

# LAGRANGE TOWN BOARD

## MEETING REPORT

Compiled by Dave Siegel – Secretary LaGrange Democratic Committee

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Date: February 18, 2026

Time: 7:02 PM

Meeting Called to order by: Anthony Marinaro, Town Supervisor

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**Roll Call: All present**

**Agenda adopted with the addition of a second letter from the DC District Attorney**

### Agenda Items

- Meeting minutes from the last Town Board meeting (2/4/2026) were approved and accepted.
- The Town Board accepted the monthly revenue reports for November as follows:

• Building & Zoning	\$23,285.00
• Public Works	\$950.00
• Planning	\$4,050.00
• Highway Dept.	\$300.00
• Justice Sullivan-Bisceglia	\$20,634.01
• Justice O'Hare	\$13,995.00
• Recreation	\$3,640.14
• Town Clerk	\$982.02

**Public Hearing:** Community Block Grants – LaGrange Park

- Director of Parks & Recreation Sandy Washburn explained that the town is looking for a grant to build new restrooms for LaGrange Park. The current facilities are very old and in disrepair and now that the Septic system has been replaced (back in November 2025) it's now time to update the restroom facilities. This would be very similar to the facilities at the "Taste of NY" building on the Taconic.

**Supervisor Comments:**

- Supervisor Marinaro attended a multi-Town meeting that was very informative and had several vendors attend. One was a Grant Writing vendor that he thinks could be very helpful to the Town as a goal is to apply for and receive more grants.

## Correspondence

- Dutchess County District Attorney: Delegation of Prosecutorial Authority – 2 letters were received that allow the Town Attorneys and Judges to prosecute a series of different types of crimes/offenses committed within the town.

## Public Comment on Agenda Items

- A few residents spoke out in favor of the Community Block Grant and fixing up the restrooms at LaGrange Park.

## Presentation: Dutchess Land Conservancy – Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program

- Supervisor Marinaro and Councilwoman Condon recused.
- DLC presented for the owner of Robert's Farm. Robert's Farm is a 200 acre parcel off Wisseman Road and North Cross. It is primarily in the Town of Union Vale, but part of the parcel is in LaGrange. This is a working Hay Farm. This would create a "Conservation Easement" of Robert's Farm, essentially eliminating this parcel from ever being developed and having it become part of LaGrange's Open Space Plan. – Accepted
- Consideration of a request to fill MEO (Machine Equipment Operator) (2) vacancies – 1 vacancy only will be filled at this time - Accepted
- Consideration of bid award for RFP for Fireworks – Young Explosives is awarded the bid. Town uses them every year. - Accepted
- Consideration of a bid award for RFP for Community Day Amusement & Entertainment Package – Southwest Entertainment is awarded the bid. Town uses them every year - Accepted
- Consideration of Bid Award for RFP for Planning and Zoning Software. Bid awarded to MuniCollab – Town will start with Planning software first. - Accepted
- Consideration of Approval of a Flag Football Program Fee Waiver – Mid-Hudson Valley Admirals wants to create a Spring Flag Football league for Boys and Girls ages 5-14. It will run from April to June and be open to residents of surrounding towns. - Accepted
- Consideration of Appointment of a Parks & Recreation Senior Drop-In center Director – Janet McHugh – she will work 2 days a week and be paid \$25.00/hr. Ms. McHugh was formerly the Senior Center Director for East Fishkill. – Accepted
- Consideration of Acceptance of Agreement and Restoration Bond: Daley Farm Subdivision - This ensures that all Planning Board requirements are met by the developer. – Accepted
- Consideration of Acceptance of Agreement and Restoration Bond: Rolling Meadows Subdivision - This ensures that all Planning Board requirements are met by the developer. – Accepted
- Resolution of Introduction: Proposed Local Law – Public Sewer Connection Hardship and EAF: Proposed Local Law – Public Sewer Connection Hardship – Set Public Hearing for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. – Accepted
- Resolution: Authorizing Prosecution of Violations at 26 Rymph Road – The Town Attorney and the Zoning Department have been authorized to prosecute the owner of this property for

many violations. This is a result of the Town investigating a neighbor claim(s) that he had brought up at several Town Board meetings.

