TOWN OF ELBRIDGE

TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2026, • 7:00 PM • Elbridge Town Hall: 5 Route 31, Jordan, NY 13080

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Bush called the October 1st Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

OFFICER'S PRESENT:	Supervisor Kenneth Bush III, Councilor Jeremy Chilson, Councilor Mary Jo Davis, Councilor Joe Farrugia, and Councilor Todd Platten
ABSENT:	None
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Sarah Groom, Town Clerk
OTHERS PRESENT:	Nadine Bell, Town Attorney Michael Doyle, Maureen Doyle, Erin Chilson, Doug Blumer, and Ruth Kinch
GUESTS:	Pamela Goldstein, Attorney for Verizon (via phone)

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Elbridge Town Board resolves to hold a Public Hearing on October 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elbridge Town Hall, 5 Route 31, Jordan, New York to hear any persons for or against the granting of a cable television franchise agreement by and between the Town of Elbridge and Verizon New York, Inc.

Supervisor Bush: Does anyone wish to speak in favor of this proposal?

- Doug Blumer questioned the payment/fee.
    - Attorney Bell discussed the 3% franchise fee and Verizon's willingness to match any higher rate imposed by Charter in the future.

Supervisor Bush: Does anyone wish to speak against this proposal? None.

On a motion by Supervisor Bush, the Town Board closed the Public Hearing.

VOTE: 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

ADOPT MINUTES:

The Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2026, were unanimously entered into record.

MOTION Councilor Platten • **SECONDED** Councilor Davis

RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

COMMUNICATIONS:

The comprehensive plan is scheduled for review by the County Planning Board on October 28, 2026. The board will need to complete the required referral cover sheet and SEQR.

The board has referred a proposed solar energy local law to the county under General Municipal Law 239. The draft addresses systems for up to 20 megawatts and seeks to preserve local standards even when larger projects proceed through the state citing process.

A Sony movie is being filmed in Elbridge, the shoot is planned for October 14, 2026, and will take place on Fowler Road during the hours of 11:00am – 8:00pm, with rain dates of October 13th or 15th (they require a perfect sunset). Signs will be posted however, between Whiting and Fikes Road will close and be shut down to traffic.

Water chestnut removal reached a reported seasonal total of 702,795 pounds. Thanks went out to Onondaga County, local farmers, and particularly the town of Elbridge Highway Department. They provided dump trucks and drivers last week to help get the water chestnuts from the lake to the farm field for recycling. It was mentioned that it was no easy task, but they're very grateful for the continued support of Jim White and his crew for all they continue to do for them year after year.

Quimby's Bridge has been closed by the DOT and will remain closed while engineers evaluate repairs; improvements are expected to continue through most of this fall.

- DOT wanted to share that the bridge on 34 will be open in about a month or so.

Supervisor Bush took a moment to recognize Ed Healy and Sean Ennulat for their time and service as Court Bailiffs for the Elbridge Town Court.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 95/26

The Elbridge Town Board resolves to fill the vacancy of Town Clerk with current Deputy Clerk, Sarah Groom.

MOTION Supervisor Bush • **SECONDED** Councilor Farrugia

RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

RESOLUTION 96/26

The Elbridge Town Board resolves to grant a Cable Franchise Agreement to Verizon New York Inc. in the Town of Elbridge, County of Onondaga, New York.

MOTION Councilor Chilson • **SECONDED** Councilor Davis

RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

RESOLUTION 97/26

The Elbridge Town Board resolves to approve Amendment #3 local counsel legal services agreement. An Agreement for legal services for the Town of Elbridge, Village of Elbridge, and Village of Jordan Joint Water System Improvement Project by and Between the Town of Elbridge and Costello Cooney & Fearon, PLLC.

