqui Grier for attending the Planning Board meeting. He feels her input expedited their process.

Chris noted that as long as we are making changes to the codes book, should we make changes to other codes than just the signs and lateral expansion? Do we want to consider allowing Auxiliary dwelling units as suggested by Christy Wilt? Workforce housing is needed and that may allow for it. Chris was not sure how the criteria would read. The idea is to create living space for people who want to work here. We do not want to create workforce living and have it become short term rentals. We might be able to entertain lightening up the criteria of codes for certain lots.

Codes Officer Mel LaScola felt we should also be looking at the definition of fences as being considered a structure. We need to find out if the APA calls it a structure or if it is just in our codes book that a fence is a structure.

Assessor Bill Hotaling was in attendance and elaborated on the changing of the lateral expansion code. The Zoning Board of Appeals feels a lateral expansion should not need a variance as long as it is not making it more non-conforming. If it is, then a variance may be applied for. This way the project is not delayed.

He said as far as putting living space above garages, this can be done if there is enough acreage. He felt at some point we would be considering utilizing town owned property. Chris noted, and he hoped he was speaking for all Town Board members, that the town is not interested in becoming a landlord. Chris said right now, on the town owned property they are trying to get the test wells in and make sure the water is good. They are hoping a developer will take it over to create workforce housing with a possible deed restriction for the use of it rather than affordable homes people are going to buy for vacation and retirement homes. Chris reiterated do we want to lighten the criteria on certain lots? It gets very gray where it concerns Auxiliary structures in the codes concerning allowance for more workforce housing possibilities. He is afraid we would end up with more short term rentals as there could not be a deed restriction on that. Christy Wilt said down the road there are grants for infrastructure that would take care of the power, water and sewer which would make it more attractive to a developer.

Bill Hotaling and the ZBA should work on the lateral expansion change wording. Mel LaScola should work on the fence definition. The Planning Board can present all proposed changes at once to the Town Board for approval. Once Town Board approved, it will go to the APA and SEQRA then proceed forward at town level (public hearing).

Chris thanked all for their work on these changes. Jacqui Grier was encouraged to go to the next Planning Board meeting if possible as her input is always welcome there.

New Business- Chris Rhodes noted we did not receive a bid from Avgas in December. He would like to give them more time. He asked for a motion to re-bid the Avgas with a bid opening at the February 17, 2026 meeting. Doug Stobo offered the motion. Christy Wilt seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

T-Mobile Home Town Grant discussion – Jenny Smith said she was looking up grants available in our area and came upon a quarterly grant specific to small towns for a revitalization initiative. Her thought was to use it for the Community Hall and possibly put a portable stage in to draw in arts or music. We would have to have pretty clear ideas of specific needs the town has when applying. It would be good for Arietta to try to draw more people into town. She thought it would be great for everyone in the room to come back with ideas they might have. It is up to \$50,000.00 for a town with a population of 50,000 or under. She thought it also may be used towards a snowmobile for grooming trails. This is a reimbursable grant. Letters of support and specific plans need to be submitted. Planning Board Chairman Eric Greiner asked if the state would let us do something with the closed campsite. The majority consensus was that the state does not want the town to do anything there. Previously the town inquired about making extra parking available there. The state officials said they were not in favor of cutting trees within 200 feet of the lake which doesn't allow for anything like that. Jaime Parslow noted that we should be trying to catch the flow of hikers traveling through to the Lake Placid Trail. Christy had thought about a lean-to at the airport with vending machines for hikers. Jaime said it is her experience that hikers do not want that extra hike up to the airport for facilities. Christy also suggested placing vending machines at the Community Hall. Putting a park in the area next to the Community Hall has been talked about. Vending machines, water and phone charging stations would be helpful there. Everyone should come back with ideas to the next meeting to see if we want Jenny to pursue this grant.

