

**Unadilla Town Board Meeting**

March 11, 2025

6:00 PM Audit of Bills

6:30 PM Open Meeting

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Call to Order**

Supervisor George DeNys called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

George DeNys, Supervisor  
Sheri Kinsella, Deputy Town Clerk  
Rodney Renwick, Superintendent  
Donald Cole, Councilman  
Jessica Grow, Councilwoman  
Allen Anderson, Councilman  
Larry Crosier, Councilman  
Allen Ruffles, County Treasurer  
Don Bouton, County Observer  
Vickie Ball, Observer  
Michael Ball, Observer  
Ed Frazier, County Rep  
Student from Bainbridge-Guilford HS

**Minutes of February 11<sup>th</sup>**

Councilman Allen Anderson made the motion to accept the February 11, 2025 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Grow and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

**Audit of Bills**

General Fund A	\$ 8,660.92
Highway (DB) Outside Village	\$ 1,584.47
Highway (DA) Town wide	\$ 21,523.64
Riverside Sewer District	\$ 73.11
Riverside Lighting	\$ 193.01
Rockdale Lighting	\$ 32.29
Wells Bridge Lighting	\$ 233.26

Councilwoman Jessica Grow made the motion to accept and pay bills. The motion was seconded by Councilman Donald Cole and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

## Committee Reports

### Highway

Crews were out 82 times this season for plowing and sanding. General repairs were made but overall things held up good. Normal maintenance. Winter was rough and roads are in rough shape. They will be what they are until we can bring them back to better shape. Spring equipment is ready. They hope to start sweeping roads and doing spring cleanup soon. Summer paving – they have 20 miles of chipping in program. Vestal Asphalt was the cheapest this year, \$.32-\$.33 cheaper. 95% of stone is on ground already. We have 3 miles of pavement. Waiting on numbers to come in from County. Rodney asked that the Board approve to have the stone bid put in paper.

State Budget emailed and spoke on Advocacy Day. The Senate added \$178M and the Assembly \$150M. We should see an increase in CHIPS. Chairman Ed Frazier and Rodney Renwick attended and spoke at a press conference in Oneonta, fighting for us, counties and towns across the state.

Rodney spoke about the salt shed he would like to have the Board consider. It will be approximately \$50K but will increase our ability to hold more salt. Presently we can hold about 80 ton. This shed can hold about 600 ton. He received two quotes and waiting to hear back from Binghamton Precast. He feels the building is a good investment and is movable, all except the asphalt and base. All are on Sourcewell so there is no need to bid. The block is under the dollar limit to bid. We will need to rent two manlifts and sky tracks and they are on OGS contract. Attorney Westfall stated that although you are using Sourcewell, we still need to follow the procurement policy. Supervisor DeNys asked if this would be paid out of GA Fund Balance. Rodney said yes. Supervisor DeNys felt it was a good investment. We can buy salt when it is off season and cheaper and not be caught without it when needed. Councilwoman Jessica Grow stated her only concern was if it was a permanent structure if we were ever to relocate which Rodney stated all but the asphalt and base can be relocated.

Councilman Allen Anderson made the motion to approve purchase and building of salt shed at a price not to exceed \$50K. The motion was seconded by Supervisor George DeNys and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Finance -Finance Report in packets.

Building – Councilman Donald Cole stated that the company who services the cameras and fob access came to repair them as they have not been working. They did get the monitors working but need to work on the fob access. They believe they know what the problem is and will get back to us soon.

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to accept the Committee reports. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Grow and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

### **Monthly Reports**

Town Clerk's report was submitted with a check totaling \$ 428.00  
Supervisor's Report  
Dog Control Officer's Monthly Report  
Assessor's Monthly Report – Assessor Haddad now has access to County system so hoping she can make use of this option rather than others presented in the past.  
Tax Collector's report for delinquent riverside sewer district payments – Delinquent payments have been made.

Councilwoman Jessica Grow made the motion to accept the monthly reports. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Crosier and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

Approval Request for CDBG Grant Applicant, Gay Reeves, in the amount of \$31,788.13.  
Approval Request for CDBG Grant Applicant, JoAnn Sidlar, in the amount of \$22,925.00.

Councilwoman Jessica Grow made the motion to accept the CDBG Grant Applications for Gay Reeves and JoAnn Sidlar as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Crosier and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Councilman Allen Anderson suggested going out and checking some of the work that has been done on some of the houses.

Approval Request for Housing Funds for CDBG Grant Drawdown #5.

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to accept the Housing Funds for CDBG Grant Drawdown #5. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Crosier and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Approval to appoint Nick Feudi to the Board of Review, effective March 10, 2025.

Councilman Donald Cole made the motion to approve the appointment of Nick Feudi to the Board of Review Committee effective March 10, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilman Larry Crosier and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Approval to advertise bid for lawncare.

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to accept advertising a sealed bid for lawncare. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Grow and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

## Correspondence

### Privilege of the Floor

County Representative Ed Frazier introduced County Treasurer Allen Ruffles who spoke on tax collection for municipalities. Don Bouton was also present. Allen spoke about the software they developed to help towns with tax collection. There are currently seven towns using it. He spoke about the various options. We could just use the software at no charge and we could continue using our tax collector. He stated what a great job Gloria Meenan does for the Town of Unadilla. He spoke highly of Steve Lawton and his tax software as well. The other option is having the County do the tax collection. They could be mailed to County, paid online, or put in a drop box at the Town Hall. Taxpayers could see and print receipts online. They are still working on their fee to towns, but said it would be less than what we currently pay. It will save taxpayers money and will be a benefit to them as well. Tax Collector Meenan stated that people will not want to go to Cooperstown to pay their bills. Allen said they can mail them or pay online or if they choose, they can put the payment in a secure drop box at the town office. They may be able to have one of their employees come here once a week for a few hours to collect taxes. There are options.

Attorney Beth Westfall stated that should we choose to take this step for 2026; we would need to abolish the Tax Collector position because it is an elected position, effective the end of 2025, and delegate the authority of tax collection to the County. We can do it by resolution, but there is a specific restriction that it has to be subject to a mandatory referendum and would have to be on the ballot in November. The resolution has to be done 150 days prior to the election and the County would have to agree to it as well. The Board would have to make their decision by early June, 2025 if changing the way we are collecting taxes. If you decide to go ahead with it, Attorney Beth Westfall will bring a resolution to the April meeting preferably so we can take action and have the County approve it as well.

The price has not been totally determined. They are working on it to be fair to all towns. We can decide and let them know – do we want to use their software for free, do we want to have them do the tax collection – whatever we decide, they are here to help us. He stressed this has nothing to do with the job Tax Collector Meenan is doing. She has been great!

### Adjournment

With no further discussion, Councilman Allen Anderson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Donald Cole and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri J. Kinsella, Deputy Town Clerk  
Time of Adjournment: 7:33pm