

Town of Catlin  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Supervisor LaVerne Phelps.

ROLLCALL: BM: Mike Koval, Ron Moshier, Bill Collier, Craig Christiansen, Supervisor LaVerne Phelps

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Minutes:

Motion made by Collier; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Koval accepting Town Clerk's minutes for March 12, 2026, into records as submitted.

CARRIED: ALL

Correspondence:

- NYSEG sent an email regarding on-peak supply rates versus off-peak supply rates.

Motion made by Moshier; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Collier to receive and place on file all correspondence for further action if required.

CARRIED: ALL

Departmental Reports:

Reports submitted by Highway Superintendent, Supervisor, Town Clerk, Assessor, Dog Control and Sheriff.

- Supervisor – shredding at Town Hall.
- Town Clerk – settled 2026 tax collection and turned over to Chemung County Treasurer.

Motion made by Christiansen; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Moshier to receive and place on file all departmental reports for further action if required.

CARRIED: ALL

**Abstracts:**

Motion for **Resolution 26-54** was made by Phelps; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Collier approving April 9, 2026, Abstract #4 vouchers for payment: General vouchers 54-71: \$8,515.47; Highway vouchers 32-50: \$76,292.66; BV Light District vouchers 6: \$304.63; BV Water District vouchers 22-27: \$1,286.75; and Trust and Agency voucher 1: \$9.00 for a total of \$86,408.51.

CARRIED

AYES: Koval, Moshier, Collier, Christiansen

NAYES: None

**Beaver Valley Water District:**

- Flushing will occur tomorrow, Friday, April 10, 2026.
- B& L Engineering will conduct hydrant flow testing sometime during the week of April 27, 2026.
- AWQR for 2025 has been completed and a note was put on the water bills that went out today.

**Old Business:**

- Code Officer – Peter Fleming has resigned. Josh Baker has expressed interest, he works for BOCES but had to cancel interview due to illness. Martin Jerzak could get a raise as medical examiner and not continue here.

**New Business:**

- Resolution clarifying demolition authority for fire-damaged and unsafe structures and the role of the town highway department. General discussion on the Town Highway Department not being involved when a structure burns in the Town of Catlin. Alex Pastrick, Tompkins Corners Fire Chief and Town of Catlin Highway employee spoke about issues that have arisen since a fire in Big Flats that had Chemung County equipment at it. Alex also spoke about the liability of the Catlin equipment being at a fire on personal property. General discussion ensued.
- Resolution calling on Governor Hochul to declare an “Energy State of Emergency” related to escalating energy costs. Resolution was provided by NYSEG. General discussion ensued.

**Hearing of the Public:**

Opened: 7:24pm

No one spoke

Closed: 7:24pm

**Resolutions:**

Motion for **Resolution 26-55** was made by Phelps; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Collier hereby clarifying demolition authority for fire-damaged and unsafe structures and the role of the town highway department.

CARRIED:

AYES: Koval, Moshier, Collier, Christiansen

NAYES: None

Motion for **Resolution 26-56** was made by Collier; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Koval hereby calling on Governor Hochul to declare an "Energy State of Emergency" related to escalating energy costs.

CARRIED:

AYES: Koval, Moshier, Collier, Christiansen

NAYES: None

Motion was made by Phelps; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Moshier adjourning the meeting at 7:26pm.

CARRIED: ALL

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne M. Cutler

**RESOLUTION 26-54**

April 9, 2026

By: LaVerne Phelps

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Bill Collier

**ABSTRACTS**

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Catlin hereby approves submitted April 9, 2026, Abstract #4 vouchers for payment: General vouchers 54-71: \$8,515.47; Highway vouchers 32-50: \$76,292.66; BV Light District vouchers 6: \$304.63; BV Water District vouchers 22-27: \$1,286.75; and Trust and Agency voucher 1: \$9.00 for a total of \$86,408.51.

CARRIED

AYES: Koval, Moshier, Collier, Christiansen

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 55 OF 2026**

April 9, 2026

**A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING DEMOLITION AUTHORITY FOR FIRE-DAMAGED AND UNSAFE STRUCTURES AND THE ROLE OF THE TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**Resolution by: LaVerne Phelps**

**Seconded By: Bill Collier**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Catlin is the governing body of the Town and is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Catlin administers and enforces the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code through its Code Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector, including the investigation of unsafe or dangerous buildings and structures; and

