

TOWN OF ARIETTA

September 21, 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

Bill Hotaling – Assessor

Jim Colton – Planning Board Chairman

Judy Ford

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting as presented by the Town Clerk. Doug Stobo offered the motion to accept. Jenny Smith seconded it. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed 4:1.

COMMITTEES:

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- There was no report in Jacqui Griers absence. Chris Rhodes noted the Adirondack Trail Groomers reported they have been clearing trails and are pretty much done.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo checked on the Community Hall and found the Piseco Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary had left tables up after their event Saturday. Marie Buanno said she had talked to Joyce Page and Heide Thomson and there is an event going on this Saturday there. It was requested the tables stay up. Doug took care of cleaning the grill for the Auxiliary. He asked about Orkin continuing to service the hall. Chris felt it was a good idea at least through October as the mice are finding places to winter. Chris asked Doug to remind him again in November.

Recreation/Website/Campsite- Christy Wilt said she is on a planning team for the Recreation Economy for Real Communities which is a partnership between the Northern Border Regional Commission, the Appalachian Region Commission, the US Forest Service and the APA.

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Hamilton County was selected for this program. There is a lot of focus on mountain bike trails right now. Indian Lake, Inlet and Long Lake have new trails coming in. There are community workshops open to anyone interested in finding out about what is going on in their communities. They are October 5th from 4 – 6:30 PM in Inlet and October 6th from 9 AM – 4:30 PM in Long Lake.

Also, On October 28th there is public outreach for workforce housing. For money we used and money we will hopefully receive we must participate in the public outreach. Mary Kiewicz has expressed interest in being a part of this. Chris has let her know about this and she will be attending. Christy will also post it on the website.

Chris noted that now that we are .gov, Christy should start working on getting us a new website. He suggested working with Zach Small in the Hamilton County IT Dept. There was no rush but he felt we should start. A certain amount of funds has already been approved for this.

Lake/Dam/Cemetery- Jenny Smith has grant information she wants to share. She will print out information to bring to the next meeting to discuss.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- Chris noted the lake level is low, but he didn't have the exact measurement. He said the boards usually come out about the first week in October or whenever is convenient for the Highway Dept. Craig thought it would be more like the second week in October.

Chris, Craig, Joyce and Heide met a couple of times to work on the budget. The numbers are pretty much finalized and will be presented to the Town Clerk soon. She will be bringing it to the October 5th meeting. Health insurance is going up about 14 ½ %. Workman's Comp went down a little due to Craig's safety practices.

The airport aviation easement is still a work in progress. The process is slowly coming along. Communication with the parties involved is slow. It is getting closer to the notifying of residents.

Hwy Superintendent/Building and Grounds/Parks & Recreation- Craig gave an update on the paving of Town roads, East Shore Road, Arrowhead, Wight Road and Pawling Road. Each are in their own phases with completion expected soon. None of the roads will be closed, however, there might be a short pause for one way traffic. He noted he will be gone next week for a training class.

He has not yet contacted Auctions International to auction the equipment authorized at a recent meeting but will soon.

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Codes and Zoning- No report in Mel LaScolas absence. Jim Colton was in attendance to review the codes changes the Planning Board is proposing and to try to answer any questions the Board has. The Town Clerk sent a copy to the Town Board last week via e-mail. They will not be published until finalized and ready for the public hearing. Chris asked if the Planning Board looked at other areas of the codes book for changes that need to be made, not just signs. Jim said they did not. Chris felt that we should get all changes together and submit at once since it is such a long process to make changes. Once the Town Board approves the proposed changes from the Planning Board, it goes to a public hearing then to the APA. We may as well make all the changes at once. Town Board members in attendance were in agreement. Chris also wanted Board member Jacqui Grier and Zoning Officer Mel LaScola to be able to weigh in as they are absent tonight. Jim noted the biggest change is the Temp Sign section for flags and reactors' signs. There was a bit of discussion about when signs for businesses should be allowed up. Also, what constitutes businesses being open or closed when it is a rental. Jenny noted inside sign regulations seem unclear. The Planning Board also put in a suggested law for political signs. Chris noted something that is missing is enforcement. What course of action will be taken if people don't comply? The Planning Board contends it does not want monetary fines imposed. We will discuss this further at the October 5th meeting. That meeting falls before the next Planning Board meeting so Jim Colton can take the information discussed at the Town Board meeting to that Planning Board meeting. It was mentioned that without fines of some kind, non-compliance is going to keep happening. Chris noted there should be a warning, then a sequence of fines per offense. If there are no teeth in the codes nothing will be accomplished. It was felt Mel will need to enforce providing there are teeth put in the code. No one had anything else to add. Discussion will continue at the next meeting with hopes Jacqui Grier and Mel LaScola will be present.

