

This transcript details a regular town board meeting held on January 20th, which covered a range of administrative, financial, environmental, and public safety topics.

I. Meeting Opening & Administrative Matters

Call to Order & Pledge: The meeting commenced on January 20th with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: All council members (John Boy, Sean Aikens, Jim Lindsay, Washburn) and Supervisor Hogan were present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January 2, 2026, organizational town board meeting were approved.

Appointments:

Cynthia Roberts was reappointed to the Zoning Board.

Lisa Boucher was appointed to the Planning Board.

II. Financial & Audit Matters

Budget Transfers: Two budget transfers were approved:

\$1,000 from General Fund Central Garage Personal Services to Central Garage Contractual for year-end expenses.

\$4,536.19 from Hospital and Medical to Unemployment Insurance for September-December 2025 unemployment expenses.

Fund Balance Policy: A new fund balance policy, proposed by Rebecca in response to a state audit, was adopted.

OSC Audit Corrective Action Plan: The board approved a response to the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) audit, agreeing to implement suggested changes, policies, and a multi-year plan with a timeline for completion.

III. Environmental Concerns: ESMI Facility & PFOA Testing

Community Opposition: The board discussed a meeting with members of the Clean Air Action Network (or similar group) who sought the town's support in opposing an application by the ESMI facility.

PFOA Experiment: ESMI is seeking DEC approval for a two-week experiment to remove PFOAs from heavily contaminated soil trucked in from outside the area.

Town's Stance: The town expressed concern that if the incineration process fails, PFOA contaminants could aerosolize into the community, particularly given Fort Edward and Kingsbury's existing environmental burden from PCBs.

Letter to DEC: The Supervisor drafted a letter to the DEC, requesting they decline ESMI's application and suggesting that such testing should not occur in an already environmentally burdened community. The board approved sending this letter.

IV. Departmental Reports & Proposals

Town Clerk's Report: Over \$1 million in county and town taxes have been collected, and the process is going well.

Code Enforcement/Building Department (Ross's Report):

The new employee is in a slow learning process and requires recertification, which will take close to a year due to online training processes. This will put additional pressure on the department in the interim.

Planning board meetings are expected to be busier next month.

Water Department (Mason's Proposal):

Proposed Code Change: To improve efficiency and reduce labor, the Water Department proposed changing the water meter reading and billing code.

Current: Residential meters read/billed quarterly (March, June, Sept, Dec); Commercial meters read/billed monthly.

Proposed: Meters billed quarterly. Actual readings taken in March and September. June and December bills will be estimates based on the prior year's usage for the same period. For commercial meters, actual readings taken in February, May, August, and November, with other months estimated.

Rationale: This change would be cost-effective and more efficient, especially during winter months and with reduced staffing.

Action: The board decided to have the attorney draft the policy and determine if a public hearing is required, with the item to be placed on the February 2nd agenda.

Highway Department Commendation: The highway crew was commended for their excellent work plowing snow during a busy winter.

AED Proposal (Mason): Mason proposed purchasing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for the town, specifically one for the town hall and one for the highway barn.

Justification: Citing health concerns among employees and the public, and the high survival rates associated with AED use in cardiac arrest situations.

Action: Rebecca (the comptroller) will obtain pricing for two AEDs, and the item will be added to the February 2nd agenda. All highway staff are CPR-trained, which is a prerequisite for AED use.

V. Other Business

Surplus Chairs for Greenwich: The town of Greenwich inquired about acquiring surplus chairs from Kingsbury's basement. The board agreed to surplus them if legally permissible, pending confirmation from the town attorney.

Kingsbury Annual Fire Company Banquet: Board members were invited to the "Masked Hero" themed banquet on February 28, 2026, at the Fort William Henry Carriage House. An RSVP is requested by February 3rd.

Written Reports: The Comptroller's and Justice's monthly reports for December 2025 were accepted.

Public Comment: No public comments were made.

Executive Session: The board moved into a brief executive session to discuss an undisclosed matter, with no anticipated action to follow. Fort Edward is also reportedly opposed to the ESMI project.