

AGENDA
Galway Town Board Meeting
May 13, 2025
7:00p.m.

431

Call to order – Supervisor Arnold
Roll Call – Town Clerk DeFoe
Pledge to the flag – All

Approval of minutes of the meeting held 04/08/2025
Communications Received – Town Clerk DeFoe

Reports of Committees

Historian

Youth Commission

Planning Liaison

Zoning Liaison

Dog Control

Building Department

Highway Department

Supervisor

BUDGET

1. Approval of Abstract Fund A
2. Approval of Abstract Fund B
3. Approval of Abstract Fund DA
4. Approval of Abstract Fund DB
5. Approval of Abstract Fund ~~DB~~ **HB**
6. Approval of Abstract Fund SL
7. Approval of Abstract Fund TA

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1) The Highway Department Supervisor David Costanzo requests the following budget resolution for the 2025 Budget:
Galway Emergency Medical Services (check # 0096908731) in the amount of \$1,576.27
Resolution Request – Designate to Account: DA5142.41 Snow Removal - Fuel
Decrease DA1640 – Ambulance Charges \$1,576.27
Increase DA5142.41 – Snow Removal Fuel \$1,576.27
- 2) The Town Supervisor JD Arnold requests a resolution that the Town of Galway be designated as a Hudson River Valley Greenway Community.
- 3) The Town Supervisor JD Arnold requests that the Town of Galway submit a grant application to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for the Town of Galway's Master Plan.
- 4) The Town Supervisor JD Arnold requests that the Town of Galway provide endorsement of Saratoga PLAN Application for Saratoga County Open Space & Farmland Protection Grant.

OTHER BUSINESS

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

ADJOURN

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 13, 2025
GALWAY TOWN HALL

Supervisor J.D. Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The following Town Board Members were present:

PRESENT: Supervisor J.D. Arnold Councilmember Fred Arnold
 Councilmember Ryan Flinton Councilmember James Ross
 Councilmember Daniel Clemens

OTHERS PRESENT: S. Costanzo; D. Costanzo, Highway Superintendent; C. Baxter; C. Moon; M. Luetters, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement; C. Schweizer; D. Knizek-Neahr, Historian; S. Atkins; C. Carr; B. & S Burns; H. O'Brien; T. O'Brien, Dog Control Officer; P. Flinton; R. & G. Marsh; B. Adair; A. Decker, ZBA Chair; J. Snyder; F. Daino; S. Arnold; M. Carota; A. & D. Balbian; R. Sleeper; A. McPherson; T. Boerenko; S. Haas, Saratoga Plan Representative; B. Episcopo, Chief Executive Officer for Girl Scouts of Northeastern NY; M. DeFoe, Town Clerk and many more Town residents.

Pledge to Flag

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025 Regular Meeting as submitted.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Communications -- Town Clerk stated that the Board Members received multiple correspondence from the following organizations: Association of Towns; Comptroller; NYS Environmental Facilities Corp.; RISE; GoGov; USI Executive Series; Millennium Strategies; NYS Dept. of State Planning Development & Community Infrastructure; NYS Dept. of State Community Service; NYS Uniform Code & Energy advising that the Code Administration & Enforcement Report was filed with their Office for 2024; CIP; ICMA; Smart Cities Council & Lollypop Farm. The following information was also received: Notification from Jennifer McDonald our website representative for Evisions advising that she is working on transitioning Town from a .org to .gov as required by State; National Grid annual traffic control inventory update given to J.D. & Brandon; Councilmember Daniel Clemens email response to Teal Boerenko's regarding Municipal Infrastructure Program. He advised that this particular program is not for Galway as it is for Municipalities that own utility infrastructure or have a control agreement with private utility company; Thank you letter from Angie & Chris Camarata for all the help Max has given them over the last year with their building site; resignation letter from Rod Wilday as Member of the Board of Assessment Review; Dog Control Officer Report for March & April along with Ag. & Markets Inspection Report that was completed 4/9/25, services were found to be satisfactory regarding compliance to NYS Ag. & Markets requirements; April Highway Maintenance Report with Schedule for May. The following Resolutions would be needed tonight: Highway Budget Amendment for Ambulance fuel usage; Request designation of Town of Galway as a Greenway Community; Resolution for Hudson River Valley Greenway Community & Compact Planning

Grant & Saratoga Plan application for Saratoga County Open Space & Farmland Protection Grant.

