September 9, 2026
Town of Erin Board Meeting

Supervisor Schmidt called the regular meeting of the Erin Town Board to order on this date at 6:30 PM. She then asked the Clerk to call the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT: William VanRiper, Jr., Alan Hughson, Michael Shutts, Dawn Schmidt.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ryan Buzzetti.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ellen & Anthony Coolbaugh, Mark Margeson, Opal Golden.

Supervisor Schmidt welcomed everyone and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by M. Shutts and seconded by A. Hughson to pay the audited bills as they appear on the General Fund Abstract 9, #144-154 totaling $5,865.16; and the Street Lighting Abstract 9, #152 totaling $155.15; and the Highway Fund Abstract 9, #101-112, totaling $119,017.79.
Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., A. Hughson, M. Shutts, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

Audited bills as they appear on the General Fund Abstract 8, #127-143, totaling $12,110.94; and the Highway Fund Abstract 8, #85-100, totaling $99,867.22; and the Street Lighting Fund Abstract 8, #140, totaling $143.74 were signed by the Board on the off-meeting month.

A motion was made by W. VanRiper, Jr. and seconded by A. Hughson to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the regular Board meeting on July 8, 2026 and approve the minutes.
Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., A. Hughson, M. Shutts, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

AGENDA FOR THE TOWN OF ERIN BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026;

1. RESOLUTION 30-2026 CALLING ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO DECLARE AN “ENERGY STATE OF EMERGENCY” RELATED TO ESCALATING ENERGY COSTS
2. RESOLUTION 31-2026 TO SET THE 2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR OCTOBER 14, 2026 AT 5:30 PM.
3. RESOLUTION 32-2026 TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING 2027 BUDGET FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2026 AT 5:30 PM.

RESOLUTION 30-2026
RESOLUTION CALLING ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO DECLARE AN “ENERGY STATE OF EMERGENCY” RELATING TO ESCALATING ENERGY COSTS
Resolution By: M. Shutts
Seconded By: W. VanRiper, Jr.

CALLILNG ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO DELCARE AN “ENERGY STATE OF EMERGENCY” RELATED TO ESCALATING ENERGY COSTS

WHEREAS, New York State’s energy costs are among the highest in the country; and

WHEREAS, New York State residents have been facing an escalating energy burden this winter due to escalating supply costs and government mandates contributing to all-time high and unsustainable energy costs causing financial hardship for our residents, businesses, farmers, and manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, delivery rates have increased, however they are set by the Public Service Commission and can only increase with its approval and on a schedule prescribed by such authorization This authorization does not include sudden spikes in energy commodity costs which are market driven; and

WHEREAS, due to several factors including a colder than average winter, New York State's lack of adequate energy supply has been a significant contributing factor to increased supply costs, and the strained supply has placed an undue burden on customers; and

WHEREAS, the New York Independent System Operator (NYSISO) administers the markets under regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure transparent price signals for all market participants, including utility companies who purchase supply on the market and then pass-through that supply charge to customers; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission in October, 2025 noted, "a residential electric customer using 600kWh per month is expected to pay about $60 per month for supply this winter, and an average residential customer using 719 therms of natural gas can expect to pay an estimated $224 per month, up 1.4% and 8% respectively; and

WHEREAS, during the months of January 2026, a typical NYSEG or RG&E residential customer saw supply costs increase 39% from this same period in 2025; and

WHEREAS, a typical NYSEG natural gas customer experienced a 72% increase in supply costs in February, 2026 as compared to February, 2025; and

WHEREAS, supply costs were significantly higher among time-of-use customers, which experienced a 75% increase in daytime supply costs and 87% increase in nighttime supply costs as compared to 2025; and

WHEREAS, New York State's lack of energy generation regulation is placing a hardship on residents across the state which will only continue without change; and

WHEREAS, the need to make investments in our electric grid, increase supply of new economic development, and pay for new state mandated programs have been the primary drivers of increased delivery costs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to declaring an "Energy State of Emergency" the state should also require the Department of Public Service to produce a study analyzing cost growth from delivery and supply charges including evaluating the numerous state programs that are funded by ratepayers through their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Erin requests to declare and "Energy State of Emergency" would allow immediate action to lower bills, place safeguards on utility bills to protect our consumers from extreme price spikes, initiate suspension of taxes, fees, and surcharges on energy bills, and expedite the construction of base load generation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Erin urges the Governor to declare a "Energy State of Emergency" to protect Town of Erin residents and all New York State ratepayers from extreme and unsustainable price spikes, promote stabilization of the power grid, and to promote affordable energy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of Erin will forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor Hochul, Assemblyman Christopher S. Friend, Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, Legislature Joseph Donovan, and any other party deemed necessary and proper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.
Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., A. Hughson, M. Shutts, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

RESOLUTION 31-2026
RESOLUTION TO SET THE 2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR OCTOBER 14, 2026 AT 5:30 PM
Resolution By: W. VanRiper, Jr.
Seconded By: A. Hughson

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2027 Budget Workshop be set for Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM, Erin Town Hall, 1138 Breesport Road, Erin. The Town Board meeting will start immediately following.
Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., A. Hughson, M. Shutts, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

RESOLUTION 32-2026
RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING 2027 BUDGET FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2026 AT 5:30 PM.
Resolution By: W. VanRiper, Jr.
Second By: A. Hughson

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2027 Budget Public Hearing be set for Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 5:30 PM, Erin Town Hall, 1138 Breesport Road, Erin. The Town Board meeting will start immediately following.
Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., A. Hughson, M. Shutts, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

<u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>

Town Attorney- No report.

