

Minutes of the Town Board meeting of the Town of Ashland on Thursday, 11, 2026 at the Town Hall in the Village of Wellsburg, NY at 7 pm.

Board members present were: Chad McDonald, Lisa McDonald, Charlie Willson and Reggie Piatt. Others present were: Clerk Kimberly Tuttle, Adam Skinkle, Rodney Strange and Adam Wilson.

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with the salute to the flag.

Motion was made Mrs. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Piatt, to accept the minutes from the last meeting as transcribed by the clerk. Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-35

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NYS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES INCREASES APPLICABLE TO NYSEG CUSTOMERS

A Resolution strongly urging immediate review of electric delivery charges, demanding improved cost controls and transparency, and authorizing formal complaints to the New York State Public Services Commission regarding the escalation cost of electricity.

WHEREAS, residents and businesses in the town of Ashland are experiencing unsustainable, repeated and compounding increases in electric bills that are placing a growing financial strain on households and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of these increases is attributable not to increased energy consumption, but to escalating delivery charges, fees, and approved rate adjustments imposed by NYSEG; and

WHEREAS, electric delivery charges and rate structures are regulated and approved by the New York State public service commission, which is statutorily charged with ensuring that utility rates are just, reasonable, and affordable for ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the Ashland town board has received numerous complaints from residents who are struggling to afford basic electric service and who have expressed serious concerns regarding the frequency, magnitude and lack of transparency surrounding recent and ongoing rate increases; and

WHEREAS, rural and low-density communities such as the Town of Ashland are disproportionately impacted by every delivery charge increase and cost-recovery mechanisms that fail to adequately account for affordability, equity and the cumulative burden placed on ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Ashland finds that continued approval of rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency and meaningful affordability protections is unacceptable and contrary to the public interests;

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT SOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ashland formally and strongly urges, the New York State Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and immediate review of electric delivery charges, rate increases and cost-recovery practices applicable to NYSEG customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ashland calls upon the Public Service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, demand greater transparency from NYSEG, and require demonstratable cost-containment and operational efficiency measures before approving and future rate increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ashland expressly opposes continued or automatic rate increases that shift rising operational, infrastructure and administrative costs onto ratepayers without clear justification or adequate protection for rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor of the Town of Ashland is hereby authorized and directed to submit formal complaints, written comments and supporting documentation to the New York State Public Service Commission on behalf of the Town and its residents, objection to excessive electric costs and requesting regulatory intervention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of Ashland is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, NYSEG, the Governor of the State of New York, our representative members of the New York State Legislature and adjoining municipalities served by NYSEG, and to encourage coordinated action among affected towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Sponsor: Lisa McDonald

Seconded by: Reggie Piatt

<u>Roll Call to Vote:</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
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Ray Hodge, Supervisor	Absent	
Chad McDonald, Councilperson	X	
Lisa McDonald, Councilperson	X	
Charlie Wilson, Councilperson	X	
Reggie Piatt, Councilperson	X	

DATED: June 11, 2026

Rodney Strange reported that the homeowner on Berwick Turnpike declined a guardrail being installed on his property. County Executive, Chris Moss, spoke with Rodney in regards to his thoughts on what to do and Rodney stated he would like the County to do what the homeowner prefers.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-36

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BRAD ZEHR TO MAINTAIN THE WEBSITE

Resolution by: Mrs. McDonald

Seconded by: Mr. Piatt

RESOLVED, that the Town Board has agreed to pay Brad Zehr \$1200.00 per year to maintain the Town website.

Ayes: McDonald, McDonald, Wilson, Piatt

Nays: None

The Town Board reviewed the monthly reports.

Adam Skinkle stated that the grader is broke down and he will get a quote for repairs, also, Merriam Road is almost done, roadside mowing is done and paved roads have been patched. Chad asked Adam to have some of the guardrails cleared of debris to help the water run off the roads.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-37

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PAYING THE MONTHLY BILLS

Resolution by: Mr. McDonald

Seconded by: Mrs. McDonald

RESOLVED, that the Town Board has audited, approved and ordered paid to wit: Payroll 2026-6 and checks #4396 thru #4415 and E93 thru E94 in the total amount of \$7,086.75 on the General Abstract #6 and checks #2245 thru #2250 in the total amount of \$48,020.48 on the Highway Abstract #6.

Ayes: McDonald, McDonald, Wilson, Piatt

Nays: None

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Kimberly Tuttle

Ashland Town Clerk