Reports of Committees – Historian – Darby advised that she was working with the Preservation Society as they were getting ready for Festival of Nations held at Galway School on May 1st. Darby went to the Moses McKindlay file, that past Historian Phyllis Keeler had done and found the original Indenture between David Campbell & Moses McKindlay from 1783. Moses McKindlay was one of the first settlers in Galway. She also had a copy of the 1783 Indenture between David Campbell & William Kelly. Darby had copies made of both at Alexander Blueline. Galway Preservation Society will have everything displayed on Memorial Day in the Park. She wanted to thank Brad Bischoff for the old newspapers he dropped off to her that he found in his camp. **Youth Commission – Fred** advised that he attended meeting Family Fun Day is scheduled for June 14th from 10-4. **Planning Board – Jim** advised that David Buczkowski classified as a 3-lot subdivision on Jockey Street, set for public hearing; Marisa Raham request for accessory dwelling on Whitesides Road, set for public hearing for special use permit; Russell DeRidder received approval for a lot line adjustment on Perth Road & under old business David & Kathy Arnold previously received conditional approval to include DEC jurisdictional determination on their subdivision on Jersey Hill Road, it has been determined that conditions are not necessary on subdivision it will apply when construction is requested. **ZBA – Dan** stated last Tuesday evening the ZBA met with all five members in attendance. Rick Percoco received approval for an area variance on Harts Road C to construct a new home. Kelly Piotrowski received approval for an area variance on Top Notch Road to replace an existing deck. **Dog Control – Tom** stated nothing really in addition to written report, phone rings every day. **Building Department – Max** stated 97 building permits were issued in 2024. So far for 2025, they have issued 50 permits, with an additional 5-10 to be secured. All 2024 & 2025 permits have been recorded and provided to Assessor. Route sheets have been created for all 2024 permits which have not been issued a CC or CO. These will be used to manage time on road for inspections, by visiting multiple properties in the same area of Town. To date the office has answered 19 F.O.I.L. Requests. This largely could not have been done without the help of new Clerk in his office. All 2024 permits, whether open or closed out with issuance of a CC or CO have been recorded; all 2025 have been recorded. As permits are recorded the office is cross referencing tax parcels for old building permits which were not appropriately closed out. These can be reviewed as open permit files and if possible, inspections will be performed to issue a CC or CO where appropriate. Some of these open permits date back decades which is becoming a bigger issue as property sales generate F.O.I.L. requests from attorneys & title search companies. **Highway – Dave** stated for April the Highway Department removed 4-ton weight limit signs; graded Cruthers, Kimball Lane, Maple Ave. & Silcox Roads; continued to fix wing cuts; cut brush & overhead from storms; building materials were deliver for salt shed & construction began; flushed pipes on Alexander & Perth Roads; ditched Parkis Mills, Alexander & Bliss Roads; mowed town hall & ball field. For May the Highway Department will ditch Graves Road near intersection with Parkis Mills Road; paved with Halfmoon; cut brush & overhead; maintenance on ballfield & town hall; begin mowing ROW's; they are ditching Donnan Road and there is a possibility that Spectrum will bring cable and put it into ditch, Town would then cover it (this would extend coverage down Donnan Road) & the two trucks delivery dates have

been pushed to June. **Supervisor – J.D.** stated that he & Brandon attended a finance/management school at the end of April. This was similar to the one they attended a month in last year and they felt like a deer in the headlights at that time, now a year later they have a better handle on everything and it makes sense. Next week they are taking a two-day accounting school on line. Memory Café was held here in April very well attended. He met with American Legion & Fire Department on upcoming Memorial Day Parade on May 26th, line up at Dockstader Park at 9:15 Parade to start at 10:00. Met with Rotary regarding Blueberry Festival to be held July 26th to sign -up go to Town Website. WGNA will be broadcasting from Blueberry Festival. County Animal Shelter will hold an adoption clinic at Shelter information also on website. Evison has reserved Town's .gov address, will let public know when this is changed and information is put up on website regarding new legal requirements that need to be added to site. Comptroller Audit will probably be done within the next few months. Auditors are currently looking at all aspects of Town operation. Once they get a handle on that, they will focus on one particular area of Town. It appears at this point that their major focus will be on payroll. J.D. will keep everyone informed as we continue with audit. The 2023 Audited Financial Report has not been submitted to date. It appears with audit that the CPA had sent some prior year 2021/2022 accounting adjustments in that were never addressed possibly due to transitioning changes in Bookkeepers. They are trying to figure out with auditor's help how to do these adjustments for 2021 & 2022 that will make it possible to submit the 2023 Audited Financial Report. Once 2023 has been submitted 2024 figures will easily be generated. There are a couple of open positions with Town, one on Planning Board & one on Board of Assessment Review. Meal on Wheels program is looking for drivers for Greenfield area.