**WHEREAS**, buildings and structures damaged by fire may, in certain circumstances, constitute unsafe structures or conditions of imminent danger under the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, requiring evaluation and enforcement action by the Code Enforcement Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, the demolition and removal of unsafe or dangerous buildings or structures is governed by New York State General Municipal Law §78-b, which vests such authority in the governing body of the Town and provides for due process and cost recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the powers and duties of the Town Highway Superintendent and Town Highway Department are established by Article 7 of the New York State Highway Law and are limited to the care, maintenance, and supervision of town highways, bridges, and highway appurtenances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board finds it necessary and appropriate to clearly delineate the respective roles of the Code Enforcement Office, the Town Board, and the Town Highway Department with respect to fire-damaged and unsafe structures, in order to ensure compliance with state law and to reduce the risk of unauthorized action or municipal liability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board as duly considered the same.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Highway Department and the Town Highway Superintendent shall not undertake, perform, or participate in the demolition, partial demolition, tearing down, or removal of any building or structure within the Town of Catlin that has been damaged by fire or otherwise determined to be unsafe, except where such action is expressly authorized by resolution of the Town Board and carried out in accordance with applicable law; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that determinations regarding whether a building or structure is unsafe or constitutes a condition of imminent danger shall be made by the Town Code Enforcement Officer and/or Building Inspector pursuant to the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and applicable enforcement procedures; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that any demolition or removal of an unsafe structure shall be undertaken only pursuant to lawful authority, including General Municipal Law §78-b, and subject to all required due-process protections afforded to property owners; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that nothing in this resolution shall prohibit the Town Highway Department from performing work within the public highway right-of-way, including traffic control, road closures, barricading, or the removal of debris located within the traveled portion of a town highway, when necessary to protect public safety and when otherwise authorized by law; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Town Highway Superintendent, Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, Town Attorney, and such other officials as the Town Board deems appropriate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**AYES: Koval, Moshier, Collier, Christiansen**

**NAYES: None**

**RESOLUTION NO. 56 OF 2026**

**April 9, 2026**

**CALLING ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO DECLARE AN “ENERGY STATE OF EMERGENCY” RELATED TO  
ESCALATING ENERGY COSTS**

**Resolution by: Bill Collier**

**Seconded by: Mike Koval**

**WHEREAS**, New York State’s energy costs are among the highest in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State residents have been facing an escalating energy burden this winter due to escalating supply costs and government mandates contributing to all-time high and unsustainable energy costs causing financial hardship for our residents, businesses, farmers, and manufacturers; and

**WHEREAS**, delivery rates have increased, however they are set by the Public Service Commission and can only increase with its approval and on a schedule prescribed by such authorization. This authorization does not include sudden spikes in energy commodity costs which are market driven; and

**WHEREAS**, due to several factors including a colder than average winter, New York State’s lack of adequate energy supply has been a significant contributing factor to increased supply costs, and the strained supply has placed an undue burden on customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) administers the markets under regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure transparent price signals for all market participants, including utility companies who purchase supply on the market and then pass-through that supply charge to customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Service Commission in October, 2025 noted, “a residential electric customer using 600 kWh per month is expected to pay about \$60 per month for supply this winter, and an average residential customer using 719 therms of natural gas can expect to pay an estimated \$224 per month, up 1.4% and 8% respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, during the months of January 2026, a typical NYSEG or RG&E residential customer saw supply costs increase 39% from this same period in 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, a typical NYSEG natural gas customer experienced a 72% increase in supply costs in February, 2026 as compared to February, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, supply costs were significantly higher among time-of-use customers, which experienced a 75% increase in daytime supply costs and 87% increase in nighttime supply costs as compared to 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State’s lack of energy generation regulation is placing a hardship on residents across the state which will only continue without change; and

**WHEREAS**, the need to make investments in our electric grid, increase supply for new economic development, and pay for new state mandated programs have been the primary drivers of increased delivery costs; and

**WHEARES**, in addition to declaring an “Energy State of Emergency” the state should also require the Department of Public Service to produce a study analyzing cost growth from delivery and supply charges including evaluating the numerous state programs that are funded by ratepayers through their utility bills; and

**WHEREAS**, Town of Catlin request to declare an “Energy State of Emergency” would allow immediate action to lower bills, place safeguards on utility bills to protect our consumers from extreme price spikes, initiate suspension of taxes, fees, and surcharges on energy bills, and expedite the construction of base load generation; **therefore be it**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Catlin urges the Governor to declare an “Energy State of Emergency” to protect Catlin residents and all New York State ratepayers from extreme and unsustainable price spikes, promote stabilization of the power grid, and to promote affordable energy; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Clerk of the Legislature will forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor Hochul, Congressman Nick Langworthy and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

**AYES: Koval, Moshier, Collier, Christiansen**

**NAYES: None**