

AGENDA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING - TOWN OF BOSTON
FEBRUARY 19, 2025 – 7:30 P.M.

ITEM NO. I PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Other Preliminary Matters

ITEM NO. II REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Correction and Adoption of the Minutes from February 5, 2025
2. Consideration of all Fund Bills

ITEM NO. III CORRESPONDENCE

1. Town Clerk's Report for January 2025
2. Dog Control Officer Report for January 2025
3. Code Enforcement Officer Report January 2025
4. Income Statement – December 2024 Preliminary
5. Income Statement – January 2025
6. Cash Balances – December 2024 and January 2025
7. Penflex – December 31, 2024 Sponsor Report for Volunteer Ambulance Worker Service Award Program
8. Erie County Environmental Management Council Annual Recommendations Report 2024
9. Press Release – February 4, 2025, NYSEG and RG&E are Leveraging AI to Create a More Resilient and Reliable Grid
10. Bread of Life Outreach Center, Who We Are!
11. NYAOT, 2025 Legislation to Know, