

The October 14th, 2025 Town of Tioga board meeting was brought to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilman Griffin, Councilman Nicholas Schoonover, Councilman Paul Welch and Councilman Robert Strong with Supervisor Douglas Chrzanowski presiding. Also present was Highway Superintendent Russell Story, Court Clerk Krista Story, Town Constable Jerry Pierce, DCO Tammy Godfrey, Bookkeeper Melane Sinsabaugh and Planning Board Member Sean Strong.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the September 2025 board minutes as presented, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Councilman Welch made the motion to accept the September 2025 Planning Board minutes as presented, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Update from Superintendent Story:

- Evelien Hill Bridge has been completed on our part except for the guardrail installation will be done on September 20th. Waiting for Hunt Engineering to inspect the bridge.
- Shoulder work is completed on all new pavement
- Pickup truck has been totaled out with the insurance company with a payout of \$37,690.00. Replacement cost has been quoted at \$47,000 up to \$52,000.

The Board has requested Superintendent Story talk with CarStar and see if the plow frame can be removed and kept for the next truck. Superintendent Story will look into this.

Councilman Schoonover made the motion to approve the appropriation of a new pickup truck purchase up to \$52,000, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

Roll Vote:

Councilman Griffin – Aye	Councilman Welch – Aye
Councilman Schoonover – Aye	Councilman Strong – Aye

Chairman Chrzanowski stated that proposed NY-Tioga V solar farm was brought to the Planning Board Meeting last week. This proposed solar farm would be around 3.5 Megawatts and will be located on Glenmary Drive on the property of Donald & Rebecca Goodrich. This proposed project will be going to The County for 239Review in December.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the September reports as presented, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

The November Board Meeting will be held at the regular date and time regardless of falling on Veteran's Day.

Councilman Welch made the motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing regarding the tax cap override at 6:15pm, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Roll Vote:

Councilman Griffin – Aye	Councilman Welch – Aye
Councilman Schoonover – Aye	Councilman Strong – Aye

No public comment.

Councilman Welch made the motion to close the public hearing at 6:20pm, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

Councilman Welch made the motion to adopt Local Law #2-2025 as presented, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

Roll Vote:

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

Councilman Welch – Aye

LOCAL LAW #2-2025

A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF TIOGA, NEW YORK TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-c.

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Town of Tioga to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026 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 a local government’s governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override.

The Town Board of the Town of Tioga, New York, County of Tioga is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 4. Severability.

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court’s order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, 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 7. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon adoption, publication and filing with the Secretary of State.

Budget Workshop

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium has an increase of 18% in premiums for the 2026 calendar year as well as increases in deductible limit and copays making the new 2026 premium \$1127.82 for an Individual Plan and \$2932.39 for the Family Plan. No other plan options are available through the Consortium besides individual and family plans.

Tom Augustini of Haylor, Freyer & Coon Inc. met with employees and Supervisor Chrzanowski at a special meeting held on 09/22/25 to discuss their health care plans. Individual plans are \$741.83, subscriber/spouse \$1483.67, subscriber/children \$1261.12 and family \$2114.23 monthly with the Town being responsible for 80% of premiums and the employee responsible for 20% of monthly premiums. The Town would be on a Bronze Plan with an HRA Funded deductible from The Town.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to accept the Bronze Health Care Plan presented by Haylor, Freyer & Coon Inc., HRA Funded for the 2026 calendar year and to terminate the health insurance from Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium effective end of calendar year, Councilman Welch seconded, carried.

Roll Vote:

Councilman Griffin – Aye	Councilman Welch – Aye
Councilman Schoonover – Aye	Councilman Strong – Aye

The 2026 Tentative Budget was discussed.

The CPI rate for 2026 is 2.7% which is what The Town usually bases wage increases from.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to accept the 2026 Tentative Budget as presented with the exception of changing Highway Employee wage percentage from the asking rate of 5% to 3%, and increasing the health care percentage to 25% from the 13% presented, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Roll Vote:

Councilman Griffin – Aye	Councilman Welch – Aye
Councilman Schoonover – Aye	Councilman Strong – Aye

Supervisor Chrzanowski made the motion to schedule the public hearing for the 2026 Preliminary Budget to be held on November 11, 2025 at 6:15pm at the November Board Meeting, Councilman Welch seconded, carried.

Roll Vote:

Councilman Griffin – Aye	Councilman Welch – Aye
Councilman Schoonover – Aye	Councilman Strong – Aye

The Board requested the Town Clerk to contact a plumber to winterize Ransom Park.

Highway Superintendent Story presented the Board with a quote from Bellis Contracting for the amount of \$4200 to add lighting to both sides of the cold storage building and to add a roof extension off of the building for oil drum storage.

Councilman Welch made the motion to accept the quote for \$4,200 from Bellis Contracting for additional lightening and roof extension, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Roll Vote:

Councilman Griffin – Aye	Councilman Welch – Aye
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Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

Councilman Welch made the motion to pay the General Fund in the amount of \$11,794.07, Councilman Griffin seconded, carried.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to pay the Highway Fund in the amount of \$47,499.15, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to pay the Bridge Capital Project in the amount of \$10,111.29
Councilman Welch seconded, carried.

Councilman Welch made the motion to adjourn at 7:00pm, Councilman Griffin seconded, carried.

Tiffany Middendorf

Tioga Town Clerk