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the General Abstract of Vouchers (A) dated 5/13/25 for a total of \$318,592.75. Supervisor stated that \$300,000 was a transfer to Capital Project for Salt Barn.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the General Abstract of Vouchers (B) dated 5/13/25 for a total of \$8,682.31. Supervisor stated that health care; planning/zoning member payments; senior trips & legal.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross to approve the Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DA) dated 5/13/25 for a total of \$25,655.45. Supervisor stated that was a lot of parts and health insurance.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember James Ross made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the Highway Abstract of Voucher (DB) dated 5/13/25 for a total of \$10,346.54. Supervisor stated that abstract had parts, uniforms & health insurance.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the Salt Barn Project Abstract of Vouchers (HB) dated 5/13/25 for a total of

\$256,121.50. Supervisor stated that this was Phase 2 Salt Barn Construction.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the Special Lighting District Abstract of Vouchers (SL) dated 5/13/25 for a total of \$405.05. Supervisor stated this was two months of street lighting charges.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross to approve the Trust & Agency Abstract of Vouchers (TA) dated 5/13/25 for a total of \$2,736.00. Supervisor stated that this was employee portion of health insurance.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember James Ross made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the Supervisors Monthly Report for February 2025 as submitted.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

No Executive Session was requested by Town Board.

RESOLUTION #: 12-2025 – Budget Amendments. On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton the following resolution was ADOPTED:

AYES- 5 NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board authorize the following Budget Amendments:

Decrease	DA1640	Ambulance Charges	\$1,576.27
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Increase	DA5142.41	Snow Removal Fuel	\$1,576.27
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All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Arnold stated that he was made aware of a \$20,000 grant that was available for master plan projects. Requirement being that the County that Town resides within must have the Hudson River running through it. A few grants are available thru Regional Planning & Economic Development: Natural & Cultural Resource Protection; Improving Public Access & Heritage & Environmental Education. Once Town requests designation they are then authorized to apply for grant. **Roxanne Marsh** asked what the parameters were for the Hudson River Valley Greenway? **J.D.** reiterated that if the County of Saratoga had the Hudson River running through it any Town in that County can apply for these grants. Supervisor stated that he can give Roxanne a copy of all the information he has on grants and requirement. **Andy McPherson** asked if we were talking about streams that run into Hudson River? Again, **Supervisor Arnold** stated that if the County that the Hudson River runs through any Town in that County is eligible to apply for grants. **Councilmember Flinton** stated that Galway is part of Saratoga County therefore, making them eligible to apply for grants. **J.D.** stated that Hudson River Valley Greenway makes grant money available to those Townships within that County for Planning upgrades.

RESOLUTION #: 13-2025 – Request for Designate of the Town of Galway as a Greenway Community. On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens the following resolution was ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember Ryan Flinton – AYE

Councilmember Daniel Clemens – AYE Councilmember James Ross – AYE
 Supervisor James Arnold – AYE

REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF THE TOWN OF GALWAY AS A GREENWAY COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Hudson River Valley Greenway Act, (hereinafter, the “Greenway Act”) Chapter 748 of the Law of 1991, has a legislative goal for the establishment of the Greenway Compact, a process for voluntary regional cooperation and decision-making among the communities of the Hudson River Valley, and

WHEREAS, the process and programs that will comprise the Compact are under development, and

WHEREAS, communities may participate in the initiation and implementation of the compact process, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Galway is situated in the Greenway area as it was officially designated in the Greenway Act, and

WHEREAS, the Greenway Act permits the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council (hereinafter the “Council”), and the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. (hereinafter the “Conservancy”) to assist communities in developing local planning and projects related to the five criteria contained in the Greenway Act: natural and cultural resource protection, regional planning, economic development (including tourism, agriculture and urban redevelopment), enhancing public access to the Hudson River and heritage and environmental education, and

WHEREAS, communities can become eligible to receive technical and financial assistance from the Greenway, and

WHEREAS, community participation in the Greenway planning process is voluntary, and

WHEREAS, the Greenway Act does not supersede or change the powers that the State has previously granted municipal governments under the New York State Constitution, the Municipal Home Rule Law or pursuant to the various municipal enabling acts, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Galway Town Board supports the criteria contained in the Greenway Act and the process by which the Compact will be achieved, and

The Galway Town Board endorses the designation of the Town of Galway by the Greenway Council and Conservancy as a Greenway Community.

