

TOWN OF ARIETTA

August 17, 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 - absent

Jennifer Smith – Councilperson - present

Douglas Stobo – Councilperson - present

Christy Wilt – Councilperson - present

Marie Buanno – Town Clerk - present

OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Small – Highway Superintendent

Mel LaScola – Zoning Officer

Bill Hotaling – Assessor

Judy Ford

Supervisor Rhodes noted the meeting minutes from August 3rd cannot be voted on to accept as Jacqui Grier is absent tonight and Jenny Smith and Christy Wilt were absent from that meeting so there would not be a quorum to vote. They are tabled and will be voted on at the next meeting.

COMMITTEES:

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- There was nothing new to report in Jacqui Griers absence.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo reported he went by the cemetery, and the water is turned off. There is dirt against the building there that is deteriorating the brick. Craig said he is aware of it and it is on his list, but it is not a priority right now. The stairs on the outside of the Community Hall that go down to the lower parking has not been cordoned off but Doug doesn't see how it could be. Chris said that is one of Craig Smalls' priorities. Craig said they are being removed tomorrow (Tuesday August 18th).

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy Wilt said after the Town had the testing done by Atlantic Testing Labs, it was put into the Brownfield system the county Planning Board has. They went through the plans and according to Weston & Sampson, we are eligible for the EPA grant for more testing or for improvements and a property use plan. They had sent a message to Wells Town Supervisor Beth Hunt. There are no recommendations from them yet. When they do,

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Christy will keep the Town informed. She had nothing new to report from Recreation Director Sheila Crouse.

Lake/Dam/Cemetery- Jenny Smith stopped by the cemetery today and everything looked good. Bill Hotaling asked if there will be water there in the future. Chris said no because the DOH code states no wells should be within 100 feet of burial plots so there is no room for a well. The one that is there doesn't meet DOH regulations. Neighbor Stacy Purdy's well has been allowing for water there but now that she is having problems with her pressure tank, feels the Town is responsible for it. There is nothing in any Town records, files or minutes indicating there was an agreement between the Town and Stacy. She feels there is an agreement but cannot produce one. Any bills she has received for work she has had done on the well she has been forwarding to the Town to pay. Without some proof of this agreement she claims exists, the Town will not be paying the repair bills. The water supply to the cemetery has been turned off permanently. If people need to water plants, they will have to bring their own water. Stacy's well is a non-conforming well. It is a liability to the Town if we continue to allow use of this water supply. It is a drilled well and it went dry recently.

Jenny Smith asked if we were going to consider the water tank idea that was mentioned at a previous meeting. Chris said he and Craig Small looked into that and found we never owned the pressure washer system that was used at the boat wash a few years ago. The DEC owned that. Bill asked why we couldn't have some kind of tank of water there. Craig asked where we would get the water. Judy Ford mentioned we could get it at the Community Hall. Although a good idea, it once again comes down to manpower. Water at the cemetery to water flowers is not a priority. People will have to transport water.

We have not gotten a bill for the tree work from Patrick Vedder. Chris tried to send him a voucher. He mentioned to Jenny that if she is in contact with him, he needs to submit an invoice and a voucher to get paid.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- The Town Attorney is reviewing the avigation easements before they go out to the landowners. They wanted to add a little bit of language to protect the Town before they are mailed out.

Chris noted we were awarded the grant for the airport apron project. We will be presenting a resolution to award the contract at the September meeting and a contract with McFarland & Johnson for that project.

Bill Hotaling mentioned that the Lions Club will be having a team of people with designated shirts for security purposes concerning the planes at the Fly-in Breakfast on August 29th. Chris noted it was always a concern that someone would get hurt at this event. Safety and a separation

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of attendees and planes coming in and out was the goal. Terry Peasley is the Chairperson of the event and is working with the Town to ensure safety for all.

Chris said the lake level 4 inches low.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Craig said they are working on Arrowhead Drive. They still have a few culverts to replace. Either the week before or the week after Labor Day they will be putting the product on the road which will mean it will be gravel for a few weeks until they can pave over it. Hopefully, depending on the passing of the resolution tonight, they will be working on getting some other roads in shape. Chris noted that the resolution Craig is talking about is moving funds around to do what needs to be done out of this year's budget then next year funding a new line to catch up on projects. The CHIPS funding isn't enough anymore. The state regulates what the CHIPS fund can be used for. Once you use CHIPS funding for a road, that road cannot be touched for ten years. The roads aren't lasting ten years so in order to fix them the funds have to come from somewhere for maintenance. What CHIPS could be used for has changed over the years. By creating this new line, the plan is to do Wight Road, Pawling Road and the airport road.

Codes and Zoning- Zoning Officer Mel LaScola said last Monday there was a ZBA hearing. Everything went well, it was presented well. The ZBA must meet again to vote on it as they came with revised plans, so it has to be advertised again and residents need to be notified again. It was tabled and the continuation will be at the September 14th meeting of the ZBA. The Planning Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday had to be cancelled as there was a lack of a quorum.

Chris noted the Town Board meeting and the Planning Board meeting are on the same date next month due to the Labor Day holiday. The Planning Board will have to meet in the smaller office again where they previously met.

Resolution 26-08-37 was read. (Create a New Highway Account and Transfer of Funds) Christy Wilt offered the motion to approve. Doug Stobo seconded it. Chris Rhodes asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none he asked if all were in favor. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1. The Agenda and Resolutions are attached to these minutes.

Resolution 26-08-38 was read. (Authorization to Purchase and Install a Generator at Piseco Airport) Doug Stobo offered the motion to approve. Jenny Smith seconded it. Chris noted he sent quotes from three sources. Midstate Utilities Tech was the lowest bid at \$12,174.00. Gore

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Electric had forgotten to include the propane hookup of \$850.00 on their original bid. Chris added this in and it exceeded Midstates bid. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1.

