

LAGRANGE TOWN BOARD

MEETING REPORT

Compiled by Dave Siegel – Secretary LaGrange Democratic Committee

Date: March 18, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Called to order by: Anthony Marinaro, Town Supervisor

Roll Call: All present

Agenda adopted with the addition of two additional items

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

• Building & Zoning	\$26,440.00
• Public Works	\$2,400.00
• Planning	\$0
• Highway Dept.	\$0
• Justice Sullivan-Bisceglia	\$11,467.50
• Justice O'Hare	\$15,837.00
• Recreation	\$9,625.50
• Town Clerk	\$597.02

Public Hearing: Proposed Local Law "Short Term Rentals"

- The Town Board unanimously agreed that more work is needed on this new Law. They will have a "workshop" and continue refining this new law to get it right. Therefore, the Public Hearing will remain open. They cited a need for clarity around occupancy, zoning districts, enforcement, definitions, and parking requirements.
- Public Comments were given by Roy Kievit where he pointed out inconsistencies in terminology, typo's, enforcement and others. A written correspondence was received that said the wording in the draft law was essentially to onerous and restrictive to landlords.

Public Hearing: Proposed Local Law "Sewer Connection Hardship"

- There were no comments so this was closed.

Supervisor Comments:

- Supervisor Marinaro said productive meetings held with sports leagues and parks & rec staff for seasonal planning.
- Open Space Committee led by Dieter Lucas is active and recruiting volunteers.
- Progress on new Planning Board software (Municollab) supporting transparency.
- Successful first senior social event held; senior drop-in center to open soon.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items

- Greg Bolner of CPL Engineering said they had received 3 quotes from there RFP process for Tree Clearing at the location of the new Manchester Water District Pumping Station at Red Oaks Mill Farm.
- Several residents (and some non-residents) spoke regarding the Resolution of Introduction: Local Law "Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium" to set a Public Hearing.
 - Extensive public comment session with majority expressing opposition to a moratorium on battery storage systems.
 - Arguments against: New York State's updated fire codes, safety record, environmental/financial benefits, and personal energy independence.
 - Arguments for: Caution due to fire risks, need for more research, and proper disposal at end-of-life.
 - Experts and residents referenced an upcoming information session (April 8, 7PM) given by the Sierra Club at Town Hall with experts on this subject.

Agenda Items

- Resolution of Introduction: Local Law "Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium" Set a Public Hearing for May 6th, 2026. The Supervisor said a Moratorium is a temporary measure to allow for further study, not a final decision. The Board agreed and the Public Hearing is set for May 6, 2026.
- Bid Award: Manchester Water District Tank Clearing – Three quotes received for tree clearing at the Red Oaks Mill site. Board, with input from professionals and Highway Superintendent. The Board selected Rancort for \$12,000 (option to chip and leave chips onsite). - Accepted
- Resolution: Fire Department liaison to the Planning Board – The Fire Chief will nominate a representative for 2-year terms. - Accepted
- Resolution: Conservation Advisory Council liaison to the Planning Board – CAC will nominate a representative. - Accepted
- Consideration of a request to fill MEO (Machine Equipment Operator) vacancy - Board approved 1 vacancy be filled for \$30.13/hr. - Accepted
- Consideration of Appointment if Jennie DeEsso to the position of Part-Time Personnel Assistant; 20 hours per week at a rate of \$30.00/hr. - Accepted
- Consideration of Formation of Veteran's Affairs Committee - New committee established to support, advocate for, and inform veterans and families in the community. - Accepted
- Consideration of Declaration of Surplus Equipment. John Deere Tractor and Mule (A declaration of surplus equipment in New York State is required to formally document the removal of Town-owned property from inventory, ensuring proper legal disposal, transfer, or sale) – Accepted
- Consideration and Approval of a request for Attendance for court staff at NYS Magistrate Court Clerk Conference in Albany from September 27-30, 2026. – Accepted

- Consideration of Approval of an hourly rate adjustment to \$34.20/hr for Highway Secretary, Cheri Salfelder; retroactive to January 1, 2026. – Accepted

Town Board Comments & Discussion – None

Update from Michael Polasek; DC Legislator District 3 – The Legislator updated on infrastructure projects he has been involved with in LaGrange including making the intersection of Smith & Maloney roads safer, and the Noxon Road culvert replacement project. He has been working with the County DPW on the intersection of Red Oaks Mill Road and Walker Road by Cochrane Hill Road. They hope to begin a project in 2028 to put in a roundabout and a turn lane.

Update from Emma Arnoff; DC Legislator for District 2 – The Legislator updated us that she had just attended the NYSAC Conference of elected officials throughout the state where she made connections and had a good learning experience. She is the Chair of the Family & Human Services Committee. She is also on the Citizens Advisory Council on Domestic Violence. She said the Legislature has been busy. 7 million dollars has been put into the Housing Trust Fund and The Legislature unanimously voted to oppose the ICE Facility in Chester. She is also bringing a Proclamation forward to make April “Autism Acceptance Month”.

Liaison Reports

- Building and Zoning – Councilwoman Robin said that they are looking at ways to improve and streamline the building and zoning processes and re-examining fee structures.
- Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) & Open Space Committee – Councilman Ryan reported that Conservation easement outreach is ongoing, bird/bat house projects are underway, and they are continuing to pursue grant updates.
- Recreation – Councilman Giangrasso said Senior social event was a success and thanked the Parks & Rec Director. He also thanked the Sponsors of the event. He said sponsorships are still needed for many of the Town's events.

Town Attorney - None

Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- Resident from Nichols Road brought up Water bill discrepancies (Charges of Water and Wastewater to be reviewed by staff).
- Sandy Washburn, Parks & Rec Director said the Senior Drop-In center will open on 4/7/2026.
- NYS offering free well water testing for PFAs (town to post info online).
- Dave Siegel brought up the desire for better communication on Town Center project status and Planning Board/Developer responses to questions since it has been 3 months since the Public Hearing ended on the Town Center North project.
- Dieter Lucas brought up Safety concerns for student pedestrians crossing state roads— primarily from the High School to Dunkin' Donuts and Planet Fitness. Potential for grant pursuit.
- John Wiseman the head of the Highway Department updated that street sweeping and winter damage repairs ongoing.

Adjournment – 8:44 PM

