

AGENDA
Galway Town Board Meeting
August 18 2026
7:00p.m.

Call to order – Supervisor Arnold
Roll Call – Brandon Spagnola
Pledge to the flag – All
Approval of minutes of the meeting held 07/10/2026

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 SL
6. Approval of Abstract Fund TA

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution establishing a moratorium on solar farms and battery energy storage systems in the Town of Galway.
2. Resolution to enter into an intermunicipal agreement for cooperative Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board Services between the Town and Village of Galway.
3. Resolution to allow the Town Supervisor to send a response to The Office of the State Comptroller regarding general thoughts on audit and corrective action plan.
4. Resolution to authorize the town to solicit bids for roof reconstruction project on town hall.

OTHER BUSINESS

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

ADJOURN

State of New York
County of Saratoga
ss.;

Lisa Spenziero of the City of Schenectady, being duly sworn, says that she is Principal Clerk in the office of The Daily Gazette, Co. Inc. published in the City of Schenectady and that the notice/advertisement, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been regularly published in Daily Gazette as follows:

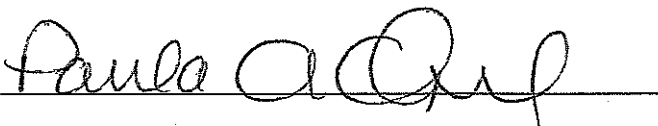
1 insertion(s):

07/16/2026

 (signature)

Lisa Spenziero (printed name)

Commissioner of Deeds
Sworn to me on this 16 day of July 2026

Signature: 

PAULA A. OPEL
COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 08/14/2027

**Change in Meeting Date
for the August Galway
Town Board Meeting**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the meeting date for the August Town Board Meeting will be changed from August 11, 2026 to August 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Galway Town Hall, 5910 Sacandaga Road, Galway, NY 12074. There will also be a Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. that night on a Proposed Local Law establishing a Moratorium on Solar Farms & Battery Energy Storage Systems in the Town of Galway.

Dated: July 15, 2026
By Order of the
Galway Town Board
Margaret L. DeFoe
Galway Town Clerk
7/16 51719

State of New York
County of Saratoga
ss.;

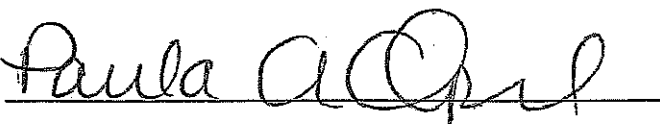
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1 insertion(s):

07/16/2026

 (signature)
Lisa Spenziero (printed name)

Commissioner of Deeds
Sworn to me on this 16 day of July 2026

Signature: 

PAULA A. OPEL
COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 08/14/2027

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW
ESTABLISHING A
MORATORIUM ON
SOLAR FARMS AND
BATTERY ENERGY
STORAGE SYSTEMS IN
THE TOWN OF GALWAY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Galway Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on August 18, 2026, beginning at 6:45 p.m. at the Galway Town Hall, 5910 Sacandaga Road, Galway, NY 12074 to consider adopting a Proposed Local Law which would establish a Moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any new or expanded Solar Farm or Battery Energy Storage System within the Town of Galway for a period of six (6) months.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard at this time and place.

A copy of the Proposed Local Law is available for public review and inspection during normal business hours in the Office of the Galway Town Clerk, also placed on the Town of Galway

website: townofgalwayny.gov under Important Notices.

Dated: July 15, 2026

By Order of the
Galway Town Board
Margaret L. DeFoe
Galway Town Clerk

7/16

51720

PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 18, 2026
GALWAY TOWN HALL

Supervisor J.D. Arnold called the Public Hearing to order at 6:46 p.m. The following Board Members were present:

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Daniel Clemens

OTHERS PRESENT: Audience that spoke: B. Spagnola, Bookkeeper; R. Marsh; F. Sutch; J. Snyder; C. Hunt; T. O'Brien, Dog Control Officer; B. Burns; C. Carr; S. Sutch; H. O'Brien; F. Flanagan & J. Bellone.

Bookkeeper read (2) Legal Notices Placed in Daily Gazette on July 16, 2026 and posted at Bank; Post Office; Library & Town Website advising the public of change in meeting date from August 11, 2026 to August 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. & Public Hearing to be held on August 18, 2026 at 6:45 p.m., to consider adopting a Proposed Local Law which would establish a (6) six month Moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any new or expanded Solar Farm or Battery Energy Storage System within the Town of Galway.

