

3-13-2025 - REGULAR MARCH MEETING

Present:

Councilman Matthew Krist
Councilman Krissy Kittleson
Councilman Kathleen Becker
Supervisor Beverly A. Gambino

Absent:

Councilman Leonard R. Hochadel

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Christoper Dabolt
Town Clerk Jennifer L Bray
Approx. 5 guests

Supervisor Gambino called the Regular March meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge to the Flag led by Gerard Whittington.

Supervisor Gambino stated that there was one set of minutes from the Regular meeting held on February 12th to be approved. **On a motion by Krist, seconded by Kittleson, the minutes were approved as submitted. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.**

Warrant #3 of 2025, including vouchers #91 through #145, totaling \$58321.78 of which \$32978.96 was for the General Fund, \$24,430.63 was for the Highway Fund, \$861.69 was for the Fire Protection Fund and \$1050.50 was for the Streetlighting Fund. On a motion by Kittleson, seconded by Becker, the Warrant was approved for payment. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.

Department Reports

Deputy Miller updated the Board on ECSO activities in the Town.

Supervisor Gambino stated that she had been to a town hall meeting and had a resolution to repeal the HALT Act for consideration by the Board. There was a brief discussion. **On a motion by Krist, seconded by Kittleson, the following resolution to be known as Resolution #3 of 2025 was moved for adoption.**

Resolution #3 – 2025

HALT Act Resolution

WHEREAS, the Town of Sardinia is requesting a home rule resolution, calling on the NYS Legislature to REPEAL the New York State HALT Act.

WHEREAS, while the New York State HALT Act may have been written with good intentions, its application has created a hazardous and unlawful environment which jeopardizes both staff and incarcerated individuals alike; and

WHEREAS, Corrections officers work in facilities to maintain good working order to keep incarcerated individuals, staff and the community safe by communication well, remaining disciplined all while handling extremely dangerous situations inside the facility; and

WHEREAS, working in correctional facilities takes a physical and mental toll on Corrections Officers and their Families, especially while being mandated to work shifts 24 hours or more at a time; and

WHEREAS, with the implementation of the New York State HALT Act, Corrections Officers-are not permitted to utilize SHU for long term disciplinary, and have no recourse for violence towards other incarcerated individuals or staff, causing the rate of violent assaults to nearly double.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; the Town of Sardinia is demanding the full repeal of the New York State HALT Act until it can be researched and revised with the Input from Corrections staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Governor Kathy Hochul, Honorable Speaker of the Assembly Carl E. Heastie, Honorable Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Honorable Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort, Honorable Majority Leader of the Assembly Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Honorable Minority Leader of the Assembly William A. Barclay and the Western New Delegation and Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz and the Erie County Legislature.

DULY ADOPTED, this 13th day of March, 2025 by the following vote: Becker, aye, Hochadel, absent, Krist, aye, Kittleson, aye, Gambino, aye. So resolved, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.

Next Supervisor Gambino stated that she had a resolution from the Erie County Highway Superintendents Association for consideration by the Board. There was a brief discussion. **On a motion by Krist, seconded by Kittleson, the following resolution to be known as Resolution #4 of 2025 was moved for adoption.**

Resolution #4 – 2025

SALT Act Resolution

WHEREAS, the Buy American Salt Act (S9441) went into effect in the fall of 2024, requiring New York State governments to procure salt exclusively from American-sourced salt mines, and

WHEREAS, due to this legislation, Erie County was forced to reject the low bid submitted by Compass Minerals as their material was sourced in Ontario, Canada with the winning bid awarded to Americal Rock Salt in Livingston County, which subsequently both Erie County and New York State salt supply contracts. and

WHEREAS, at the time of award the Town Highway Superintendents Association of Erie County raised concerns about potential negative effects of relying on a single supplier for salt, anticipating that the lack of competition could lead to price increases and the risk of supply shortages, and

WHEREAS, the expressed concerns have come to fruition within less than one year, as there is a significant salt supply shortage, and

WHEREAS, this shortage poses serious challenges to our ability to maintain proper service levels and ensure the safety of residents across Erie County and all respective towns,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Town of Sardinia strongly urges the State Legislature to amend the Buy American Act to a Buy North American Salt Act. This amendment would allow us to source materials from a broader range of vendors, including Canadian suppliers, ensuring a stable and adequate supply of salt to keep our roads safe during winter months.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Governor Kathy Hochul, Honorable Speaker of the Assembly Carl E. Heastie, Honorable Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Honorable Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort, Honorable Majority Leader of the Assembly Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Honorable Minority Leader of the Assembly William A. Barclay and the Western New Delegation and Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz and the Erie County Legislature.

DULY ADOPTED, this 13th day of March, 2025 by the following vote: Becker, aye, Hochadel, absent, Krist, aye, Kittleson, aye, Gambino, aye. So resolved, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.

Supervisor Gambino stated that she has found a couple of trips to look at for the Seniors group. The first was to the Corning Museum of Glass. The second was to Forest Lawn and the third was to the Holiday Pops. There was a brief discussion and I was agreed to offer up to 2 buses for the Forest Lawn trip and the Holiday Pops trip for town residents only and each person would pay \$20. **On a motion by Becker, seconded by Kittleson, the trips were approved. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.** Supervisor Gambino reported that Councilman Hochadel had the concerts in the park planned and there are schedules available in Town Clerk's office. Lastly Supervisor Gambino shared that the Town had won an award for the upgrades and work done at Veterans Park and that our park project had also been submitted for a state award as well and that we have won that as well.

Councilman Kittleson had nothing to report. Supervisor Gambino asked if Councilman Kittleson could start looking into a new playground set to replace the one at the Town Hall.

Councilman Becker had nothing to report.

Councilman Krist asked Highway Superintendent Dabolt who he could speak with at Erie County about the sidewalks on Savage Rd. Mr. Dabolt suggested Bill Geary or Pat Baskerville.

Highway Superintendent Dabolt reported that he is working on getting big trash pickup set up for April. He also reported that he will be reaching out to Caterpillar to come look at the generator and get the cost for needed repairs. Supervisor Gambino explained that in meetings regarding Hand Rd. and Waste Management's new crossing for their barrow pit that some concerns have come up regarding a culvert on Hand Rd. as well as some other issues, therefore MRB will be doing a preconstruction meeting to evaluate Hand Road and provide the Town with information on the current condition of the road.

Gerard Whittington reported that Erie County will start updating its disaster plan in the Fall of 2025 and will have the update complete by 2026. He provided a copy of the Town of Sardinia portion of the current plan for the Town Clerk to send to the Board members to review.

Ron Kenyon from the Chaffee Sardinia Fire Company let everyone know that the annual pancake breakfast is planned for March 23rd. He also reminded everyone that the State wide burn ban is March 16 – May 14th.

Supervisor Gambino asked if there were any other questions, comments or concerns. There were none.

Therefor on a motion by Kittleson, seconded by Becker, the March Regular meeting was closed at 7:00 pm. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. Bray, RMC
Town Clerk