

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

On September 14, 2026, the regular meeting of the Springfield Town Board was held at the community center on County Highway 29A.

Present: Galen Criqui, Martha Oakley, Dale Schultz, Regina Oakes, Adam Halay, Jeff Brown, Jeannette Armstrong

Guests: Henry Miller, Lucy Townsend, Jeff McCord, Ken Ostrander, Ian Cunningham, William Richtsmeier, Henry Gaylord Dillingham, Nicole Dillingham,

Gabriella Augustine, Maria Barr

Criqui called the meeting to order at 7 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. He then called for public comment.

Richtsmeier brought up the idea of providing a boat washing station at the community center since it is near the public landing launch site. He discussed his concerns regarding the Quagga mussels that have caused much damage to the lake ecology in the past few years and have affected the fishery significantly. Schultz asked about locating a washing station at the state park, where more facilities like water are available. CRISP is not available all the time. There are launches at the Lake and Pines, Bayside and Aalsmeer Motels and there needs to be coverage for the boats that are launched there. A grant will be needed to purchase the equipment. There will be a meeting at the state park tomorrow, late afternoon at 6 PM to review the 9E Plan and best management practices and where it stands now. The group wants to get more people interested in the development process so better decisions can be made for the Town of Otsego and the Town of Springfield.

Lucy Townsend said that she was contacted by Francesca and Faith about the garden they donated at the community center and how it has gone to rack and ruin. Francesca has hired a gardener named Laura Freer, who is fully insured. She wanted to know if it was all right for her to come and work

in the garden. She also wanted to know if there was access to a hose so that the garden could be watered from time to time. A board member said the water hose would be ready.

Nicole Dillingham commented about the last planning board meeting where Cindy Falk from the graduate school was interested in having her graduate students work on documentation that would be necessary to have the hamlet of Springfield Center created as a historic district, since that is the location where most of the historic buildings are. She supports the idea since federal and state tax credits for any improvements people make on their property would be available to them. It doesn't limit what you can do with your property, and it really provides a substantial benefit. An owner of any building that is over 50 years old can apply for historic designation.

Ken Ostrander asked if anyone found any trace of a time capsule when the two dead trees were taken down on the community center lawn? There was supposed to be a capsule planted under each tree that was planted 60 years ago across the front of the property. Brown said the only thing they found was a pill bottle with a sliver of paper inside and it was nothing. They were very careful checking out the area and they didn't find anything else. They didn't have access to a metal detector. Many other people were there and sorted through all the dirt and observed the process.

Jeff Brown presented the Highway Report for September and read it aloud. (Enclosed) Further time was spent discussing the pros and cons of purchasing a new truck.

Regina Oakes said a dog trainer wanted to use the community center gym, one day per week, for an hour, for five weeks and she wants to start Monday or Wednesday, from 5-5:30 PM.

She checks for rabies and reactive dogs. The woman wants to know how much the town would charge her for use of the gym. The owner comes with the dog and they train together.

Criqui said they would discuss it later.

Mike Marchev complained about the intersection where Route 20, Griggs Road and Hinds Road come together. Amish children are crossing the road, back and forth and it is a dangerous situation for them and drivers because there is poor visibility. Cars can't be seen coming on Route 20 until they are on top of the hill. There have been many accidents in that area.

Criqui said the ZBA chairman, Barbara Fischer intends to resign at the end of the year. A new person must be appointed.

Criqui then asked for the planning board report from Henry Miller. Miller mentioned that the letter of intent for Springfield to be the lead agency on the Manochurian Project went out to the DEC Commissioner and now much paperwork has been received, and lawyers are talking to each other. It will take four to six months before a decision is reached. Miller is just doing things involving the DEC right now.

Calley Schultz had nothing new to report as dog warden but the old issue of the barking dog in the center is ongoing. The complainant wants to have the dog muzzled.

