

January 13, 2026

Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Sparta was held January 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Supervisor Mark Schuster, Deputy Supervisor Deb Halpenny, and Council Members Bill Smith, Mary Ellyn Calabrese and Aaron Schreiner.

Minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting were read. A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Aaron Schreiner to accept the minutes. All voted yes. Carried.

Minutes of the December 29, 2025 meeting were read. A motion was made by Bill Smith and seconded by Deb Halpenny to accept the minutes. All voted yes. Carried.

Highway Superintendent Kevin Robinson reviewed his report.

A motion was made by Aaron Schreiner and seconded by Bill Smith to approve the 2026 Agreement to Spend Highway Funds. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Aaron Schreiner and seconded by Deb Halpenny to adopt the following Resolution:

**TOWN OF SPARTA
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF #2 OF 2026 LOCAL LAW
ENTITLED, “TRUCKS OVER CERTAIN WEIGHTS EXCLUDED”**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sparta met at a regular board meeting at the Town Hall located at 8373 Sparta Center Road, Sparta, New York on the 13th day of January 2026, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at which time and place the following members were:

Present: Supervisor Mark Schuster
 Councilmember Deb Halpenny
 Councilmember Aaron Schreiner
 Councilmember Mary Ellyn Calabrese
 Councilmember Bill Smith

Absent: _____

WHEREAS, all Board Members, having due notice of said meeting, and that pursuant to Article 7, §104 of the Public Officers Law, said meeting was open to the general public and due and proper notice of the time and place whereof was given as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sparta has determined that it would be in the best interest of the Town of Sparta to enact the establishment of weight limits for roads in the Town of Sparta, specifically roads with steeply graded terrain; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that Vista Hill, Harter Road, Dieter Road, Carney Road, Logan Road, Hammond Road, Barber Road, Stong Hill Road, and Springwater Road in the Town of Sparta are steeply graded roads not designed for and are not able to withstand the heavy truck traffic and overweight vehicles associated with current uses, therefore requiring limitations for vehicle weights; and

WHEREAS, the Town received a draft law from the Town Attorney and reviewed said draft at the October 14, 2025 Town Board Meeting and now wishes to solicit the input of the public in regard to such draft law; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of said local law is to exclude commercial vehicles, tractors, tractor-trailer combinations, tractor-semitrailer combinations, or tractor-trailer-semitrailer combinations from highways specified by such town board in accordance with New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1660-17 from operating on the aforesaid Roads in the Town of Sparta; and

WHEREAS, such exclusion shall not be construed to prevent local delivery or pick up of merchandise or other property along the highways from which such vehicles and combinations are otherwise excluded, and shall not exclude school buses, snow plows, fire or emergency vehicles, and service vehicles; and

WHEREAS, that the Town Board of the Town of Sparta believes it is in the best interest of the Town of Sparta to hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of said local law; and

NOW ON MOTION OF Aaron Schreiner, which has been duly seconded by Deb Halpenny, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Sparta shall hold a public hearing on the proposed adoption of Local Law #2 of 2026, entitled “TRUCKS OVER CERTAIN WEIGHTS EXCLUDED” on the 10th day of February, 2026, at 7:05 p.m., at which time all interested parties and citizens for or against the proposed local law shall be entitled to be heard; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Sparta hereby directs the Town Clerk to publish a Notice of Public Hearing in the Town’s Official Newspaper, and to post such Notice at the Town Hall, no more than twenty (20) days nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent/Abstain:

All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Bill Smith to adopt the following Resolution:

**TOWN OF SPARTA
RESOLUTION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW
“NOTICE OF HIGHWAY DEFECTS”**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sparta met at a regular board meeting at the Town Offices located in the Town of Sparta, New York on the 13th day of January 2026, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at which time and place the following members were:

<u>Present:</u>	Supervisor	Mark Schuster
	Councilperson	Deb Halpenny
	Councilperson	Aaron Schreiner
	Councilperson	Mary Ellyn Merle
	Councilperson	Bill Smith

Absent:

WHEREAS, all Board Members, having due notice of said meeting, and that pursuant to Article 7, §104 of the Public Officers Law, said meeting was open to the general public and due and proper notice of the time and place whereof was given as required by law; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Sparta’s insurance company, New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (hereinafter referred to as “NYMIR”) suggested that the Town Board of the Town of Sparta enact a local law to supersede New York Town Law §65-A to provide maximum protection against lawsuits from defects to highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, or culverts; and

WHEREAS, NYMIR also recommended that the Town Clerk keep a log of the written prior notifications the Town has receives relative to defects to highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, or culverts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sparta finds it in the best interest of the Town to hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of said local law

NOW ON MOTION OF Deb Halpenny which has been duly seconded Bill Smith, be it

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Sparta will hold a public hearing on the proposed adoption of said local law on the 10th day of February, 2026 at 7:05 p.m., at which time all interested parties and citizens for or against the proposed law will be heard.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

All voted yes. Carried.

Assessor Holley Smalt reviewed her monthly report.

Code Enforcement Officer Ron Maxwell reviewed his report.

The 2025 books for the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Justice and Supervisor were audited by the Town Board. There were no findings.

General Bills were audited and approved for a total amount of \$8,104.15.
Highway bills were audited and approved for a total amount of \$17,229.56.
Street light bills were audited and approved for a total amount of \$527.29.

A motion was made by Bill Smith and seconded by Mary Ellyn Calabrese to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing proposed, pending or current litigation. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Deb Halpenny and seconded by Aaron Schriener to move out of Executive Session. All voted yes. Carried.

A motion was made by Bill Smith and seconded by Deb Halpenny to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Carried.

Next regular meeting will be held February 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

TOWN CLERK
Sheila Duffy