An additional Resolution was added to the Agenda. Resolution 26-08-39 was read. (Transfer of Funds) Jenny Smith offered the motion to approve. Doug seconded it. Chris noted this is the balance from last year that is being brought into this year. When a fund isn't completely used it is put in the Fund balance for use the following year. It will be used to do the projects Craig had spoken of earlier. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1.

Jenny Smith made a presentation to the Board regarding resolving the brush facility use. Jenny created a few options for the Board to consider for access and control of the brush facility (formerly known as the stump dump). The first one involves having a gate with an RFID issued card to allow access. Jenny consulted AI to get the best prices for this scenario. The best gate was more than \$10,000.00. The other is run by camera systems and has a stop sign with a speed bump. Residents willing to buy the card for \$10.00 to recoup the expenses would be allowed access. Cameras would record the vehicle from above, the license plate, and would read the card at the stop sign. There would be a choke of traffic at the stop sign/speed bump. A committee would need to be formed to review the recorded card information should there be an event that needs investigation. The camera system would be all solar powered so wi-fi would not be needed. Jenny has a camera that the Town could try before purchasing any. Chris also has someone working on an estimate for the same thing from another company. Hopefully at the next meeting there will be exact prices available to consider for a proposal. Chris estimates the cost in excess of \$10,000.00.

Chris noted Christy Wilt had a much simpler solution in that the brush dump should just be open in the spring and the fall as usual and see how it goes.

Bill Hotaling spoke up and felt the solution could be to chain and padlock the brush facility. If someone wants to dump brush, have them sign out the key at the Supervisors office then return it when done. He felt if someone must sign their name to something showing they signed it out and in, they would be more conscious of what they were dumping. They could be given a list of what they can and cannot dump and be given an hour to do what they need to do and return the key. It would only be open Monday through Friday when the Supervisors office is open. Craig does not see this working, but everyone agreed it was a start and much less cost than thousands of dollars for gates and cameras. Chris felt the camera that was loaned to Jenny could be utilized to see its effectiveness. It was the thought that if someone went to dump something and saw something that shouldn't have been dumped, they would report it so it

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wasn't pinned on them. Craig said he sees problems if no one is going to babysit it. The Board members agreed that this was a place to start that isn't going to be so costly to the Town. Chris will purchase the chain and lock. Chris thanked Jenny for all her work getting information for a solution.

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

General Fund	Vouchers 498, 502, 503 and 505 through 509	\$2,130.78
Highway Fund	Vouchers 510 and 511	\$459.78

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Bill Hotaling noted the PLA held a meeting on Saturday. Poplar Point and the stewardship were discussed. He said everyone was on board with going forward with this. Chris said the last he remembered was Jenny was going to reach out to the PLA about it. She and Bill have talked. She said she has not sent anything in as she needs letters of support to move forward. She will loop in Chris with anything on it moving forward.

Jenny noted she is now licensed as a tick and rabies handler for raccoons, bats, skunks, fox and bobcats. If any calls come in for them, she can be here fairly quickly. Chris and Craig said they generally call DEC but that is good to know she can be a contact as well.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday September 8, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Piseco School Meeting Room.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doug Stobo offered the motion, and Christy Wilt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Marie C. Buanno, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

TOWN OF ARIETTA
in
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Agenda

August 17, 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 August 3, 2026, meeting

- **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*

- **Resolutions**
 - **26-08-37** **Create and Fund Road Maintenance line**
 - **26-08-38** **Generator at K09**

- **Old Business**
 - Brush Facility – Jennifer Smith Presentation on Cameras and Gate

- **New Business**
 -
 - Motion to accept the bills
 - Public Comment
 - Designation for next meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 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, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York, on:

August 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-08-37

Subject: **Create a New Highway Account and Transfer of Funds**

Resolution Offered By: Christy Wilt

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta Highway Superintendent would like to create a new account for road maintenance work in the 2026 Budget, separate from the CHIPS Fund account; and

WHEREAS: the account created would be DA-5112-220 Improvements Maintenance Expense; and

WHEREAS: a total of \$70,000.00 would be transferred into the new line-item DA -5112-220 as follows: \$60,000.00 from DA5130-200 and \$10,000.00 from DA5112-210, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town of Arietta Town Board does hereby authorize the creation of Account DA-5112-220, Improvements Maintenance Expense, and the transfer of a total of \$70,000.00 as described above to establish said account.

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

AYES:

Jacquelyn Grier

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 X

Jennifer Smith

Douglas Stobo

Christy Wilt

Christian Rhodes

Marie C. Buanno
Town Clerk

August 17, 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:

August 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-08-38

Subject: **Authorization to Purchase and Install a Generator at Piseco Airport**

Resolution Offered By: Douglas Stobo

WHEREAS: the Supervisor, per the Town of Arietta Procurement Policy, received the required Request for Proposals (RFP) and, after review, would like to purchase from Midstate Utilities Tech one (1) new Briggs generator per the attached outline for a total of \$12,174.00.00, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: the Town Board will authorize the Supervisor to purchase the above equipment from Midstate Utilities Tech for a total of \$12,174.00 as per the attached specification outline.

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

AYES:

Jacquelyn Grier
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 X
Jennifer Smith
Douglas Stobo
Christy Wilt
Christian Rhodes

Marie C. Buanno
Town Clerk

August 17, 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:

August 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-08-39

Subject: **Transfer of Funds**

Resolution Offered By: Jennifer Smith

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

Highway Fund

\$10,000.00 to #DA-5112-200, Improvements Expense
from #DA-0909 Fund Balance

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

Marie C. Buanno
Town Clerk

August 17, 2026
Date