5 – AYES 0 – NAYS

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED BY THE GALWAY TOWN BOARD

DATE: MAY 13, 2025

Supervisor Arnold stated the next step is to submit a grant application to the Hudson River Valley Greenway Community for completion of the Town of Galway Master Plan.

RESOLUTION #: 14-2025: Hudson River Valley Greenway Community & Compact Planning Grant. On a motion of Councilmember Ryan Flinton, seconded by Councilmember James Ross the following resolution was ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember Ryan Flinton – AYE

Councilmember Daniel Clemens – AYE

Councilmember James Ross – AYE

Supervisor James Arnold – AYE

WHEREAS, the Town of Galway is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a grant under the Hudson River Valley Greenway Planning Grant Program for a project entitled "Comprehensive Plan Update" to be located in the Town of Galway,

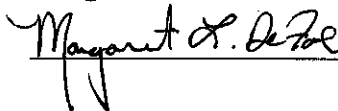
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the governing board of the Town of Galway hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Hudson River Valley Greenway Planning Grant Program, for a project known as Comprehensive Plan Update and located within this community.

5 - AYES 0 - NAYS

MOTION CARRIED

May 13, 2025 _____ Date of Adoption

Margaret L. DeFoe _____ Name of Municipal Clerk

 _____ Signature

Supervisor Arnold stated the last resolution needed tonight is for Saratoga Plan, Sam from Saratoga Plan was here tonight to give further information. **Sam** stated that the Girl Scout Camp has conservation easements on either side of them. What the Saratoga Plan is looking at with the two- conservation easement on each side a total of 420 acres of continuously conserved forest land. Saratoga Plan is asking the Town to endorse this project. **Brenda** from Girl Scout Council of Northeaster NY stated that Camp Woodhaven on Alexander Road is a magical spot that has about 2,000 Girl Scout campers a year. They want to preserve this land beyond Girl Scout ownership. Girl Scouts has no intention of selling this Camp Woodhaven. This Conservation Easement would be a great way to preserve the land & and be able to make investments back into land that is really needed. To make it a space that girls & adults will continue to come to. **J.D.** stated that he didn't know if audience was aware that they can rent Camp Woodhaven. **Brenda** explained the process to rent on line at Camp Woodhaven for resident's personal use/events.

Councilmember Flinton got clarification from Brenda that this was a Conservation Easement. **J.D.** felt that Saratoga Plan was doing a great job in Saratoga County to preserve some unique/special places. If this is the way to make the Girl Scout Camp more viable going into the future, he thinks it is a great thing for our community.

RESOLUTION #: 15-2025- Town of Galway endorsement of Saratoga PLAN application for Saratoga County Open Space & Farmland Protection Grant. On a motion of Councilman Daniel Clemens, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton the following resolution as ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember Ryan Flinton – AYE

Councilmember Daniel Clemens – AYE

Councilmember James Ross – AYE

Supervisor James Arnold – AYE

**PROVIDING ENDORSEMENT OF SARATOGA PLAN APPLICATIONS FOR SARATOGA COUNTY
OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION GRANT**

WHEREAS, The Girl Scouts of Northeastern NY, the owners of certain real property consisting of 250 ± acres of forest, aquatic, and wetland habitat in tax parcels 186.-1-20 and 186.-1-21.112, located at 2015 Alexander Road in the Town of Galway, Saratoga County, New York, also known as Camp Woodhaven (the “Property”), desires to protect the Property by conveying a permanent conservation easement on the land;

WHEREAS, the Property contains a 7± acre pond on the Glowegee Creek, and is 58% wetlands, 37% forested, and contains an active Girl Scout camp composed of a parking lot and several buildings and outbuildings;

WHEREAS, the Property, if conserved, creates 426 ± acres of continuous conserved lands;

WHEREAS, Saratoga County adopted a *Green Infrastructure Plan* in November 2006 that recommends the County to “create protection priorities, goals, and strategies for the conservation of natural heritage” and create greenway corridors between natural system hubs, which the Property contributes to;

WHEREAS, the Town of Galway adopted a *Comprehensive Plan* in 2002 that lists goals of environmental conservation stated as “Protect[ing] the quality and integrity of natural ecosystems and preserve areas of special significance or environmental sensitivity... Protect(ing) water quality in both surface and ground waters... (and recognizing) the importance of, and protection (of) the natural, scenic and historic amenities of the area.”