Supervisor J.D. Arnold stated that implementing a (6) six-month Moratorium would allow time for Comprehensive Plan to be completed. Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage Systems will be addressed in that Master Plan. **Supervisor Arnold** asked if there were any questions or comments from the public regarding the Proposed Local Law. **Roxanne Marsh** – stated that she has done some research on Solar Farms. She has found in her research that they are not efficient, running between 15-24% efficiency. Location & weather conditions have a lot to do with efficiency. Many Solar Farms she researched have gone into disrepair or have become abandoned. Once a Town lets these Solar Farms in NYS rules override Town Local Zoning Laws. Suggested putting mandatory Bonds into place for possible cleanup costs down the line. In the end, her research shows that they are not efficient. **Fred Sutch** stated that he has had a Solar Array for 12 years now and it still puts out 10,500 watts, which more than covers all his energy usage. Solar panels do work. **Jim Snyder** – thanked Board for addressing this request, as he was one of the people that requested this. Town needs to look at where this might be appropriate, if at all. Jim felt the way this was written it ties battery energy & solar together. Larger battery energy storage in general is not just those associated with solar. **J.D.** stated that all the information that the Planning/Zoning group submitted was sent to Attorney to write Local Law. They determined that since the State had implemented their own Moratorium on Data Centers it no longer needed to be addressed on our end as State supersedes Town. **Jim** would like to see the Master Plan incorporate Data Centers as State will eventually remove Moratorium and Town should have something in place to address this. **J.D.** agreed with Jim and suggested

that he address this with Master Plan Consultants. **Cathryn Hunt** in her research of Solar Farms has concerns with companies going bankrupt and then being abandoned with reference to clean-up. **J.D.** stated that the Town has one Solar Farm and there is a Bond in place if clean-up/abandonment becomes an issue.

On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia the Public Hearing was closed at 6:59 p.m.

All ayes

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2026
GALWAY TOWN HALL

Supervisor J.D. Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Board Members were the same as Public Hearing and audience is people that spoke.

Pledge to Flag

Tom O'Brien objected to the Town Clerk wording that he "went off" regarding Facebook request, he has never "went off" in 22 years of attending meetings. **Brian Burns** seconded that.

Communication – **Brandon Spagnola** stated that resignation letter was received from Ronald Spraker, Highway Employee effective 8/31/26. Resignation letter was received from David Costanzo Highway Superintendent effective August 31, 2026.

Reports of Committees – **Historian** – **Darby** stated that she was very busy in July with preparation for Fair – Poster Board is outside meeting room if anyone wanted to look at it. She continues her research on Revolutionary War Soldiers that passed away in Galway. Darby had a presentation set-up at Library for children ages 5-9 youth group, instead had three adults show up. Continues to work on cemetery research. **Youth Commission** – **Councilmember Arnold** stated he didn't attend meeting due to work but Sam advised him that there were between 35-40 youth that participated in the summer activities held here at Town Hall. **Planning** – **Councilmember Ross** stated public hearing was held for minor subdivision of Barbara Wright on Armer Road which was approved. Camile Parisi special use permit is still waiting for DOT approval. Brian Furnia on Galway Road is also waiting for his DOT approval for his subdivision. **ZBA** – **Councilmember Raia** stated that Dawn Heritage's application regarding fence was tabled. **Dog Control** – **Tom** questioned if Supervisor got email from Shelter. Nothing else in addition to written report. **J.D.** stated that he did and will address in his report. **Building Department** – **No Report**. **Highway** – **Councilmember Fred Arnold** stated for July the Highway Department shimmed parts of Birchton, Greens Corner & Hermance Roads; paved with Greenfield, Halfmoon, Milton & Providence; assisted Providence with shoulder work; ditched section of Lake Road; chipped town-wide after storm damage; fixed washouts from storms town-wide; cleaned downed trees on Whitesides & Point Road; brought supplies to field for Blueberry Festival & assisted with clean-up; mowed ROW's, Town Hall & ball field & weed

whacked bridges, poles & signs. Schedule for August: Pave north end of Greens Corner Road to town line & Hermance Road from NYS Route 147 to Parkis Mills Road; shim & pave Bliss Road; pave with Charlton & Saratoga County; ditch sections of Lake & Perth Roads & mow ROW's, Town Hall & ball field. **Supervisor - J.D.** stated that he & Councilmember Arnold did the Food Pantry pick-up again last month; Blueberry Festival was a success for vendor's & attendees; Town will be receiving a grant that Assemblywoman Walsh applied for late last year from the Dormitory Authority State of NY, the Town had a tremendous amount of documentation/paperwork that was required but everything was submitted/approved; Saratoga Plan dedicated a mural painted on a building at Galway Preserve on Crane Road; Supervisor, Brandon & Councilmember Arnold met with State Comptroller's Office regarding audit. Town has to do a written response within 30 days and a corrective action plan within 90 days. Because findings were minimal and straight forward, a lot of deficiencies found during audit were fixed immediately. Because of this Town can combine the corrective action plan & written response as one document which should be submitted to State on the 21st. On County level, budget season is getting underway. Next month Town Board will schedule workshops to begin our budget process. With reference to County auction for properties that have three years of delinquent taxes due, the Supreme Court made a decision in Michigan and now when property is sold at auction taxes & fees are paid to county and any additional money received goes back to original property owner. The email Tom was referring to from Animal Shelter was that they are full and are not taking any further animals. When animals are confiscated by law enforcement the shelters are not allowed to take any action on animal until decision from court is made. Making it impossible for a Dog Control Officers to drop a seized animal at Shelter. **J.D.** stated that he had a gentleman stop in his office today to complement Highway Department on job done on Greens Corner Road paving.

