

1) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 9,2025 **DRAFT**

2) Roll Call

Board Members	Present	Excused	Town Officials	Present	Excused
Supervisor Joe Denis	X		Town Clerk, Paige Phillips	X	
Councilmember Carol Dimond		X	Highway Superintendent, Jay Rust	X	
Councilmember Gina Sarazen	X				
Councilmember Angela Rust	X				
Councilmember Tom Snye		X			

Guest: Marlene Ashton, Patty Reandeau, Zach Hoyt.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Supervisor Joe Denis.

4) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the minutes of December 18, 2024 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved. AYES: Town Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Rust, Sarazen. NAYS: 0

Public Hearing

5) Fire Department

Town Supervisor Joe Denis opened the public hearing on the Fire Department Contract at 7:01pm. Piercefield resident and volunteer firefighter Zachary Hoyt inquired about the new addition to the contract which states “The Fire Department must maintain a minimum of 7 active volunteers.” Zach questioned what the Town would specify as “active.” Fire Chief Jay Rust confirmed the Fire Department currently has 10 members that are active. Supervisor Denis closed the public hearing at 7:05.

6) Proposed Local Law

Town Supervisor Joe Denis opened the public hearing on the repeal of Local Law No.1 of 2024(A Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in general municipal law §3-C). No community members came to be heard regarding the repeal. The public hearing was closed at 7:06pm.

7) Monies Received

Refuse &Garbage	\$982.00
Insurance Recoveries	\$165.16
Fines, Forfeits,Bail	\$972.00
Licenses & Permits	\$3,768.00
Real Property Tax	\$47,000.00

Privilege of Floor

8) Assistance for Piercefield

Marlene Ashton and Patty Reandeau attended the meeting to update the Board on their efforts to secure consistent health services for Piercefield residents. Marlene and Patty have drafted a petition and received about 60 signatures so far. Marlene plans on attending the board meetings of other small towns in the surrounding areas as well; In doing so she hopes to raise awareness and receive more signatures on the petition. Marlene intends to send this petition to the county legislatures along with any news outlet she can to bring light to this issue.

9) Youth Center.

Patty Reandeau came to see if there are any updates on the youth center. The Highway Crew has not had spare time to do any of the repairs. A discussion was had on what area needs to be started first and if the heating source would need to change. Jay hopes to borrow scaffolding from Tupper Lake when they do the ceiling repairs. Highway Superintendent and the Town Supervisor will come up with a plan on where to start with the repairs so supplies can be ordered.

10) Highway

Highway Superintendent Jay Rust informed the Board that the transmission filter blew on the loader. The crew changed the filter but the pump is still not working properly. Jay estimates the cost of a new loader being \$199,191.00 on state bid. Jay would forego purchasing a new truck that was previously approved for purchase in February of 2025 to use \$100,000.00 of CHIPS to put towards the new loader. Jay also mentioned selling the current loader and old plow truck at auction which could potentially bring in \$40-\$50 thousand to put towards purchasing a new loader. Town Supervisor Joe Denis asked how much it would be to fix the transmission on the current loader. Jay

1) **REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 9,2025 **DRAFT****

was unable to gather prices before the meeting took place, but he estimates it to be around 40-50 thousand. Jay will do some research into what it would cost to repair the transmission on the 2015 loader.

11) Code Officer Report

Code Officer Nicholas Snyder reports things are slowing down for the winter. He has completed 1 site inspection, and received 4 phone calls that were not regarding complaints for the month of December.

Old Business

12) Local Law #1 of 2025

A public hearing for proposed Local Law No.1 was held on January 9, 2025 at 7:00pm.

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2025

TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE A LOCAL LAW REPEALING TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD LOCAL LAW NO 1 OF 2024 (A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C)

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield as follows:

Section 1.