Resolution 26-09-45 was read. (AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026 "A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Arietta 2027 Budget and Authorizing the Adoption by the Town of Arietta of a Budget for 2027 that Requires a Tax Levy that is Greater Than the Tax Levy Limit for the 2027 Fiscal Year") Christy Wilt offered the motion to approve. Doug Stobo 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 26-09-46 was read. (Appointment to Board of Assessment Review) Doug Stobo 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.

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Bill Hotaling noted Barry Baker conducts the training involved in this appointment. Chris will reach out to him about it.

Chris noted one person used the Brush Facility under the new regulations. His only complaint was that the cable was too tight to easily lock it. We'll wait to see if it is a common problem. Someone asked if they could bring flowers and trimmings in. Chris told them to stay within the parameters listed in the agreement, so we don't get into invasive species, etc. It is open Wednesdays through Fridays 8 AM – noon with the sign out of the key. It was asked if mulch could still be taken from there. Chris said anyone can take anything out; it is what comes in that is the concern. Those who want mulch just sign out the key and note that in the agreement. If one hour is not enough people can sign up for two hours. There are two keys and the key is unique, so it is not easy to copy. We are trying to keep this privilege available to all so everyone needs to comply. There is a \$20.00 fee if people do not return the key within an hour.

Chris noted the October 5th meeting will be the first 2027 budget meeting. He asked the Board to try to set a few dates for budget workshops. Last year it was finalized in one meeting. Everyone agreed to set Tuesday October 13th at 5 PM as the first budget workshop with Monday October 19th (regular meeting night) being the finalizing of the budget.

Chris noted he had done some research on RFP credit card readers and dispensers. He felt it would be beneficial to replace the dispenser as well as the card reader as it is antiquated. He is suggesting it go out to bid as it may be over \$20,000.00 and exceeds the procurement limit. He asked if there was any discussion. There was none. He asked for a motion to go out to bid for both. Jenny Smith offered the motion. Doug Stobo seconded it. Motion passed 4:1. Bid opening will be on October 19th.

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

General Fund	Vouchers 549 through 560	\$43,068.74
Highway Fund	Vouchers 561 through 563	\$13,424.26

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Bill Hotaling said he will be having a meeting with some DEC people from Ray Brook late in October. They seem very happy about the stewardship possibility with the PLA (Piseco Lake Association) concerning working on cleaning up Poplar Point.

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Judy Ford inquired about the health benefits offered for newly hired employees in Arietta. She asked if it was true they receive no health insurance for a year. Chris and Craig agreed it was a six-month probationary period. At six months the employee is evaluated, and it is decided then if they get health insurance. If it is a bad review, the probationary period may be extended, or the employee may be terminated.

Jenny asked if we still wanted to try the camera she offered for the brush facility. Chris said yes but she should try to position it to take a picture of the license plate as the person is utilizing the lock and key.

The next meeting will be on Monday October 5, 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 5:32 PM.

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

TOWN OF ARIETTA
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Agenda

September 21, 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 September 8, 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**
 - **26-09-45** Set Public Hearing Override Tax Cap

- **Old Business**
 - Brush Facility –

- **New Business**
 - Begin Budget Process October 5, 2026, Meeting
 - Set Budget Workshops in October
 - Tax Cap Local Law, Set Public Hearing October 5, 2026
 - Land Use Code Changes presented by the Planning Board
 - RFP Credit Card Reader at Piseco Airport

- Motion to accept the bills
- Public Comment
- Designation for next meeting: Monday, October 5, 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:

September 21, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-09-45

Subject: AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026 “A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Arietta 2027 Budget and Authorizing the Adoption by the Town of Arietta of a Budget for 2027 that Requires a Tax Levy that is Greater Than the Tax Levy Limit for the 2027 Fiscal Year”

Resolution Offered By: Christy Wilt

RESOLVED, that proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2026 titled “A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Arietta 2027 Budget and Authorizing the Adoption by the Town of Arietta of a Budget for 2027 that Requires a Tax Levy that is Greater Than the Tax Levy Limit for the 2027 Fiscal Year”, 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 5th day of October, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., on the matter of the adoption of said proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2026 titled “A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for the Town of Arietta 2027 Budget and Authorizing the Adoption by the Town of Arietta of a Budget for 2027 that Requires a Tax Levy that is Greater Than the Tax Levy Limit for the 2027 Fiscal Year”, 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: 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

September 21, 2026
Date

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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:

September 21, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 26-09-46

Subject: **Appointment Board of Assessment Review**

Resolution Offered By: Douglas Stobo

WHEREAS: it is necessary that the Arietta Town Board appoint Mary Kiewicz to the Arietta Board of Assessment Review to fill the vacant position left by Jane Robens whose term ends September 30, 2026, and she declined to be reappointed, and

WHEREAS: the Town Board after review will appoint Mary Kiewicz to a term of five (5) years on the Arietta Board of Assessment Review effective October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2031, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town Board, Town of Arietta does hereby appoint Mary Kiewicz to the Arietta Board of Assessment Review for a term of five (5) years as outlined above.

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

 September 21, 2026
Date