

TOWN OF HASTINGS, OSWEGO COUNTY NEW YORK

TOWN BOARD MEETING- SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

The Town of Hastings Town Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday September 9th, 2025, at 7:30pm.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present: Supervisor Tony Bush, Councilman Alan Hanson, Councilman Mark Martino, Councilman Richard Waldron, and Councilman John DeBottis.

Also present: Mike Lewis, Highway Superintendent; Tim LaBonte, code enforcement officer; Krista Lewis, parks manager; and Erin Goodrich, Town Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Bush called the town board meeting to order at 7:30pm, asked for the Pledge of Allegiance and pointed out the emergency exits.

DISCUSSION

Supervisor Bush opened the floor for public comments.

1.) Town resident, Deborah Bilello, and former Deputy Town Clerk read the following statement:

Town of Hastings Town Board,

Over the past 6 months or so, the employees of the Town of Hastings have been noting specific concerns or areas that might be improved in the town office, to better serve the residents of Hastings, to streamline processes, save the town some money and to protect the safety of the dedicated employees that show up to this building every day.

This list – a compilation of concerns from multiple employees, intended for a one-on-one conversation with Tony Bush, the town supervisor, was instead turned over to him personally by someone with no conversation about its contents.

While there is nothing inappropriate or disrespectful in the document, it was misinterpreted as an attack against the board and was met with resistance to even meet with or talk to the employees about the stated concerns.

One specific concern was taken further, in what could be perceived as retaliatory action against an employee. Instead of having a conversation with the employees and in fact refusing a meeting with the employees, these concerns were misconstrued as an attack against the town board.

It was not – it was constructive criticism for processes that fairly new employees saw as lacking or not serving our residents in the best manner and areas where the employees felt vulnerable to unsafe conditions in the building.

The safety and well-being of your employees should always be a priority of any employer. Instead, the employees are told that they will not be met with to resolve issues of concern. So now it is necessary to bring the concerns to a public forum and go on record stating a failure of leadership of the town officials toward their residents and employees.

For that reason, I have resigned my position as deputy clerk. I will not have my printed words, as a spokesperson for the employees, used in action against a fellow employee with no basis for that action. Please don't misinterpret my resignation as a lack of caring for my former co-workers. It will now need to be in this public forum that I continue to address these concerns on their behalf. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with whoever is in charge of the specific areas of concern, to address them.

I submit this letter to the Town Clerk to be entered into the minutes of the Town Board of the Town of Hastings – September 9, 2025.

Supervisor Bush questioned Mrs. Bilello; asked if you are a representative of the employees, she attempted to express herself and was interrupted by Supervisor Bush. He asked the Town Board if they had been asked to have a meeting or asked about areas of concern. No one was asked to meet, but Councilman DeBottis confirmed that Mrs. Bilello had spoken to him about some of the concerns but talking about them was as far as that went, no sit-down meeting happened. Supervisor Bush stated that he talked to other town employees, but the two he asked about this list of concerns they claimed they knew of it, but did not remember specifically what it said, with one saying they never saw it. Supervisor Bush stated he spoke with Jason Burns, and Jason brought up that Mrs. Bilello was trying to get employees together, to which Bush explained that if one or two employees wanted to talk they would, however again no meeting ever took place. Mrs. Bilello and Supervisor Bush continued to discuss, interruptions happening between both parties. Overall, the matter was moved on from with Mrs. Bilello's concerns noted.

2.) Local resident Sam Froio spoke about the town's assessor's lack of availability and unwillingness to listen to residents' complaints or reasons why they feel their assessments are incorrect.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.) Councilman Waldron introduced the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED, the Town of Hastings Town Board hereby approves the minutes from the August 5th, 2025, Town Board Meeting.

Councilman DeBottis seconded. Supervisor Bush asked if there was any discussion. **Vote:** Supervisor Bush, aye; Councilman Hanson, aye; Councilman Martino, aye; Councilman Waldron, aye; and Councilman DeBottis, aye. Motion carried. **Resolution 25-95 adopted.**

2.) Councilman Waldron introduced the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED, the Town of Hastings Town Board approves for the payment the claims certified on attached abstract #9 in the amounts indicated thereon.

Councilman Martino seconded. Supervisor Bush asked if there was any discussion. **Vote:** Supervisor Bush, aye; Councilman Hanson, aye; Councilman Martino, aye; Councilman Waldron, aye; and Councilman DeBottis, aye. Motion carried. **Resolution 25-96 adopted.**

3.) Councilman DeBottis introduced the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED, the Town of Hastings Town Board resolves to authorize submission of a northern border regional commission (NBRC) grant application for the Town of Hastings South-Central Sewer District project.

Councilman Waldron seconded. Supervisor Bush asked if there was any discussion. **Vote:** Supervisor Bush, aye; Councilman Hanson, aye; Councilman Martino, aye; Councilman Waldron, aye; and Councilman DeBottis, aye. Motion carried. **Resolution 25-97 adopted.**

4.) Councilman DeBottis introduced the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED, the Town of Hastings town Board hereby authorizes the extension of the 2024-2025 sand bid award with Eastcom Sand & Gravel for the 2025-2026 season at \$6.50/CY.

Councilman Martino seconded. Supervisor Bush asked if there was any discussion. **Vote:** Supervisor Bush, aye; Councilman Hanson, aye; Councilman Martino, aye; Councilman Waldron, aye; and Councilman DeBottis, aye. Motion carried. **Resolution 25-98 adopted.**

5.) Councilman DeBottis introduced the following and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED, the Town of Hastings Town Board approves the resolution and publication for the special board meeting scheduled for Thursday October 2nd, 2025, at 3:30pm for the presentation of the tentative 2026 budget to the Town Board.

Councilman Martino seconded. Supervisor Bush asked if there was any discussion. **Vote:** Supervisor Bush, aye; Councilman Hanson, aye; Councilman Martino, aye; Councilman Waldron, aye; and Councilman DeBottis, aye. Motion carried. **Resolution 25-99 adopted.**

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Supervisor Bush motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilman DeBottis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Goodrich, Town Clerk