Town of Piercefield Local Law No 1 of 2024 (“A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Piercefield”) is hereby repealed in its entirety

Section 2. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, Seconded by Supervisor Joe Denis, the adoption of Local Law No.1 of 2025 be approved. AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Sarazen and Rust. NAYS: 0

New Business

13) Roadside Parking

Town Clerk has asked for authorization to post an ad in the Tupper Lake Free Press regarding roadside parking in the winter. Roadside parking will be prohibited until April 1st to facilitate snow removal per the request of Highway Superintendent Jay Rust. On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, Seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, the Town Clerk is authorized to post notice in the Tupper Lake Free Press. AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Sarazen and Rust. NAYS: 0

14) Retirement Reporting

RESOLUTION NO.: 05-01-2025

DATED: January 9, 2025

RESOLUTION SETTING STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby authorizes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Title	Name	SSN (Last 4 digits)	Reg. #	Std Work Day	Term begins/ends	Participates in Employer’s Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/Month (based on Record of Activities)
Elected Officials							
Highway Superintendent	Jay Rust	xxxx	37528676	8 hr	01/01/24-12/31/27	N	22.09
Town Clerk	Paige Phillips	xxxx	13169032	6 hr	01/01/24-12/31/27	N	10.06
Town Justice	Jonn Kopp	xxxx	43566090	6hr	01/01/24-12/31/27	N	4.06
Councilmember	Gina Sarazen	xxxx	72240203	6 hr	01/01/24-12/31/27	N	0.44
Appointed Officials							
Code Enforcement Officer	Nicholas Snyder	xxxx		6 hr	1/01/25-12/31/25	N	2.56
Assessor	James Snyder	xxxx	40330854	6hr	1/01/23-9/30/25	N	6.20
		xxxx					

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, the foregoing resolution be adopted: AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Sarazen andRust. NAYS: 0 Adopted.

1) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 9,2025 **DRAFT**

15) Fire Company Contract

RESOLUTION NO.:01-02-25

Dated: January 9, 2025

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this 18th day of December, 2024, between the TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, St. Lawrence County New York, hereinafter designated as the “Town” and the PIERCEFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC. of Piercefield, New York, hereinafter designated as the “FIRE COMPANY”.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, there has been duly established in the Town a fire protection District known as “TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT” (hereinafter referred to as the “District”), encompassing the entire territory of the Town, pursuant to the Resolution establishing such District and duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town on August 7th, 1951, and the Order of the Town Board confirming the establishment of the district dated March 11th, 1997, and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing on January 9, 2025, duly called, the said Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into a contract with the Fire Company for fire protection to said District upon the terms and provisions herein set forth, and

WHEREAS, this Agreement has also been duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Fire Company,

NOW THEREFORE, The Town does engage the Fire Company to furnish fire protection to said District and the Fire Company agrees to furnish such protection in the following manner:

1. The Fire Company shall at all times during the period of this Agreement be subject to call for attendance upon any fire occurring in such District and when notified by alarm or telephone call from any person of a fire within the District, the Fire Company shall respond and attend upon the fire without delay with suitable ladder, pumping and hose apparatus of the Fire Company. Upon arriving at the scene of the fire, the foreman of the Fire Company attending shall proceed diligently and, in every way, reasonably suggested to the extinguishment of the fire and the saving of life and property in connection therewith.
2. In consideration of the furnishing of aid and the use of its apparatus as aforesaid, the Fire Company shall receive from the Town the sum of \$51,400.00 annually payable on or before February 1st annually. The Town may furnish gas and/or diesel fuel to the Fire Company for its vehicles and equipment in the amount of up to \$1,000.00 annually, the determined value of which shall be provided in lieu of a portion of the foregoing compensation. The value of any gas and/or diesel fuel furnished by the Town to the Fire Company shall be deducted from the payment due the Fire Company the following year.
3. All monies to be paid under the provisions of the Agreement shall be charged upon said District to be assessed and levied upon the taxable property in said District and collected with the Town taxes.
4. **This Agreement shall continue for the term of one (1) year from the 15th day of February, 2025 through the 14th day of February, 2026.**
5. The Fire Company hereby agrees that it will provide a liability insurance policy in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 with limits of \$1,000,000.0 for personal injury and \$125,935.00 for property damage, naming the Town as loss payee. A certificate of said insurance shall be furnished by the Fire Company to the Town before the effective date of this Agreement.
6. The Fire Company hereby agrees that it will maintain a minimum of 7 volunteer firefighters.
7. The Fire Company hereby indemnifies, defends, and holds harmless the Town from any and all claims, suits, actions or liabilities of any kind or nature that occur in connection with this agreement.
8. In the event that a new agreement is not negotiated by the date that the term for this Agreement ends, this agreement and its terms shall remain in full force and effect for ninety (90) days.