WHEREAS, the Town of Elbridge is undertaking a joint water project with the Village of Jordan and Village of Elbridge; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board previously approved and authorized a legal services agreement with its legal counsel, Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC to provide legal services for the Water Project; and

WHEREAS, as a result of issues related to the complex nature of the project, the COVID-19 pandemic, delays with the project; and issues related to land/easement acquisitions, on or about April 14, 2022, the Town Board previously approved and authorized Amendment #1 to said legal services agreement; and

WHEREAS, as a result of continuing issues related to the complex nature of the project, the COVID-19 pandemic, delays with the project; and issues related to land/easement acquisitions, in August of 2023, the Town Board previously approved and authorized Amendment #2 to said legal services agreement; and

WHEREAS, as a result of new work authorized for tank construction and pipe installation related to the joint water project, as well as additional legal work being required for District proceedings, financing and land

acquisition/easements, it is necessary to amend the legal services agreement to provide a new not to exceed dollar amount for the legal budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Elbridge Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute Amendment #3 to the Local Counsel Legal Services Agreement to provide for a new not to exceed dollar amount for the legal budget of $74,200.00.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Jeremy Chilson	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Joe Farrugia	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Mary Jo Davis	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Todd Platten	**Councilor**	**Voted**	**Yes**
Kenneth Bush III	**Supervisor**	**Voted**	**Yes**

The Resolution and Order was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DATED: October 1, 2026

MOTION Councilor Platten • **SECONDED** Councilor Farrugia
RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

RESOLUTION 98/26

The Elbridge Town Board resolves to authorize the New York State Snowmobile Association, Oswego County, permission to conduct a raffle sale within the Town of Elbridge territorial limits.

MOTION Councilor Davis • **SECONDED** Councilor Farrugia
RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

RESOLUTION 99/26

WHEREAS, a Local Law has been introduced before the Board, to wit: Local Law No. 2026- 4, amending Article IV of Chapter 247 (“Taxation”") to override the tax levy limit established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c (the “Property Tax Cap”);

LOCAL LAW 2026 - 4, A LOCAL LAW AMENDING
CHAPTER 247 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ELBRIDGE TO CREATE A
NEW ARTICLE IV:

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Elbridge, Onondaga County, New York as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Elbridge County of Onondaga pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c, and to allow the Town of Elbridge, County of Onondaga to adopt a town budget for (a) town purposes (b) fire protection districts and (c) any other special or improvement district governed by the town board for the fiscal year 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c, which expressly authorizes the town board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the town board.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Town Board of the Town of Elbridge County of Onondaga is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law, §3-c.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

WHEREAS, upon review of the projected expenses facing the Town, especially State pension costs, special district costs, and other state mandated costs for which the Town has no control, the Town Board hereby finds that this override is a necessary prudent step;

WHEREAS, the Town Board is in the midst of the Town Budget review process for 2027 and cannot determine, with certainty, that it will be within the property tax cap, especially because the special district calculations have not been completed;
WHEREAS, if the Town is above the property tax cap when all the final calculations have been completed, it would be subject to penalties by the State of New York;

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to hear from the public on Local Law 2026-4;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Elbridge, County of Onondaga, State of New York, shall hold a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law 2026 - 4, and that such Hearing shall be held at the Town Hall of the Town of Elbridge, located at 5 Rt. 31, Village of Jordan, County of Onondaga, State of New York, on October 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk give notice of such Public Hearing by the publication of a notice in at least one newspaper circulated in the Town, specifying the time when and the place where such Public Hearing will be held, and in general terms, describing the proposed Local Law. Such notice shall be published once at least five (5) days prior to the Public Hearing.

MOTION Councilor Platten • **SECONDED** Councilor Davis
RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

RESOLUTION 100/26

WHEREAS: The Town Clerk received the Tentative Budget on September 29, 2026, now;

BE IT RESOLVED: that a Public Hearing will be held on November 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Town Municipal Building, 5 Route 31, Jordan to hear any persons for or against the proposed 2027 “Preliminary” Town Budget. The

Clerk will have a notice published in the official newspaper of the Town at least five days prior to said Hearing, and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the legal notice includes the yearly salaries of the following officers: Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, Councilors (4), Town Clerk, and Justices (2).

