

# **TOWN OF ARIETTA**

**May 4, 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 – Councilperson - present  
Jennifer Smith – Councilperson - present  
Douglas Stobo – Councilperson - absent  
Christy Wilt – Councilperson - present  
Marie Buanno – Town Clerk - present

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Craig Small – Highway Superintendent  
Bill Hotaling – Assessor

It was noted the April 6, 2026, meeting minutes could not be accepted as one member of the three who attended that meeting is absent from this meeting. They will be voted on once all three of those members of the Town Board are in attendance.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the April 20, 2026, meeting minutes as presented by the Town Clerk via e-mail. Jacqui Grier offered the motion to accept the minutes. Christy Wilt seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 3:2. (Jenny Smith was absent from that meeting and had to abstain, Doug Stobo is absent).

Resolution 26-05-21 was read. (Authorizing a Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Local Law NO. 01 OF 2026 “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”) Christy Wilt offered the motion to approve. Jenny Smith seconded it. Chris asked if there was any discussion. There was none. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1. The Agenda and Resolutions are attached to these minutes.

Resolution 26-05-22 was read. (Authorize to order and sell the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Book: Celebrating the Role of New York Towns in America’s Story) Jacqui Grier offered the motion to approve. Jenny Smith seconded it. Chris explained that Town Clerk Marie Buanno had asked if the Town could purchase and sell some of these books. This measure was just making sure it was official that permission was granted to do so. We will purchase six and see how it goes. Marie will handle the sales of them. Chris asked if there was any discussion. There was none. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1.

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## COMMITTEES:

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- Chris Rhodes, Jacqui Grier and Craig Small met with the new snowmobile club of lower Arietta (The Adirondack Mountain Riders) on April 21<sup>st</sup>. There have been internal difficulties within the Snow Drifters club, and it has resulted in a break and a new club being formed. Jacqui Grier wanted to note that she came away with the feeling that there is too much turmoil within the Snow Drifters for us to feel confident having them groom the trails. Even though she knows we want to be diplomatic, she would like the town to break away from the Snow Drifters. An e-mailed letter from Snow Drifters President Wayne Schermerhorn was shared with Board members. The letter seems presumptive that they will be the ones continuing to fulfill the contract for 2026 – 2027. Chris feels we need to wait until Fulton County decides as to what club they choose on their end and why. They are meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Chris noted that we have always hired the Snow Drifters of Stratford to groom the lower Arietta trails and they are doing a great job. He feels their internal difficulties should not be of concern to us if they can get the information that is needed for the grants and the trails are groomed without complaints. He asked Jenny Smith and Christy Wilt if they had any comments. They had none at this time. Chris feels we now need to wait until we hear the results from Fulton County and talk about it again.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- There was no report in Doug Stobos absence. Doug had asked Chris to inspect the Community Hall after the cleaning last week since he was not back yet. Chris had thought a “deep cleaning” was scheduled and noted the windows and sills had not been cleaned and cobwebs in the corners were still there. He wants to check with Doug as to what cleaning was agreed on before they contact the cleaning company.

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy wanted to be sure the Town was still on board for supplying porta-potties for the Speculator 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities as she had been contacted by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee. She did note that the fireworks are Friday and the parade Saturday so the porta-potties will be there for two days. They will send vouchers to us.

\*Christy said Bob Thomson texted her about the gardens. He offered to take care of them but needs supplies such as deer deterrent, mulch, peat moss, etc. Everyone agreed he can buy supplies needed up to \$500. and submit the receipts for reimbursement.

\*Christy asked about Recreation Director Sheila Crouses request for funds. Chris noted in the past Piseco School and the Town have gone 50-50 in funding the youth group activities Sheila plans. Chris said he feels there is no problem doing this again if everyone was in agreement. Everyone was. Tentatively the Town agrees. It will depend on whether the school is also funding 50%.

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\*Christy said she called and left a message with DEC concerning the first campsite again. She wants to talk to him about the cleanup there and will keep calling until she gets an answer.

