

LAGRANGE TOWN BOARD

MEETING REPORT

Compiled by Dave Siegel, Secretary LaGrange Democratic Committee & Peter Turoff

Date: January 7, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Called to order by: Anthony Marinaro, Town Supervisor

Town Board Re-organization

Prior to starting the meeting, new Town Supervisor, Anthony Marinaro, publicly acknowledged a very special guest in the audience. Emma Arnoff, our new Dutchess County legislator representing a portion of the Town of Lagrange. The entire board stood up and gave applause, as did the audience. Emma spoke for a few minutes.

The Supervisor read an introductory statement acknowledging the concerns residents have regarding Town Center. He will look into it.

He also pledged:

- get A/V equipment up and running asap so residents can live stream meetings
- get more documents posted online
- revamp the Town's outdated website
- be more transparent
- listen to the residents – NOTE: FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A YEAR, AT THE END OF THE MEETING HE OPENED UP PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS.

The Supervisor reviewed various aspects of operations, including business hours, accounting firms, engineers, attorneys, banks, town employees and officers, board & committee appointments, insurance companies & brokers, sufficiency of Insurance, financial advisory services, petty cash fund amounts, etc.

Also reviewed for 2026 salary listings, water and sewer rates, holiday schedules.

- **Meeting minutes from the last Town Board meeting (12/17/2026) were accepted.**
- **Correspondence:** A resident wrote to the Town Board and said that the Town's Comprehensive Plan is 20 years old and needs to be re-examined and potentially re-written.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

1. LaGrange Fire Dept Commissioner (Marc Komorsky) spoke at length about his concerns regarding Town Center and the impact it will have on first responder services, especially in regards to response time. 3 story buildings will require a ladder truck. \$4 million and 4 yrs for truck, another \$4 million/yr total compensation for 16 new hires to operate truck. He spoke about our Town's ISO rating (A Public Protection Classification – Insurance Services Office is a 5 out of 1-10, one being the best) which impacts our homeowners insurance costs. He is concerned this rating will go down.

He emphasized we have no fire rated water supply and have to come with our own water. He asked for a standpipe code for multilevel buildings. He asked to be involved in future tall building projects.

He is concerned about and asked to be involved with planning for proposed lithium-ion battery storage facilities (up to 3 planned) for our town, especially in the wake of a recent battery storage facility fire locally that burned for four days and released toxic fumes. We will need new equipment.

The Fire Department received 2400 calls last year and that will only increase with the Town Center as planned... response times will be slowed.

Parts of our town are considered rural other parts are considered suburban and even urban due to population densities.

2. Randy Aldrich the Chair of the Planning Board spoke and he advised residents to demand changes to Town Code that they want so that the Planning Board can enforce them. He pointed out the planning board has to follow code. **(NOTE: Change to the Town Code is what the old Town Boards did to set things up for the Town Center)**

Agenda

- Consideration of an Engagement Agreement with Cappillino, Rothschild & Egan, LLP. – Law Firm – Accepted
- Consideration of an Engagement Agreement with Rebecca Valk, Esq. for services related to pre-existing pending matters as needed (former Town Attorney) – Accepted
- Consideration of Agreement with MJ Engineering for 2026 – Engineering Services - Accepted
- Consideration of authorization for the continuation of services of the Planning Board - Accepted
- Planner and MS4 Stormwater Coordinator for matters pertaining to pre-existing applications as needed – Accepted
- Consideration of Execution of an Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies - Accepted
- Tax Receiver's Annual Report for 2025 - Accepted
- Request from the Lagrange Council K of C for their Annual Carnival - Accepted
- Consideration of Issuance of RFP for Video Recording Services for Town Meetings – Accepted

Town Board Comments

Richard Ryan requested new microphones and sound system

Town Attorney - New Town Attorney: Shane Egan

STR (Short Term Rental) proposal was discussed and the desire to move forward with it. Public hearing was moved from Feb 18th to March 4th.

Al Rabasco spoke and said Richard Ryan should recuse himself from any votes on STR as he currently has several illegal STRs on his property.

Public Comments

Several people spoke about their concerns:

Roadside litter on North and South Cross Rd

Al Rabasco asked if Marinaro intends to reinstitute a moratorium on apartment construction. The Board lifted the moratorium in September and that could pause the Town Center project until further reviewed.

Joe Luna – pro Town Center

Peter Turoff spoke regarding Town Center. We should all be concerned the Fire Commissioner is concerned about this project. If it goes ahead as planned, there is a high risk of loss of life and property and could open up the Town to lawsuits. Our property insurance likely will also increase. He has heard suggestions of eliminating 3-story buildings. Many benefits to consider: reduced number of new residents; eliminate need for Ladder truck and huge expense involved; there are valid concerns the engineer report on parking spaces is not adequate... this will ease that burden.

Meeting was adjourned 8:10 PM.