MOTION Councilor Farrugia • **SECONDED** Councilor Davis
RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

RESOLUTION 101/26

The Elbridge Town Board has received and acknowledge receipt of the draft Local Law to amend Article 10 of Chapter 265 relating to energy and solar energy systems and will refer the proposed local law to the Onondaga County Planning Board, pursuant to 239 of the General Municipal Law.

MOTION Supervisor Bush • **SECONDED** Councilor Farrugia
RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

RESOLUTION 102/26

The Elbridge Town Board resolves to declare the following pieces of equipment as surplus and will be sent to auction; (1) Dump Truck and (1) Grader.

MOTION Councilor Farrugia • **SECONDED** Councilor Chilson
RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilor Chilson:

- Recreation programs were winding down ahead of basketball season, while senior programs remained busy and several trips were still planned and noted that the community center is currently recruiting JET drivers.
    - Supervisor Bush added that the recent blood drive went well and that the town may host future drives.
- The Court Clerk has applied for a grant to scan case files and obtain protective archive boxes for docket books.
- The Victory for Vets fundraiser is scheduled for November 21, 2026, at Trappers Bar and Grill in Jack's Reef.

Councilor Farrugia:

- The Assessor's Office is currently processing permits, updating recent sales, and renewing qualified exemptions.
- Highway has said that paving was for the most part, complete for the season, and the highway storage shed was stocked for winter. Councilor Farrugia also noted that there has been limited major equipment repairs and that surplus highway equipment has been listed for auction.
- Pest treatment has been completed at the Community Center, and the center's phone/voicemail system is back to working properly.
- Councilor Farrugia has received and reviewed the new SPCA Contract for 2027. SPCA provided activity information, and said starting January 2027, they plan to send monthly reports.

Councilor Platten:

- The Planning Board has not met since the prior meeting; however, a site-plan application was expected for a car service and repair shop at the former gas station near Routes 31B and 5.
- The Environmental Commission has discussed a local planting project and a fundraising event, with details coming soon.
- Councilor Platten raised concerns that have been passed along by residents due to the Joint Water Project, including lack of follow-ups and punch-list communication.
- Discussed cost-sharing between Elbridge and Brutus with Old Erie Ambulance and advocated setting a specific contract amount rather than basing the town's contribution on a tax rate.

Councilor Davis:

- The previous few weeks had been quiet and planned to follow up with Jason.
- The Historian booth at the Fall Festival was admired and congratulated for having a great turnout.
- Insurance-rate updates were discussed, and Councilor Davis informed the board of a scheduled walkthrough on November 24, 2026.
    - Supervisor Bush added that the Methodist Church painting project was moving ahead, with work planned for October 11, 2026.

MONTHLY REPORTS ON FILE: Senior/Recreation Report

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Moureen Doyle asked if County Soil and Water had a target date for bringing the water-chestnut problem under control? Maureen expressed concerns about plants and seed pods spreading through the river system, and the possibility that seeds may remain viable for years and suggested residents help by hand-pulling plants early in the season. The board said it would ask the agency about a target date or timeline.

Doug Blumer suggested that the proposed tax-cap local law referred to fiscal year 2026, which he believed should be 2027. They also asked whether the hearing notice for October 15 would be published on time, given newspaper deadlines. The board acknowledged the year correction and discussed ensuring the notice was published on schedule.

Ruth Kinch asked whether the property near Routes 31 and 5 had been sold and raised concerns about recent digging, possible contamination at the site, and traffic safety at the intersection. The board said the intersection was under state jurisdiction and that the Planning Board was aware of the site's history.

The resident also reported flooding and erosion on Route 5 below the solar-panel site, and the Town Attorney suggested the town could check whether required stormwater controls were in place and function.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:58PM

MOTION Councilor Platten • **SECONDED** Councilor Chilson

RESULT ADOPTED | 5 Ayes • 0 Nays

NEXT MEETING: The Elbridge Town Board will hold their next meeting on October 15, 2026.

Submitted,

Sarah Groom
Elbridge Town Clerk