

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 12, 2026
GALWAY TOWN HALL

Supervisor J.D. Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Town Board Members were present:

PRESENT: Supervisor J.D. Arnold Councilmember Fred Arnold
 Councilmember Daniel Clemens Councilmember James Ross
 Councilmember Gabriel Raia

OTHERS PRESENT: C. Baxter; C. Moon; M. Luetters, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement; C. Schweizer; D. Knizek-Neahr, Historian; B. Burns; H. O'Brien; T. O'Brien, Dog Control Officer; R. Marsh; A. Decker, ZBA Chair; J. Snyder; F. Daino, R. Daino, Planning Chair; M. Rathbun; M & J. Carota; A. & D. Balbian; A. McPherson; Highway Department Employees along with their Union Representative; S. Sharpe, D. Heritage; B. Spagnola, Bookkeeper; M. DeFoe, Town Clerk and many more Town residents.

Pledge to Flag

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting as submitted.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Communications – Town Clerk stated that the Board Members received multiple correspondence from the following organizations: General Code-ecode 360; Correspondence from Building Department Clerk asking for clarification from Town Board on how to go forward with Peddlers Permits; IMA Imaging & Microfilm Access; RISE Housing & Support Services; Millennium Strategies; NY Class; NYS Dept. of State; Municibid; NYS Environmental Facilities Corp.; NYS Dept. of State Planning Development & Community Infrastructure; gworks; ICC Community Development; Omnia Partners; United Way; Gordian; Text my gov; TCP Software; NY Assoc. of Town's; NYS Comptrollers weekly updates; green energy times from Andy McPherson & Highway Department Report for April with schedule for May that Councilmember Clemens will read later in meeting.

Reports of Committees – **Historian** – **Darby** advised that she was still working on Revolutionary War Veterans research. Cemetery research always looking for information on birth & death dates for families doing research. **Youth Commission** – **Fred** advised that he attended meeting, soccer has order supplies to start season on May 23rd to June 27th. Karate had two youth participate & place in the Capital Region Open Tournament. They have two more tournaments scheduled for May 9th & June 21st. Wrestling had their last match with three youth participating & placing. Working on researching if 14-year-olds can work summer youth programs. Co-director still needed for summer programs. Who if any are required to have background checks done. Supervisor asked audience if anyone was interested in helping out with summer programs, if interested please contact Fred and he will put you in contact with appropriate person. **Planning Board** – **James** stated that he was unable to attend meeting. **ZBA**

– **Gabriel** stated that there were two applications before the Board, both tabled because applicants were not present. **Dog Control – Tom** had nothing for tonight. **Building Department – Max** stated 38 building permits have been issued since 2026, 16 additional since last month's report. He is working with an applicant to get all necessary information submitted for a single-family dwelling. Seven permits awaiting to be secured. He has closed out 17 permits in the last month, not sure how many of these were from his time or prior to his appointment. Supervisor Arnold stated that there were also some commercial applications in early stages. **Highway – Daniel** stated for April Highway Department cut & chipped overhead brush on Bills, Cruthers & Parkis Mills Roads; replaced signs – town wide; Employee training PESH/OSHA, chainsaw, chipper & tree felling; cleaned up from winter town wide; removed 4-ton weight limit signs on town roads; graded Maple Avenue & Kimball Lane; assisted Charlton with emergency culvert repair & mowed Town Hall & Ball Fields. For May they will ditch & grade Cruthers Rad; shim part of Greens Corner & Hermance Roads; pave with Charlton & Greenfield & mow ROW's Town Hall & Ball Fields. **Supervisor – J.D.** stated the next food pick up for Pantry is scheduled for May 20th any one interested in helping with this it would be greatly appreciated. Master Plan meetings have been very positive & productive. Community Survey is complete; they will be reaching out to different groups within Town to get as much input as possible to go forward. Alliance 180 will be June 14th here at Town Hall. Flag Day Celebration. Blueberry Festival is July 25th. J.D. asked Melissa Rathbun if she had any updates on that. **Melissa** stated vendor application have been coming in, up to about 30 already. Application can be obtained on their website: galwayrotary.org food vendors have additional forms to complete for county. Please come out it is a great day! J.D. has a meeting with a resident tomorrow regarding (small business grant) thru a NYS Community Development Block Grant. County level, last Friday he and Councilmember Fred Arnold went to the Town of Day Boat launch and participated in a program thru Saratoga County Planning & Economic Development. They helped stock 800 16" to 18" Rainbow Trout into the Sacandaga Reservoir. Very preliminary stages of discussion regarding a new jail 5–10-year plan. Last item he would like to discuss it the negotiations with the Highway Department. He will not address any of the face-book nonsense. Some of the opinion imply that the Town Board doesn't appreciate, acknowledge or respect the work that the Highway Department does for the Town every day. We are a Town with very few residents that work in Town, commuting to job outside the area is required. People can't say in the winter they couldn't get to work because of the condition of Town road; this is never an issue. The road maintenance is a very high level. The paving of our roads is being done at a very high level of quality, every year it gets better. Great job of cutting overhead. Part-time summer help with roadside mowing is great. Town Board would state that they would put Galway Highway's work up against any other Highway Department in County. It's in everybody's best interest to get this resolved as soon as possible. Last month went into Executive Session to discuss the last sticking point of contract. Board gave Labor Attorney the go ahead to concede point to close out contract, hoping that will happen sooner than later.

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the General Abstract of Vouchers (A) dated 5/12/26 for a total of \$30,054.37.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia to approve the General Abstract of Vouchers (B) dated 5/12/26 for a total of \$5,605.19.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Gabriel Raia made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross to approve the Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DA) dated 5/12/26 for a total of \$26,946.83.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember James Ross made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the Highway Abstract of Voucher (DB) dated 5/12/26 for a total of \$7,005.64.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the Special Lighting District Abstract of Vouchers (SL) dated 5/12/26 for a total of \$190.82.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia to approve the Trust & Agency Abstract of Vouchers (TA) dated 5/12/26 for a total of \$2,493.12.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

No Executive Session was requested by Town Board.

RESOLUTION #: 13-2026 – Reappointment of Renee Roth-O’Neil to Planning Board. On a motion of Councilmember James Ross, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia the following resolution was ADOPTED: AYES- 5 NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board reappoint Renee Roth-O’Neil to the Planning Board with a term to expire 7/1/31.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #: 14-2026: Reappoint Jose Sartin Deputy Highway Superintendent. Supervisor Arnold stated that they received a letter from Highway Superintendent today requesting the extension of that appointment. The Town Board fully appreciates the effort Joe is putting in a difficult situation, he is performing at a high level and they are 100% satisfied. On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens the following resolution was ADOPTED: AYES – 5 NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board reappoint Jose Sartin Deputy Highway Superintendent with a term to expire 12/31/26.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #: 15-2026 – Stipulation of discontinuance in Saratoga County Superior Court regarding Galway Plaza. Supervisor Arnold stated that the Town Board several months ago went into Executive Session and coming out made a resolution to go into Saratoga County Superior Court regarding an issue with Galway Plaza. The Town Board is very close to a settlement in that case and would like to do that outside court. Need a stipulation to discontinue any action in Saratoga County Superior Court. Councilmember

Gabriel Raia made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the following resolution as ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember Daniel Clemens – AYE

Councilmember James Ross – AYE

Councilmember Gabriel Raia - AYE

Supervisor James Arnold - AYE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Galway Town Board request a stipulation of discontinuance in Saratoga County Superior Court regarding the Town of Galway vs. Galway Plaza.

5- AYES 0 – NAYS

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business – None

Privilege of the Floor – **Benjie Dwyer, Business Agent Teamsters Local 294** stated that both parties are in discussion, have not reached an agreement to date. **Benjie** reiterated concerns from the last two months regarding no pay increase since 2024 & health insurance coverage concern for retirees. Really down to one to two issues that remain for agreement. He appreciates the Town time regarding this. **Brian Burns** thanked Highway Department for the wonderful job they have done on Cruthers Road. **Brian** stated that roads in winter are great until you get out of Galway. Talked about his concern regarding expense of litigation attorney. Questioned if Town thought about hiring a mediation firm. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that the Town Board has an obligation to the tax payers to make sure their interests are met first. We need to make sure that there is no ambiguity with this contract. Board's job is to make sure that they do the best they can for the people that pay taxes in the Town of Galway. **Councilmember Daniel Clemens** stated that he wanted to make the point that this is a negotiation between two parties, this goes both ways. Things are offered and counter offered on both ends. **Andy Decker** questioned when settlement is made with Galway Plaza will that be public knowledge. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that everything will be public knowledge.

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

Margaret L. DeFoe
Town Clerk