Lake/Dam/Cemetery- Chris asked about the tree in the cemetery that needs to come down. Jenny said she had been in touch with Patrick Vedder and she had been to the cemetery. He is waiting for a crane to take down the tree in the middle of the cemetery. She wondered if there were other trees that needed to come down or be trimmed. Chris said we do not have permission to take down anything else and suggested a meeting with the committee to decide that as there are others that should be considered. The other member is George Sherman. Chris asked Jenny to keep after Patrick Vedder to get the tree down and to be sure the original \$2,500.00 quote is still good. It is just to put it on the ground, and the Highway Dept. will take care of it. Jenny noted there is also a big pile of dead trees near the entrance that should go away. She will ask Patrick about that too.

\* Jenny wondered what the lake level was. Chris noted it is 2 ½ inches high. Craig Small said it is supposed to rain this week, and the boards are not in yet because of the rain in the forecast.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- Chris has an update on the easement acquisition. Todd Thurston was hired to appraise the properties affected by this project. He has a letter ready that the engineers approved and it will go out to the property owners this week. The inspections are tentatively set for May 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*The test wells at the brush depository were done. Water samples were taken from each and results will be done in a few weeks. They can be used for further testing. It was recommended testing be done annually.

\*Chris is still waiting for another quote for the Airport Fuel pump card reader. He was in contact with someone who had many questions, but he hadn't heard back. He was hopeful to have more information by this meeting. He understands Prime are the best pumps.

\*Chris and Craig attended the pre-bid meeting at the airport. The bids will be opened on Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3PM in the Supervisors office with Chris, Craig and Marie in attendance. Results will be given to the engineers for review. If everything looks good, a Resolution will be brought to the next meeting to apply for the grant.

\* Chris reported we had an inspection last week at the airport by the Department of Homeland Security. Our signage was good. They were pleased with the upgrade of the camera system. They wondered if there had been any suspicious activity. Chris said the County Sheriff, the Highway Superintendent and an active citizen watch over everything. They were pleased.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Craig said the brush facility was going well so far.

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\*The guys have been chipping and cleaning up all the winter debris from the roads. Powley Road is still closed. They are waiting for it to dry up. It should probably be opened sometime next week. They are using the county blower and will start raking it.

\*On Wild Road the culvert is collapsing. They dug it out and cut it and filled it in with gravel for now. Craig is working with Lenny Croote of Hamilton County Soil and Water to try to get a grant to put a bridge there. It is a program called Bridge New York. Without a NYS budget, everything is on hold including CHIPS funds.

\*The bathrooms at the airport are open. Doug Stobo had thought they needed painting, but Craig doesn't feel they are that bad to warrant it now that they have been cleaned up.

\*Prices for carbides used on one of the trucks were \$300. for a three-foot section. They are now \$672. and are increasing again soon. The county is trying to get a blanket grant for them but working on the particulars. Craig was just letting everyone know as this is something he must buy every year, so it is just informational for budgeting purposes.

\*Our new truck is still sitting without a body on it. It had to be moved outside as there is a fuel recall from Western Star. There are bad connections that tend to start on fire. The towns of Lake Pleasant and Indian Lake have them and they are now just sitting there, outside.

\*Garbage in black bags will not be picked up. It is to be in clear, translucent or opaque bags only and preferably in garbage receptacles with lids. This has been the regulation since 2013. Christy will put this information on the town website.

Codes and Zoning- Zoning Officer Mel LaScola was absent but is working on the report.

New Business- Airport fees. Chris wanted to go over the list with everyone to see if they should stay the same. Christy suggested that we investigate allowing Venmo. Jacqui looked up the charge on-line. It is 1.9% + .10. Christy will investigate it further. It was agreed that the fees should stay the same, but Camper Vehicles should be eliminated. Christy will eliminate that from the website. Christy and Chris have a meeting at NBT on May 11<sup>th</sup> and will inquire about Venmo at that time.

Chris reminded everyone that the Hearing for the Moratorium on Battery Storage will take place at our next meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was required to pay the bills as presented. Jenny Smith offered the motion. Christy Wilt seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1.