- Resolution: Ratification of Engagement of Van De Water & Van De Water Post – Judgement Proceedings – This is to allow the Town's attorney's the authorization to continue working on the Town's behalf on the case against the owner of 36 Gem Mountain Road. Van De Water is seeking written confirmation from the Town for this authorization.
  - Councilman Ryan recused himself
  - Van De Water then gave a summary of the events that have taken place over the last 3 years (Attorney's synopsis below):
    - i. The Owner Danielle Mashiah's family did work on the property that should not have been done due to its location on a Ridge Line. Soil was disturbed, tree work was done that should not have been, garbage and refuse of different kinds were left on the property. This resulted in multiple violations issued by the Town. There was bacterial contamination to the Well system of a neighbor which required treatment by the homeowner to remediate.
    - ii. The Town tried to get the owners to comply with remediation actions to no avail.
    - iii. The Town brought this to Justice Court and won. Owners were fined. Still no compliance.
    - iv. Town brought an "Injunction action", that would include remediation of all violations, and a Storm Water Prevention Plan needed due to erosion. According to the Attorney's there was still no compliance.
    - v. The Town decided to pursue "Contempt" charges. At this time the owners claimed to be "indigent" and an Attorney was assigned. Contempt charges were agreed to and subsequently a remediation plan was agreed to, one year ago.
    - vi. Soon after this agreement, the owners said they had money for an Attorney and litigation began. There was no compliance.
    - vii. Several more months passed as the Town attempted to get compliance. Owners kept fighting back. A Judge then threatened incarceration.
    - viii. February 19, 2026 is the next court date. Latest reports are that the property has been mostly cleaned up, but there is a lot more to remediation than just cleaning up.
    - ix. The owners of 36 Gem Mountain Road are responsible to pay the legal fees incurred by the Town. Van De Water said they will put a lien on the property if they are not paid for their services. They said the Wappinger District Attorney is now getting involved in this case.
    - x. The Town of LaGrange approved written confirmation that Van De Water is authorized to continue post-judgement work.

### **Town Board Comments & Discussion – None**

### **Liaison Reports**

- Building and Zoning – No update
- Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) – Councilman Ryan reported that Bird Boxes and Milkweed will be going up around town. A Trash Bash is coming. They are also looking into the Vernal Pools regs from the DEC. Besides that, they have been working on the Robert's Farm project with the DLC.
- Open Space – Councilman Ryan reported 2 more farms under consideration; Pearsons Farm and Sleight Farm.

- Recreation – Councilman Giangrasso reported that Spring Sports is ramping up and that they have AED's and are figuring out where they are going to be installed. He reported that Jeff Feldman wants to start up a “Special Needs” basketball league. He also mentioned the need for sponsors for Town events.

### **Town Attorney**

- Town is going to be instituting a “Moratorium on Battery Storage” for 1 year.

### **Public Comments Non-Agenda Items**

- A resident asked if we still need Security at Town Board meetings. The Town Board said we did.
- Susan Wagner asked regarding the 36 Gem Mountain Road issue, whether the Town could do the remediation work. The Town Attorney said the owner must do that work. She also said she was disappointed about the Battery Storage moratorium. She said they are safe and will help cut down our use of fossil fuels.
- Dave Siegel spoke and asked where the answers to the all of the question from the Public Hearing on Town Center-North held last December 10<sup>th</sup> are? The Town Attorney said they are actually not required to answer the questions. The members of the Town Board who were at the Public Hearing all agreed that the Planning Board had promised the developer would deliver this. Supervisor Marinaro said he would look into it. Then Dave thanked the Board for setting up the recording of meetings and asked if tonight's meeting is streaming somewhere or is just a “proof of concept” or a test run? He was told by Supervisor Marinaro that the meetings will not be streamed live. They will be recorded and then in 24 hours a link will be provided on the Town's website and then at some point on a YouTube channel.
- John Wisseman the head of the Highway Department reminded people that from November 15<sup>th</sup> thru April 15<sup>th</sup> we have a Snow Ordinance in effect. He reminded up that Winter is not over and we still need to be mindful of the ordinance.

Adjournment – 8:12 PM