WHEREAS, Saratoga PLAN is organized for, among other purposes, conserving real property, and is a “qualified organization” to accept, purchase, and hold conservation easements under Article 49, Title 3 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York and §170(h) of the Code of Treasury Regulation;

WHEREAS, Saratoga PLAN determined that accepting an easement on the Property will further Saratoga PLAN’s charitable purposes of protecting the distinctive rural character of Saratoga County and its lands and waters of a significant historic and ecological value; and

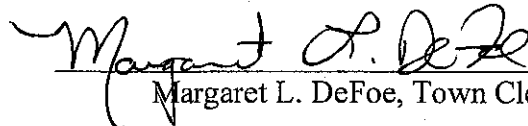
WHEREAS, Saratoga PLAN is seeking to apply for a Saratoga County Farmland Protection and Open Space Grant and other funding that would partially fund the due diligence related to purchasing the development rights to the Property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Galway Town Board endorses the submission of an application from Saratoga PLAN to the Saratoga County Farmland Protection and Open Space Grants Program for funding to purchase development rights on the Camp Woodhaven Property, for the Town to act as a pass-through entity for the funding, and for Saratoga PLAN to hold and uphold a perpetual conservation easement on the land;

The resolution was duly adopted on May 13, 2025.

5- AYES 0 – NAYS

MOTION CARRIED


Margaret L. DeFoe, Town Clerk

Privilege of the Floor – **Roxanne Marsh** questioned status of Ethic's update. **J.D.** stated that information was forwarded to Attorney's Office for their review. Once they get proposed Local Law back to us with any changes we will schedule public hearing for the following month. **Teal Boerenko** stated that she has done so much of the back side research on getting this cable project done. With her research she has found that franchise check can be used to get coverage to these areas in Town that don't have coverage. She had a meeting with Aaron & Samuel from Spectrum this month on the corner of Crane & Donnan Road. They advised her that since Highway was digging the ditches on that road, they would ask their boss if they could drop the cable. Aaron will contact the Highway Superintendent first and make sure this is ok with him and that highway will then cover the cable; after he talks with Dave, he will then get approval from his boss to drop the cable. **J.D.** stated that her time was up for discussion. **Teal** stated she wasn't finished. **J.D.** asked Highway Superintendent where things were with him on this conversation with Spectrum. **Dave** stated when he talked to Aaron today and Highway was fine with cable being dropped and they would cover. Dave was advised by Aaron he was running request up to his boss when decision was made by Spectrum, he would let him know. **J.D.** stated that the Town couldn't be as involved in this project as Teal has been for several years. There is a viable alternative to Spectrum that she has not considered that other neighbors have on Donnan Road that makes your argument difficult. **Teal** stated that she didn't expect Town to put as much time in as she has, just would have liked him to sit down with her and go over information that she researched. Went back and forth on Starlink availability. **Frank Daino** thanked Town Board for doing a good job. It's never easy in a leadership position making decisions that sometimes make people unhappy. He has a concern with the Ambulance coverage availability. His concern is not with staff its with lack of staff. Frank asked audience to be courteous and not talk while he is speaking. Ruth Ann was hurt and needed medical care and they ended up waiting quite some time for it. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that this has become a County/State wide problem with volunteer Ambulance Corp. County is trying to figure out what the answer is. Do they create a county wide EMS. People are not volunteering; some positions are paid but staffing continues to be a huge issue. **Frank** stated that he believes we need to start looking for full time service, not relying on volunteers. **Jessica Bellone** questioned status of Master Plan. **J.D.** stated that he would have more information next month as Town should know outcome of grant. If grant

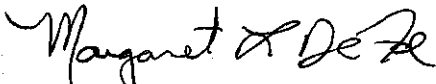
comes in, we should end up saving about \$15,000. **Andy McPherson** questioned who would be coordinating the community garden in the back this year. **Jessica** thought school set up to do it at Town Hall. **J.D.** stated that the woman that came last summer and talked about heading up the community garden came and talked to him one time and determined that she would begin this year. J.D. has not heard from her since last summer. **Councilmember Flinton** stated he would rather see a garden by Jessica than a proposed parking lot!

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret L. DeFoe".

Margaret L. DeFoe
Town Clerk