General Fund	Vouchers 284, 285 and 293 through 308	\$38,093.70
Highway Fund	Vouchers 287 through 292	\$4,500.31

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A motion was required to accept the financial statements as presented. Christy Wilt offered the motion. Jenny Smith seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1.

## PUBLIC COMMENT-

Bill Hotaling said the Tentative Tax Rolls were given to the Town Clerk. Grievance Day is Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 8 PM in his office. He told everyone the equalization rate is 89%.

Jenny Smith noted there is a side-by-side worth \$25,000.00 at Motoworld with a blown engine available for free. She wondered if the town was interested. The Sheriff Dept. has one that they loan out so there was no interest.

Town Clerk Marie Buanno reported in April she received \$300.00 for 4 building permits. No dog fees came in. She attended the NYSTCA conference recently, which was very informative. She learned quite a bit and plans on implementing some changes. She will also be updating and correcting some things that haven't been done in a while.

Chris noted that it would be a good idea for Marie to check out the process for renaming our Animal Control system a Holding Facility as Lake Pleasant has done. NYS Ag & Markets periodically inspects, and it would be a good idea for her to make sure we comply according to what our regulations currently are and any new regulations there are.

Christy Wilt noted that for the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of America the Hamilton County Tourism Office is having banners made and there will be one for the Piseco museum. She asked Bill Hotaling if the Historical Society still has the pop-up that was supplied to the towns in 2016 by the county as they are looking for them. Each town received one. Bill did not know but there are several places she plans on looking.

The Hamilton County Historian is having a Business and Residential Decorating Contest between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>. The winner will get an embroidered flag with the 250<sup>th</sup> logo on it. Contact the Historians website for details.

[www.hamiltoncountyhistorian.org/250-events/](http://www.hamiltoncountyhistorian.org/250-events/)

Everyone felt there should be some kind of Town of Arietta Memorial Day celebration planned similar to the celebration we had last year to bring attention to the war veteran's stone. Chris nominated Jenny and Christy to organize it. Cake and coffee will be provided. It was decided Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM would be a good date and time here at the school so there is somewhere to go if the weather turns.

# **TOWN OF ARIETTA**

**May 4, 2026**

Town Board Regular Meeting

Piseco School Meeting Room

The next meeting and hearing will be on Monday May 18, 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 Jenny Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Marie C. Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

**TOWN OF ARIETTA**  
*in*  
HAMILTON COUNTY, NY  
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## **Agenda**

**May 4, 2026**

5 pm at Piseco Common School

### **Town of Arietta**

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Motion to accept the minutes for the April 6 and April 20, 2026, meetings
  
- Resolutions
  - **26-05-21**      **Set Hearing Local Law #01 2026**
  - **26-05-22**      **250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Book**
  
- **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**
  - Bid Opening: Airport Apron May 14, 2026 @ 3 pm
  - Review Airport Fees
  
- **New Business**
  - Public Hearing Local Law #01 Moratorium on Battery Storage Systems
  
- Motion to accept the bills
- Motion to accept financial statements
- Public Comment
- Designation for next Meeting Monday, May 18, 2026
- **Motion to adjourn**

# TOWN OF ARIETTA

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

May 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-05-21

Subject: **Authorizing a Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Local Law NO. 01 OF 2026 “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”**

Resolution Offered By: Christy Wilt

**RESOLVED**, that proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026 titled “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”, attached hereto and made a part hereof, be, and the same hereby is, introduced before the Town of Arietta Town Board, and in order to give interested members of the public the opportunity to be heard thereon, the Arietta Town Board shall hold a public hearing at the Meeting Room in the Piseco School on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., on the matter of the adoption of said proposed Local Law No. 01 of 2026 titled “A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems”, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to give notice of such public hearing in the manner provided by law.

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

AYES :	NOES :	ABSTAIN :	ABSENT :
Jacquelyn Grier <u>  X  </u>	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____
Jennifer Smith <u>  X  </u>	Jennifer Smith _____	Jennifer Smith _____	Jennifer Smith _____
Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo <u>  X  </u>
Christy Wilt <u>  X  </u>	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes <u>  X  </u>	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____
Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marie C Buanno  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
May 4, 2026  
Date

**TOWN OF ARIETTA**  
**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #01 OF 2026**  
**ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS**

BE IT ENACTED by the Town of Arietta Town Board as follows:

**Section 1. Title and Authority** – This Local Law shall be known as the Town of Arietta Battery Energy Storage Moratorium. It is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §10 and Town Law Article 16.