Planning Board-Deda Cedar- They did not have a meeting because there was no quorum. There will be a meeting this month and they will discuss training that is being offered by the County. The Town Attorney would like a highlighted copy of the changes to the zoning code. Deda will get a copy sent to her for review.

Parks, Recreation and Senior Committee-Deda Cedar-Senior bingo is 9/16, a Halloween party 10/24, a craft fair 11/7 and the Seniors are taking a trip to the WWII Museum and Zippo Lighter Museum. Last month the Food Bank served 130 families.

Code Enforcement-John McCracken- There are several new homes being built, issued 3-4 911 numbers to new builds. There are 5-6 hunting cabins being built on North Greenbush. They are off grid. Next week will be the last push for cleanup.

Highway Superintendent– Harold Spencer –Austin Hill is finished. Horseheads will come up and sweep it off. Horseheads and City of Elmira helped fix Langdon Hill Road. There is still more to do. The materials for the garage project have been purchased. Asked for the Boards approval to put truck #4, a 2010 Western Star, up for surplus to include the wing and plow. Board gave approval. They will start

hauling in anti-skid in the next couple of weeks with the help of other Towns. He would like to get it from Seneca Stone. Board agrees. A new computer/laptop is needed for the Highway Department. They also have internet/phone issues. Council Member Shutts will help with the issues. Harold is working with Jimmy Joe Carl from Soil and Water regarding Park Hill. He also asked who would be responsible for maintaining the ditches-the Town or the landowner. Was told to figure out what he needs to complete the project and get back to the Board. He gave the Town Clerk a sketch of the work done for the drainage in front of the Town Hall.

Buildings and Grounds-William VanRiper, Jr.-Brandon will be here next week to start the highway garage project. He has been in touch with Josh Benjamin in regards to fixing the playground. He has a couple scouts that could help paint the equipment. It was suggested that Harold get a couple loads of playground chips from McDonald's to start with and see how far they go. Harold will also contact Soil and Water to see if they can help remove the sod from around the swings.

County Representatives- Mark Margeson- It is budget time at the County. Legislature supported the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Elmira. It is Federally funded. We have our own access point. Out of 60 applications, we were chosen, primarily because we have a poor community. The Federal Government gave an additional $650,000 and the Legislature put in one million of ARP funds into it and also received an additional grant that LECOM was involved in. They have also added dental. There is an event at the White Eagles on 9/16 to explain the process and how it works. Two dentists have been hired to work at the FQHC and a third to be in the mobile unit. He said to send him the invoice for the computer/laptop and he will take care of it. Sales tax is up. There are a number of projects going in that will increase sales tax over the next year or so.

Highway Superintendent-Harold Spencer-Asked the Board if he could take CHIPS paperwork to Dawn Sutfin in Hornell and have her continue to file the paperwork. She charges $50/hour. The Board agreed. Asked what the Board would like truck #4 to be put on the auction website for. The Board suggested starting at $25,000. Reminded Harold to remove it from the asset list and insurance once it has been sold.

Supervisor- Dawn Schmidt- The July police report was received and there were 54 incident reports, 1 uniform traffic tickets, and 11 traffic stops. The August police report had 27 incident reports, 2 uniform traffic tickets, and 9 traffic stops. City of Elmira Animal Control is raising its rates. Supervisor Schmidt suggested looking for alternative services for 2027. She is opposed to how they are managing their services. There is an agreement until the end of the year and then services will be terminated. Elmira Animal Control has never given any data on what services have been provided for the Town. The City of Elmira was notified in plenty of time of their budgeting period. The current Judge has been cleaning up several years of back cases. The Court Clerk is not being paid for her services in helping with this task. Supervisor Schmidt is not comfortable with that and suggests getting documentation of the hours she has worked and pay her for that time and time moving forward. At this point and time, the Judge does not believe they will have the court in order by the end of the year. That position is up for election and needs to be cleaned up as much as possible before the next person comes in.

A motion was made by A. Hughson and seconded by W. VanRiper, Jr. to pay the Court Clerk $20/hour for services rendered until November and reassess the situation.
Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., A. Hughson, M. Shutts, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

John Wood-Erin Fire District and Erin Fire Department-Thanked the Town Board for Harold and Anthony's help installing the new fire hydrant.

Jennifer Bates- She had an inquiry on Facebook about cleaning up the Austin Hill Cemetery. Harold said a lot of the stones that are lying down will break if they are stood up due to the material they are made of. There are lilac trees that cannot be cut down in case they are family trees. He will contact Paul Mapes about the pine tree. The Historical Society is having a 250-year celebration at the museum on 9/20 from 2:00-4:00 with live music, snacks, and rock painting.

With no further comments from the public Supervisor Schmidt closed this portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by W. VanRiper, Jr. and seconded by M. Shutts to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., A. Hughson, M. Shutts, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.