TextMyGov- Chris said this is a way to get information out to the public. A link would go on our website that you can download on your cell phone. It's not an app, it's just a way to get information from the Town of Arietta. Information examples are for an extended power outage, road closures, Town Board meetings, local law, building permit info, etc. The public could also text in information they think is noteworthy like potholes or a downed power line. It would direct something like a downed power line to National Grid. Chris thinks it would be helpful. The cost is \$1,500.00 per year which includes set up. The contract would be for 3 years. This is currently being used in Saratoga, Amsterdam and St. Johnsville. If the Town Board feels this is something to pursue, Chris will find out more. It is based on the tax roll. Jaime Parslow said it would be a great idea but if it is based on the tax roll, we are small enough to get the word to each other. If there were another option than by the tax rolls, it might be worth looking into. Everyone agreed to table it for now.

A motion was required to pay the bills as presented. Jacqui Grier offered the motion and Jenny Smith seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Everyone participated in this meeting jointly. No other public comment.

The next meeting will be on Monday February 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the Piseco School Meeting Room.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jacqui Grier offered the motion, and Doug Stobo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Marie c. Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

TOWN OF ARIETTA
in
HAMILTON COUNTY, NY
toa@townofarietta.com

1722 State Route 8

PO Box 37

Piseco, NY 12139
TEL: (518) 548-3415 FAX: (518) 548-6203

Agenda

January 20, 2026
5 pm at Piseco Common School
Town of Arietta

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Motion to approve minutes for the January 5, 2026, meeting

- Resolutions
 - **26-01-05** **Review 2025 Financial Records**
 - **26-01-06** **Alternate Planning Board Member**
 - **26-01-07** **Appoint Part-Time Clerk, Planning Board**
 - **26-01-08** **Transfer of Funds**

- **Snowmobile Trails – Grier**
- **Town Buildings / Grounds - Stobo**
- **Recreation / Website / Campsite – Wilt/Smith**
- **Lake / Dam / Cemetery - Smith**
- **Finance / Airport / Internal Management / Insurance - Rhodes**
- **Superintendent / Building and Grounds Report /Parks & Recreation– Small**
- **Codes and Zoning – Lascola**

- **Old Business**
 - Signs

- **New Business**
 - Permission to re-bid Avgas and to set the date for the opening on 2/17/2026 meeting
 - T-Mobile Home Town Grant discussion
 - TextMyGov

- Motion to accept the bills
- Public Comment
- Designation of next Meeting February 2, 2026
- **Motion to adjourn**

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School on 1722 State Route 8, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

January 20, 2026, at 5:00pm

Resolution # 26 – 01 - 05

Subject: **Review of the 2025 Arietta Financial Records**

Resolution Offered By: Jacquelyn Grier

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta, Town Board was presented with the 2025 financial records for the Town of Arietta on the January 20, 2026, meeting as required by Town Law Section 123, and

WHEREAS: these records include the Justices, Tax Collector, and Town Clerk, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town of Arietta Town Board does approve the 2025 Town of Arietta financial records as presented.

Seconded by: Douglas Stobo and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:

Jacquelyn Grier X
Jennifer Smith _____
Douglas Stobo X
Christy Wilt X
Christian Rhodes X

NOES:

Jacquelyn Grier _____
Jennifer Smith _____
Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes _____

ABSTAIN :

Jacquelyn Grier _____
Jennifer Smith X
Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes _____

ABSENT:

Jacquelyn Grier _____
Jennifer Smith _____
Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes _____

Marie C. Buanno

Town Clerk

January 21, 2026

Date

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School on 1722 State Route 8, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York, on:

January 20, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26 – 01 - 06

Subject: **Alternate Planning Board Member**

Resolution Offered By: Douglas Stobo

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta, Town Board will appoint Dana Ordway to the Arietta Planning Board as an alternate member for the term ending February 28, 2026, to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of Marie Buanno, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town Board, Town of Arietta, does hereby appoint Dana Ordway to fill the vacant alternate position for the term ending February 28, 2026, effective immediately.