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Supervisor J.D. Arnold to approve the General Abstract of Vouchers (A) dated 8/18/26 for a total of \$34,676.34.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor J.D. Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia to approve the General Abstract of Vouchers (B) dated 8/18/26 for a total of \$7,225.31.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Gabriel Raia made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross to approve the Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DA) dated 8/18/26 for a total of \$13,211.81.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember James Ross made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DB) dated 8/18/26 for a total of \$101,862.31.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Supervisor J.D. Arnold to approve the Special Lighting District Abstract of Vouchers (SL) dated 8/18/26 for a total of \$215.80.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor J.D. Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gabriel Raia to approve the Trust & Agency Fund Abstract of Vouchers (TA) dated 8/18/26 for a total of \$2,493.12.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session was not needed.

RESOLUTION #: 23-2026 – Adoption of Local Law No. 1 of 2026 Establishing a Moratorium on Solar Farms & Battery Energy Storage Systems. On a motion of Councilmember Gabriel Raia, seconded by Supervisor J.D. Arnold the following resolution was ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember James Ross – AYE

Councilmember Gabriel Raia – AYE

Supervisor J.D. Arnold – AYE

RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026 ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON SOLAR FARMS AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF GALWAY

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes that solar energy offers benefits for energy conservation and reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and, as such, the development of solar energy facilities continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, while Solar Farms and Battery Energy Storage Systems have their benefits, they also have impacts on aesthetics, land development patterns, vegetation (the clearing of land, including well-established forested areas), reduction of agricultural opportunities, overall reduction of economic development opportunities and real property tax impacts; and

WHEREAS, this Moratorium is necessary in order to temporarily restrict the development of Solar Farms and Battery Energy Storage System so that the Town Board may further analyze these issues and consider the Town's land use development goals and objectives and further to consider enactment or amendment of land use regulations to encourage appropriate development in accordance with such goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Local Law is a Type II Action under 22 New York Code of Rules and Regulations §§617.5, and no further action is therefore required to comply with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Local Law was prepared which establishes a six-month Moratorium on the review and approval of any newly proposed Solar Farms and/or Battery Energy Storage System which have not obtained all necessary approvals and permits prior to the Local Law's effective date; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Local Law was forwarded to the Saratoga County Planning Board for its recommendations pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 239-m, and the County Planning Board indicated there were no community wide impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board duly held a Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law on August 18, 2026 and heard all interested persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 1 of 2026.
2. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to file the Local Law with the with the New York Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law and acknowledges that the Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing by the Secretary of State.

4-AYES

0-NAYS

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #: 24-2026 – Authorization for Supervisor to send response to Office of NYS Comptroller regarding general thoughts on audit & corrective action plan. On a motion of Councilmember Gabriel Raia, seconded by Councilmember James Ross the following resolution was **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember James Ross – AYE

Councilmember Gabriel Raia – AYE

Supervisor J.D. Arnold – AYE

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board authorize the Town Supervisor to send a response to the Office of the NYS Comptroller regarding Town's general thoughts on audit and their corrective action plan.

4-AYES

0-NAYS

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #: 25-2026 – Authorization for advertisement for bids on Town Hall Roof Replacement. On a motion of Councilmember Gabriel Raia, seconded by Supervisor J.D. Arnold the following resolution was **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember James Ross – AYE

Councilmember Gabriel Raia – AYE

Supervisor J.D. Arnold – AYE

Authorizing Advertisement for Bids:

TOWN OF GALWAY

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 25-2026

Resolution Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for the Galway Town Hall Roof Replacement

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the Galway Town Hall Roof Replacement is necessary and in the best interests of the Town; and

WHEREAS, plans, specifications, and bid documents have been prepared for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to solicit competitive sealed bids in accordance with New York State General Municipal Law §103;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for bids for the **Galway Town Hall Roof Replacement**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sealed bids shall be received until September 22, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Town Offices located at 5910 Sacandaga Rd, Galway, NY 12074; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process when deemed in the best interest of the Town.

4-AYES 0- NAYS

MOTION CARRIED

Adopted this 18th day of August, 2026

Supervisor Arnold stated that there was another item on for Resolution regarding Town entering into an intermunicipal agreement for cooperative ZBA & Planning Board Services between the Town & Village of Galway. Board Members have some questions regarding this and would like to wait and address this request at next month's meeting.

Other Business – None.

Privilege of the Floor – **Brian Burns** – stated that he has several items that he feels the Town Board is not being transparent with: 1) there were (3) legal actions that he would like status on, he believes 1 of which is now being handled by Town Board. 2) vacant seat on Planning Board status. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that we still had that position open along with a few others. We will need to put ad in paper regarding all positions available with Town. 3) Audit information. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that Audit information was sent to Town to review, written response is required along with a corrective action plan. Once the State gets this information, they will then make the Audit findings public. 4) Concerns with Dave's RS 2417-A filing information with the State Retirement as he doesn't believe he has been working full time hours for the last several weeks. He contacted Contractor Sales in Albany and Dave is currently employed with them. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that Dave could have stayed on as an employee and been paid for the remainder of his term. You can have a full-time job elsewhere if the job is getting done. **Brian** stated that he can't however file that RS 2417-A as 40 hours with Retirement System when he is working elsewhere. **Councilmember Raia** stated that he is not a participant in the retirement system with his Councilmember position. **Supervisor** stated that he participates on Town & County level with retirement system. **Supervisor Arnold** questioned

what Brian would like the Town Board to do? **Brian** would like the Town to accurately file the hours worked for Dave to Retirement System since he started working another full-time job. He asked Supervisor to address other issues he had. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that (2) cases were still in Saratoga County Supreme Court. One case has been before Judge and decision looks like it will be favorable for Town. The 2nd case is still working thru Supreme Court. The 3rd case he is unaware of where the Town is on that at this time. **Brian** stated that Plaza case is now being negotiated by the Town Board. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that was correct. **Brian** questioned if Councilmember Raia was heading that committee? **Councilmember Raia** stated he wasn't heading a committee, he was asked to look into this to talk to Planning Board to try and get resolution with getting building to code. **Brian** stated that he wasn't asked to look into this, he requested that he look into it. **Brian** stated that he was sick of the lies & lack of transparency regarding this and Highway Superintendents full time job and last months information on Facebook. Board had no one run against them they ran uncontested; he asked that they do their job. **Cathal Carr** questioned if there was a job description for Highway Superintendent. There has to be worksite time requirements. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that the requirement by law is one hour per year. **Frank Flanagan, Mechanic for Highway** stated that Dave calls every day and lets them know what needs to be done for the day. He is assessable by phone or text for any questions; the work is getting done. **Cathal** stated that he has to be on site, can't just farm the work out. **Supervisor** stated that by law, he is only required to be on site one hour per year. As Frank stated he is in constant contact with staff. **Sue Sutch** stated that NYS Municipal Law outlines the duties/responsibilities of the Highway Superintendent. **Supervisor** stated that all vouchers are signed by Dave for tonight's meeting as well as the Highway Budget for 2027 is completed. **Roxanne Marsh** questioned if roof project was entire roof. **J.D.** stated it was an entire roof project. **Roxanne** questioned status from Attorney on Ethics update. **Supervisor** stated that he called Attorney next day, they seem to misplace document. Sent it the next day again for Attorney. Will check in with Attorney before next meeting to see where she is at with update. **Heather O'Brien** stated she wanted to thank "Gonzo" - Ronald Spraker for many years of service to Town. Since resignation letter was received, what is the process for filling that position? **Supervisor** stated that there were many vacant positions currently we will be advertising for all. **Frank Flanagan** stated Town may want to install a trail cam to try and catch the kids' doing donuts in ball field parking lot, they have to back drag parking lot 2-3 times a month due to this. **Jessica Bellone** status of Comprehensive Plan. **Brian** stated the next meeting was August 31st from 6-9. **Councilmember Raia** stated they would be beginning the 2nd Session which would be Planning. **Roxanne** questioned if this was open to public. **Supervisor** stated that meetings are always open to public, if it is a workshop there may not be public comment. **Jessica** questioned if they would be going over Survey results? **Councilmember Raia** stated they would go over survey at meeting will be given to Clerk to put on website. **Cathryn Hunt** asked for clarification on item regarding Town/Village that Board was tabling until next month. **Supervisor** stated that Board had questions for Attorney regarding this resolution, will address

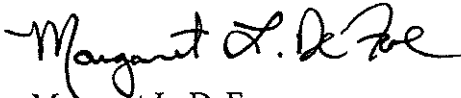
next month when information is received from Attorney. The Village wants to use the Town Planning & Zoning Board to take care issues they are having in village.

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret L. DeFoe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margaret" being the most prominent part.

Margaret L. DeFoe
Town Clerk