16) Holding Harmless

RESOLUTION NO.: 01-01-2025

DATED: January 19, 2025

HOLDING HARMLESS ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY FOR PROVIDING SERVICE FOR PIERCEFIELD

WHEREAS, the Town of Piercefield is desirous of St. Lawrence County Department of Highways providing shared services such as paving, shoulder widening, signage, road stripping, blasting and other routine maintenance activities to the Town, and

WHEREAS, both the Town of Piercefield and the County of St. Lawrence are desirous of promoting partnering efforts for the safety of the traveling public in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, in this joint cooperative endeavor, the Town of Piercefield and the County of St. Lawrence desire to be reimbursed for their expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the Town is aware that the County may incur liability in the providing of the services and wishes to indemnify the County in this regard, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that to the fullest extent permitted by law, the Town of Piercefield will indemnify and hold harmless the County, their officers, directors, partners, representatives, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, liens, judgments, damages, losses and expenses, including legal fees, and all court costs and liability (including statutory liability), arising in whole or in part and in any manner from injury and/or death of person or damage to, or loss of any property relating to or arising out of any negligent or intentional acts and/or omissions of the Town of Piercefield or any of its directors, officers, employees, contractors, representatives, or agents, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following request for General Liability (GL) coverage is as follows:

General Liability Insurance, on an “Occurrence” basis, with the following limits:

\$1,000,000	Each Occurrence
\$3,000,000	General Aggregate
\$1,000,000	Products Aggregate
\$1,000,000	Personal Injury
\$50,000	Fire Damage Legal Liability

1) **REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 9,2025 DRAFT**

\$5,000 Medical Payment Expense, and be it further

RESOLVED, that St. Lawrence County shall be an additional insured on the GL Policy, via ISO endorsement CG 2026.

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Gina Sarazen and seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Sarazen and Rust. NAYS:0

17) Bank Depository

RESOLUTION NO.: 03-01-2024

Dated: January 9, 2025

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE A DEPOSITORY FOR ALL TOWN FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby designates Community Bank N.A. as the official depository for all Town funds, the total of which shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), and be it further

RESOLVED, that all public deposits in excess of the FDIC-insured amounts shall be secured by a pledge of eligible securities by said Community Bank, N.A., and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following Town Officials are authorized to audit all Town accounts held at Community Bank, N.A. and to sign checks as required:

- Town Supervisor Joe Denis
- Councilmember Gina Sarazen
- Councilmember Carol Dimond
- Councilmember Angela Rust
- Councilmember Thomas Snye

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Gina Sarazen and seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Supervisor Joe Denis, Councilmember Angela Rust, and Councilmember Gina Sarazen. NAYS:0

18) Health Officer

RESOLUTION NO.: 04-01-2025

Dated: January 9, 2025

APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, each Town must appoint a Health Officer.

WHEREAS, we, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby appoint St Lawrence County Health Department, Director of Public Health to be our Appointed Health Officer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield approve the appointing of SLC Health Department Director of Public Health as the Town's Health Officer.

RESOLVED, that any needs for said Health Officer can be directed towards the SLC Dept of Public Health, reached by Telephone (315) 386-2325. 80 SH 310 Suite 2. Canton, NY 13617

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Town Supervisor Joe Denis and seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust. The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Supervisor Joe Denis, Councilmember Angela Rust and Councilmember Gina Sarazen. NAYS:0

19) Audit of Town Books

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, the Town Books be audited and approved AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Sarazen and Rust. NAYS: 0

20) Assessor Reappointment

RESOLUTION NO.: 06-01-2025

Dated: January 9, 2024

WHEREAS, Current Assessor James Snyder's term will end on 9/30/25

WHEREAS, We, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby reappoint James Snyder as Assessor for the Town of Piercefield, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield approve the reappointment of James Snyder as the Assessor, Term to begin 10/01/25 and end 09/30/31

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, James Snyder be reappointed to the position of Assessor. All in favor to reappoint James Snyder term ending 09/30/31. AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Sarazen and Rust NAYS: 0.

1) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 9,2025 **DRAFT**

21) Year End Finances

The year end finances are as follows:

- General-\$24,621.74
- Highway-\$115,086.82
- Conifer Water-\$12,347.31
- Piercefield Water-\$26,806.79

22) Supervisor Appointments

Supervisor/Council Appointments 2025

Town Supervisor	Joe Denis (1/24-12/31/25)
Deputy Town Supervisor:	Carol Dimond (1/2025-12/31/25)
Town Councilmember	Carol Dimond (1/24-12/31/25) unexpired term, elective position
Town Councilmember	Gina Sarazen (1/24-12-31/27) elective position
Town Councilmember	Angela Rust (1/24-12/31/27) elective position
Town Councilmember	Tom Snye 1/24-12/31/25) unexpired term, elective position
Town Clerk	Paige Phillips 1/24-12/31/25) elective position
Highway Superintendent	Jay Rust (1/24-12/31/27)
Bookkeeper:	Linda Pickering (1/1/25-12/31/25)
Registrar of Vital Statistics:	Paige Phillips (1/24-12/31/25)
Deputy Registrar:	Christielee Geiger (1/24-12/31/25)
Assessor	James Snyder(1/23-9/30/25)
Building Code Enforcement Officer:	Nicholas Snyder (1/1/25-12/31/25)
Health Officer:	SLC Dept of Public Health (1/1/25-12/31/25)
Planning Board Member Chair:	Dick Bentley (1/1/21-12/31/25)
Planning Board Member	Larry Lee (1/24-12/31/28)
Planning Board Member	Kate Bencze (1/24-12/28) unexpired term
Planning Board Member	Bruce Raver(1/25-12/29)
Board of Assessment Review	Ben Geiger (10/1/2020-9/30/25)
Board of Assessment Review Chair	Larry Lee (10/1/23 – 9/30/28)
Board of Assessment Review	Kate Bencze (1/1/24-12/31/28)
Town Justice	Jon Kopp (1/1/24-12/31/27)
Court Clerk:	Sherri Snyder (1/1/25-12/31/25)
Dog Control Officer:	Kim Kopp (1/1/25-12/31/25)
Town Historian:	Vanessa Methot (1/1/25-12/31/25)
Caretaker of Cemetery:	Roy Benware
Cemetery Committee:	Joe Denis, Patricia Reandeau, Tom Cullen, Roger Hassler, Mark McCuen, Roy Benware, Carrie Riley
Town Safety Committee:	Vacant (Chairman), Joe Denis, Vacant, Marvin Pickering, Jr., Jay Rust
Highway Safety Coordinator	Jay Rust
Town Insurance:	Blue Line Insurance
Town Attorney:	Kirk Gagnier, Esq.
Salary paid yearly to:	Town Board, Historian, Dog Control Officer, Deputy Supervisor, Safety Coordinator
Highway	
Salary paid monthly to:	Assessor, Code Enforcement Officer, Clerk, Bookkeeper, Justice, Court Clerk, Supervisor, Attorney
Travel Cost Allowance (IRS):	\$0.70/mile, effective 1/25
Per Day Allowance:	\$50.00/day
Board Meetings:	2nd Thursday @ 7:00 PM at Town Hall
Official Newspaper	Tupper Lake Free Press
Voting Machine Custodian	SLC Board of Elections
Official Bank:	Community Bank, NA
Petty Cash Funds:	Town Clerk: \$200.00 (actual cash) Town Hwy Supt: \$1,000.00 w/o prior Board approval Town Supervisor: \$200.00 w/o prior Board approval
Councilman Assignments:	Water Districts: Angela Rust Transfer Station: Joe Denis Youth, Parks & Rec: Gina Sarazen Hwy Dept. Liaison: Carol Dimond

23) Approval of Town Clerk Monthly Reports

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen the Clerk Reports for December 2024 be approved: AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers, Rust and Sarazen. NAYS: 0

24) Payment of Bills

On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen the following payments be approved AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Rust and Sarazen NAYS: 0

General Fund:	\$60,095.69
Highway Fund:	\$66,606.66
Lighting District	\$469.49.

1) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, January 9,2025 **DRAFT**

Conifer Water:	\$49.63
Piercefield Water:	\$1,112.34
Trust and Agency	\$9,397.65
Total	\$137,731.46

25) Adjournment

On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Paige Phillips, Town Clerk

Date Approved