There was no report from the County Rep since McCarty was absent.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY OAKLEY AND SECONDED BY HALAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2026 MEETING. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

The clerk collected a total of \$379.00. \$152.98 was paid to the town and \$226.02 was paid to the state. A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHULTZ AND SECONDED BY OAKES TO APPROVE THE TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2026. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Criqui presented the supervisor's report and read it aloud. He discussed the revenue from the General and Highway Funds and gave the balances for them and the NYClass investment fund. He discussed the salt shed total expense of \$625,000 and said the town will be paying around \$65,000 in the end. The DEC grant will be 75%. The town crew was able to do

about \$60,000 worth of work themselves, so that was a way to get some of the \$125,000 money back. Jeff Katz and Harry Levine helped with a grant of \$7,000 from the Lake Community Fund. We also received \$43,000 check for the snow and ice contract with the county.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HALAY AND SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO APPROVE THE SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2026. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Criqui read Resolution #900 aloud and presented it for adoption. The purpose of the resolution is to eliminate referrals of planning and/zoning matters as set in the attached form.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHULTZ AND SECONDED BY OAKLEY TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION #900 FOR 2026. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Criqui read Resolution #901 aloud and presented it for adoption. The purpose of the resolution is to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan with Otsego County. A MOTION WAS MADE BY OAKES AND SECONDED BY OAKLEY TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION #901 FOR 2026. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Now, if something happens in town, the fire department will respond to the problem. The town gets to pick a couple of projects. A former one was the repair of the bridge in Springfield Center. This year the floor in the town barn was named for repair.

Criqui asked Schultz about the fire district CON contract. He wants to settle that in October.

Criqui said the budget process has begun, and he sent a copy of the tentative one to the board members. He still must give one to the clerk. After some discussion, it was decided to set up the budget workshop on October 12 at 6 PM.

The solar project is moving along. The documents have already been signed but we need to receive them from the other party. They expect to

start in early spring. Henry Miller is going to step down from the zoning officer position as of January first. Aaron Pencar will be his replacement, but Miller will remain as planning board chairman.

The library air conditioning unit was discussed along with the heat and the lights that are left on in the historical room and the library and that expense.

The Department of Health was after the town again over issues with water at the public landing and the community center. A filter was needed and it was on back order as well as some parts that were needed to pass. After we got the parts, they wanted two samples of chlorinated water from the sink in the bathrooms two days in a row. Those samples tested with negative results.

The town gives \$5000 toward the research about HABS by Kyoko of the SUNY Lake Research, for Otsego Lake. A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHULTZ AND SECONDED BY OAKES TO APPROVE ANOTHER PAYMENT OF \$5,000 FOR HABS RESEARCH. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Oakes provided an update on the public landing. The season ended on September 7th, and two lifeguards performed well throughout the summer. Annual revenue totaled \$22,500. One \$200 fine was collected, and another remains outstanding because the windshield sticker did not match the vehicle's license plate. Criqui commended Regina for her work during both last summer and this summer. Because questionable activity occurs at the landing, the town intends to have someone make occasional morning visits next year. Most violators have been caught between 8:30 AM and 1:05 PM.

There is a problem with the new floor in the hallway at the community center. A bubble has appeared near the skylight in the main hall. The company that installed the floor has been called to look at it.

There was more discussion about purchasing a new truck. Brown can send a letter of intent to buy a spec truck, and they will hold it for us. A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHULTZ AND SECONDED BY OAKLEY TO

PURCHASE A SPEC TRUCK FROM TRACY ROAD EQUIPMENT. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

The luncheons at the community center will resume on October 17th and run from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM through May 2027. The program has been self-supporting so far, although donations do not always cover the costs.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HALAY AND SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$387,371.60 FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2026 GENERAL FUND. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHULTZ AND SECONDED BY HALAY TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$128,397.03 FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2026 HIGHWAY FUND. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY OAKLEY AND SECONDED BY OAKES TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40 PM. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Jeannette Armstrong, Town Clerk and Recording Secretary.