

April 14th, 2026, Town of Tioga board meeting was brought to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilman Griffin, Councilman Nicholas Schoonover, Councilman Paul Welch, and Councilman Sean Strong with Supervisor Douglas Chrzanowski presiding. Also, present was Highway Superintendent Russell Story, Court Clerk Krista Story, and Nigel Kellberg from Conway Beam.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the March 10th, 2026, Town Board minutes as presented, Councilman Strong seconded, carried. Councilman Welch made the motion to accept the February 2026 Planning Board minutes as presented, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

Update From Superintendent Story:

- Pickup truck is scheduled to be delivered April 25 through May 5th
- Cutting trees
- Ditching and replacing culverts
- New 10-wheeler has had the transmission replaced due to an incident that occurred during transport prior to delivery to the town from the Conway Beam dealership.

Nigel Kellberg from Conway Beam stated that Vanguard dealership put a new transmission into the truck and states that Volvo and Vanguard engineers have inspected and passed the truck in “new condition.” Mr. Kellberg stated that the dealership has extended the warranty on the transmission only from a 2-year to a 4-year warranty and from 250k miles to a 500k mile warranty.

The Town Board is concerned by the lack of transparency regarding what occurred in the transmission incident and that even with an extended warranty it leaves the town without a much needed truck if it needs future repairs from this incident.

Councilman Griffin stated he would not feel comfortable accepting the delivery of the 10-wheeler unless Mr. Kellberg provided the board with the mechanics report and parts list for repairs from Vanguard, insurance report and a vin number pull on the truck to determine the root cause of the problem. Mr. Kellberg stated he will get any information that is available for the board to review.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the March 2026 reports as presented, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

The bond for the replacement of Diamond Valley bridge was due paid in full at the end of March. Supervisor Chrzanowski has spoken with the town bookkeeper and stated the town will have no problem funding the rest of the project since it is a reimbursement program.

James Peckham P.E. from Hunt Engineering executed the bid opening for the replacement of Diamond Valley Rd bridge which took place on March 25th at 3:00pm.

After reviewing all the bids received Hunt Engineering recommended the lowest responsible bidder, Byler Excavating, LLC from Harpursville NY, for replacing Diamond Valley bridge with the bid amount of \$973,093.50.

Councilman Strong made the motion to approve the Hunt Engineering’s lowest responsible bid recommendation of Byler Excavating, LLC from Harpursville NY, for replacing Diamond Valley bridge with the bid amount of \$973,093.50, Councilman Griffin seconded, carried.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Welch – Aye

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the following Resolution #02-2026 as presented, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Welch – Aye

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

RESOLUTION #02-2026

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

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

WHEREAS, New York State residents have been facing escalating electricity delivery charges, supply costs, and regulatory mandates for several months contributing to all-time high and unsustainable electricity costs causing financial hardship for our residents, businesses, farmers, and manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, New York State’s lack of electric generation is putting the electrical power grid under significant stress, which will only continue without change; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Legislature adopted Resolution #106-23 on March 14, 2023 urging Governor Hochul to reconsider the ban of gas stoves and other new fossil fuel heating equipment, as this government mandate places an additional burden on our County; s working class residents and a devastating effect on our local businesses if they are required to convert to all electric especially under the current circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Legislature adopted Resolution #345-25 in support of Congressman Langworthy’s Energy Choice Act (H.R.3699) on September 16, 2025 safeguarding households, small businesses, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability and allowing consumer choice; and

WHEREAS, Town of Tioga’s 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 Tioga Town Board urges the Governor to declare an “Energy State OF Emergency” to protect Town of Tioga 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 Town of Tioga will forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor Hiochul, Senator Thomas F. O’Mara, Assemblyman Christopher S. Friend, NTSAC, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Councilman Strong made the motion to approve the following Resolution #03-2026 as presented, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Welch – Aye

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

RESOLUTION #03-2026

MEMORIALIZING THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO IMMEDIATELY REVIEW ELECTRIC DELIVERY CHARGES, DEMANDING IMPROVED COST CONTROLS AND TRANSPARENCY REGARDING THE ESCALATING COST OF ELECTRICITY.