Seconded by: Jennifer Smith and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:

Jacquelyn Grier X
Jennifer Smith X
Douglas Stobo X
Christy Wilt X
Christian Rhodes X

NOES:

Jacquelyn Grier ____
Jennifer Smith ____
Douglas Stobo ____
Christy Wilt ____
Christian Rhodes ____

ABSTAIN :

Jacquelyn Grier ____
Jennifer Smith ____
Douglas Stobo ____
Christy Wilt ____
Christian Rhodes ____

ABSENT:

Jacquelyn Grier ____
Jennifer Smith ____
Douglas Stobo ____
Christy Wilt ____
Christian Rhodes ____

Marie C. Buanno

Town Clerk

January 21, 2026

Date

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School on 1722 State Route 8, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

January 20, 2026, at 5:00pm

Resolution # 26 – 01 - 07

Subject: Appointment of Dana Ordway as Part-Time Clerk for the Arietta Town Planning Board

Resolution Offered By: Jacquelyn Grier

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta will appoint Dana Ordway to fill the current vacancy as the part-time clerk to take minutes for the Arietta Planning Board due to the resignation of Marie Buanno, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town Board, Town of Arietta, does hereby appoint Dana Ordway to fill the vacant part-time position to take minutes for the Arietta Planning Board, effective immediately.

Seconded by: Christy Wilt and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:

Jacquelyn Grier X
Jennifer Smith X
Douglas Stobo X
Christy Wilt X
Christian Rhodes X

NOES:

Jacquelyn Grier ____
Jennifer Smith ____
Douglas Stobo ____
Christy Wilt ____
Christian Rhodes ____

ABSTAIN :

Jacquelyn Grier ____
Jennifer Smith ____
Douglas Stobo ____
Christy Wilt ____
Christian Rhodes ____

ABSENT:

Jacquelyn Grier ____
Jennifer Smith ____
Douglas Stobo ____
Christy Wilt ____
Christian Rhodes ____

Marie C. Buanno

Town Clerk

January 21, 2026

Date

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School, 1722 State Route 8, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

January 20, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-02-08

Subject: Transfer of Funds

Resolution Offered By: Christy Wilt

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta will give the Town Supervisor permission to make the following transfer of money:

Highway Fund

\$ 5,000.00 to #DA-5142-410, Snow Removal Town Contractual Expense
from #DA-5148-410, Snow Removal State Fuel Contractual Expense

\$ 5,000.00 to #DA-5148-420, Snow Removal County Contractual Expense
from #DA-5148-410, Snow Removal State Fuel Contractual Expense

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town of Arietta Town Board does approve the above transfers of money.

Seconded by Douglas Stobo and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:

Jacquelyn Grier X
Jennifer Smith X
Douglas Stobo X
Christy Wilt X
Christian Rhodes X

NOES:

Jacquelyn Grier
Jennifer Smith
Douglas Stobo
Christy Wilt
Christian Rhodes

ABSTAIN :

Jacquelyn Grier
Jennifer Smith
Douglas Stobo
Christy Wilt
Christian Rhodes

ABSENT:

Jacquelyn Grier
Jennifer Smith
Douglas Stobo
Christy Wilt
Christian Rhodes

Marie C. Buanno
Town Clerk

January 21, 2026
Date

Marie Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
TOWN OF ARIETTA
in
HAMILTON COUNTY, NY
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January 21, 2026

Hamilton County Express
hamco.ads@mcclarymedia.com

Please run for 1 week

Leader-Herald
legals@dailygazette.net

Please run for 2 days

LEGAL NOTICE – TOWN OF ARIETTA
INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids are being accepted by the Town Clerk of Arietta, Box 37, 1722 State Rt. 8, Piseco, NY 12139, for the following:

100 LL AVIATION GASOLINE – to be delivered to Piseco Airport in Piseco, NY, in the quantity not to exceed six thousand (6,000) gallons for use during the fiscal year 2026. All bids shall be in writing on the letterhead of the bidder and in a sealed envelope marked “100 LL AVIATION GAS BID”.

Specifications are on file in the office of the Town Clerk, Piseco, NY.

Bids will be received until 5:00 p.m. on February 17, 2026, at the regular Arietta Town Board meeting held at the Piseco Common School, 1722 State Rt. 8, Piseco, NY. The Town of Arietta reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in bids received.

By Order of the Town Board,
Marie Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Town of Arietta