

LAGRANGE TOWN BOARD

MEETING REPORT

Compiled by Dave Siegel – Secretary LaGrange Democratic Committee

Date: January 21, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Called to order by: Anthony Marinaro, Town Supervisor

Roll Call: Susan Condon -Absent

Agenda Items

- Meeting minutes from the last Town Board meeting (1/7/2026) were approved and accepted.
- The Town Board accepted the monthly revenue reports for November as follows:

• Building & Zoning	\$21,775.00
• Public Works	\$Pending
• Planning	\$800.00
• Highway Dept.	\$300.00
• Justice Sullivan-Bisceglia	\$19,955.00
• Justice O'Hare	\$1,445.00
• Recreation	\$5,000.00
• Town Clerk	\$1,497.92

- Correspondence
 - Resignation Letter: Dwayne Hicks, Building Dept. – Accepted with regrets
 - Resignation Letter: Colleen McGarry – Retirement– Accepted with regrets

Supervisor Comments:

1. The new Supervisor met with the Fire District in efforts to boost communication between the Town and the Fire Department.
2. The new engineering staff and the new Town Attorney spent a lot of time at Town Hall getting up to speed on all of the projects/issues they will need to work on.
3. Supervisor gave special recognition to the Highway department for all of the work they have done during this unusually harsh winter.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

- Public Hearing on proposed Local Law amending Town Code to Adopt Provisions Prohibiting the Recording of Certain Conversations.
 - There were no comments but it was pointed out that the new proposed law is on the website and residents are urged to read it. Written comments will be accepted until February 4th to allow for this review. (**Note:** This relates to the lawsuits between Al Rabasco and Richie Ryan about conversations that occurred in Executive Session that were leaked to David Mashiah (and potentially others).
- Consideration of Adoption of an Agenda Policy – This is the reintroduction of a Public Comment Period at the end of the meeting where the public can speak on any matter for 3 minutes. - Accepted
- Consideration of a request from the Parks & Recreation Director to obtain an RFP for Fireworks – This is done every year. - Accepted
- Consideration of a request from the Parks & Recreation Director for an RFP for Community Day Amusement & Entertainment Package – This is done every year. - Accepted
- Consideration of Lease Agreement for Parks & Recreation Senior Drop-In Center – This will be located at Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church. Agreement has passed Attorney review and they are now waiting to see if the Town's Insurance will cover this, as is.
- Consideration of a Municipal Cooperation Agreement for Animal Control Services – This is currently in negotiation between LaGrange, Hyde Park, Beekman, Poughkeepsie and Clinton. The issue is that the officer uses a LaGrange vehicle so they are trying to figure out how the other towns can help pay for the ongoing costs of the vehicle.
- Consideration of Budget Transfers and Amendments – all transfers and amendments agreed to in December of 2025 are accepted and adopted for 2026.

Town Board Comments & Discussion – None

Liaison Reports

- Building and Zoning – No update
- Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) – Richard Ryan is looking into the issue Supervisor Bell talked about in December regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems – We have been approached by the state to hold a battery storage system in LaGrange. This is a system that is attached to the Power Grid and gives the grid flexibility to move power around the state as demand fluctuates. Many towns have this. Currently this is not a permitted use in LaGrange so it would take a change to Town Code. In addition, the Fire District needs a lot more information before they would entertain this. – Ryan is tasked with getting all of the pertinent information and engaging the Fire District.
- Open Space – Ryan is looking into the Farmland Protection Act and how it may be applied to Roberts Farm located on Wissman Road and straddles both LaGrange and Union Vale. There will be a presentation at the meeting on February 18th.
- Recreation – Franco Giangrasso reported that there are many projects that Parks & Rec are working on that one of the most interesting and newest is the Freedom 250 celebration the Town would like to do to celebrate the country's 250th birthday. They are hoping it will be a free event and that they will get a lot of sponsors.

Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A resident complained about sidewalk maintenance costs; Sewer and Water bills and the latest increase in our property taxes. Supervisor Marinaro promised to look into all of these things for him.
- Peter Turoff thanked the new board for putting “Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items back on the agenda.
- Dave Siegel spoke and asked whether The CAC with Richard Ryan leading, would ensure that the Fire District was fully engaged in the discussions regarding battery storage in our town. The Board assured that they would be (**Note:** I'm incredulous since they were NOT engaged in any discussion regarding Town Center). He also thanked the Board for reinstating the Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items.
- John Wissman the head of the Highway Department reminded people that from November 15th thru April 15th we have a Snow Ordinance in effect. You can't leave parked cars on roads or cul-de-sacs during snowstorms.

NOTE: PLEASE SEE CORRECTION BELOW

Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:45 PM. *The assumption was that the Executive Session was for the New Board to get an update on the legal proceedings between the Town and Richard Ryan regarding his illegal water business. (This was an incorrect assumption. This Executive Session was on a different matter).* He was not invited to the meeting and was told to recuse himself.