**Section 2. Purpose** – The Town Board recognizes that the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities are a key component to the viability and promotion of renewable energy Sources, however, the technology of these systems is still in its infancy. Public health, Safety and Welfare are some of the highest priorities in the Town, causing the Town Board to desire to have the ability to study the approach to and impacts of the development of BESS facilities.

This Moratorium is necessary to temporarily restrict the development of battery energy storage systems so that the Town Board may thoroughly consider the impacts of such uses, their appropriate locations in the community, and how to encourage appropriate development of such facilities within the Town’s land use development and zoning objectives. The Town Board has determined that this would best enhance and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Arietta.

**Section 3. Definitions** – “Battery energy storage system” means one or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy derived from **any source, including without limitation, solar** or wind sources, to be stored and then released at a future time.

**Section 4. Moratorium** – The Town of Arietta hereby imposes a one-year Moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review, or approval of any new battery energy storage system after the date that this Local Law takes effect. During the pendency of this Moratorium, there shall be no construction, permits issued, nor applications considered by the Town, its officials, boards, or Departments for the construction, installation, or use of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

**Section 5. Extensions** – This Moratorium may be extended for such additional periods as The Town Board may determine it necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Arietta, and accomplish the stated purposes and the intent of this Local Law.

**Section 6. Variance Procedure** – The Town Board shall have the power, after a Public Hearing, to vary or modify the application of any provision of this Local Law upon its determination that strict application of this Local Law would impose extraordinary hardship upon an applicant, and that the variance granted would not adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the Town, or a significant conflict with the general purposes and intent of this Local Law. Any request for a variance shall be in writing and filed with the Town Clerk. The Town Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on the application on not less than five (5) days’ public notice, and shall make its decision within thirty (30) days after the close of the Public Hearing. Any project that is granted a Variance from this Local Law shall be subject to all requirements under the Town Code which would have been applicable to the project if the Moratorium had not been adopted and the prohibitions set forth in Paragraph 4 of this Local law shall not apply to such

project.

**Section 7. Severability** – The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph, or part thereof.

**Section 8. Effective Date** – This Local Law shall take effect upon filing by the Office of the New York Secretary of State.

**TOWN OF ARIETTA**

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

May 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-05-22

Subject: **Authorize to order and sell the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Book: Celebrating the Role of New York Towns in America’s Story**

Resolution Offered By: Jacquelyn Grier

**WHEREAS:** the New York Associations of Towns (NYAOT) published a 250<sup>th</sup> commemorative book titled: Celebrating the Role of New York Towns in America’s Story, and

**WHEREAS:** Frederick and Cynthia Adcock, authors of “Piseco Lake and Arietta,” submitted a piece on behalf of the Town of Arietta to the NYAOT that will be published in the commemorative book, and

**WHEREAS:** the Town would like to order six (6) copies to sell to the public at \$30.00 each, and if there is a need to order more, will allow the Supervisor to purchase additional copies as needed, and

**WHEREAS:** the Arietta Town Clerk will manage the sale of the books to the public, and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED:** that the Town of Arietta Town Board does approve of ordering 6 (six) copies of the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Book for the public to purchase at \$30.00 a copy, that the Arietta Town clerk will manage the sales, and will authorize the Supervisor to purchase more copies as needed.

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

AYES :	NOES :	ABSTAIN :	ABSENT :
Jacquelyn Grier <u>  X  </u>	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____
Jennifer Smith <u>  X  </u>	Jennifer Smith _____	Jennifer Smith _____	Jennifer Smith _____
Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo <u>  X  </u>
Christy Wilt <u>  X  </u>	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes <u>  X  </u>	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____

Marie C Buanno  
Town Clerk

May 4, 2026  
Date