WHEREAS, residents, seniors, and small businesses in the Town of Tioga are experiencing unsustainable, repeated, and compounding increases in electric bills that are placing a growing financial strain on households and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of these increases is attributable not to increased energy consumption, but to escalating delivery charges, fees, and approved rate adjustments imposed by NYSEG; and

WHEREAS, electric delivery charges and rate structures are regulated and approved by the New York State Public Service Commission, which is statutorily charged with ensuring that utility rates are just reasonable, and affordable for ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, rural and low-density communities are disproportionately impacted by delivery charge increases and cost-recovery mechanisms that fail to adequately account for affordability, equity, and the cumulative burden placed on ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the continued approval rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency, and meaningful affordability protections is unacceptable and contrary to the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Tioga Town Board formally and strongly urges the New York State Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and immediate review of electric delivery charges, rate increases, and cost-recovery practices applicable to NYSEG customers; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Tioga Town Board calls upon the Public Service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, demand greater transparency from NYSEG, and require demonstrable cost-containment and operational efficiency measures before approving any future rate increases; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Tioga Town Board expressly opposes continued or automatic rate increases that shift rising operational, infrastructure, and administrative costs onto ratepayers without clear justification or adequate protection for rural communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Honorable Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor, New York State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224; Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader, New York State Senate, 907 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; Honorable Robert G. Ort, Minority Leader, New York State Senate, 315 Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12247; Honorable Carl Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly, 932 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Honorable Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Majority Leader, New York State Assembly, 926 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Honorable William A. Barclay, Minority Leader, New York State Assembly, 933 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Honorable Thomas M. O'Mara, New York State Senator, 706 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; Honorable Philip A. Palmesano, New York State Assemblyman, 448 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Honorable Joe Sempolinski, New York State Assemblyman, 548 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Honorable Andrea K. Bailey, New York State Assemblywoman, 718 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Rory M. Christian, Chair and CEO, Public Service Commission, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223-1350; Honorable Michelle L. Philips, Secretary to the Commission, New York State Public Service Commission, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223-1350; Patricia Nilsen, President and CEO, New York State Electric & Gas, 89 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14649; Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director, New York State Association of Counties, 515 Broadway, Suite 402, Albany, NY 12207; and the Inter-County Association of Western New York, c/o Schuyler County Legislature, 105 Ninth Street, Unit 6, Watkins Glen, NY 14891.

Peter Dolgos from Bullrock Energy Corp. submitted NY-Tioga V draft PILOT and Decommissioning Plan to the Board for review with some proposed changes to the PILOT contract.

The Town Board has requested the draft PILOT be presented to the town lawyer for review of the proposed changes to the contract and will wait to render their decision after receiving his feedback.

The Town Board has also requested the Planning Board re-review the proposed decommissioning plan again at May's Planning Board meeting. Councilman Schoonover will be presenting some areas of interest to be reviewed at the Planning meeting.

Bishops Fulltime Portables AND Larry's Latrines presented the estimate for portables toilets for Ransom Park this season May 1st through October 31st with the monthly price of \$640.00 for two handicap and two standard portable toilets with weekly service.

Councilman Welch made the motion to accept the monthly estimate from Bishops Fulltime Portables AND Larry's Latrines as presented, Councilman Griffin seconded, carried.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Welch – Aye

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

Supervisor Chrzanowski stated that the Planning Board has approved Site Plan #01-2026 from Skyline Motor LLC for an existing campground to be opened.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to pay the General Fund in the amount of \$16,398.86, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Schoonover – Nay

Councilman Welch – Aye

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

Councilman Welch made the motion to pay the Highway Fund in the amount of \$121,804.61, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Welch – Aye

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

Councilman Welch made the motion to pay the Bridge Fund in the amount of \$1,600,000.00, Councilman Schoonover seconded, carried.

Councilman Schoonover – Aye

Councilman Welch – Aye

Councilman Griffin – Aye

Councilman Strong – Aye

Supervisor Chrzanowski stated that a new company has purchased NY-Tioga IV solar farm and need to address the Planning Board of updated prints if changes were made, a new building permit due to the expiration of the initial permit, a driveway permit, and a copy of all the sign off's from adjacent residents from Ballou Rd.

Councilman Welch made the motion to close the regular board meeting at 7:03pm and open an executive session, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

Personnel matters were addressed.

Councilman Welch made the motion to close the executive session at 7:54pm, Councilman Strong seconded, carried.

Tiffany Middendorf
Tioga Town Clerk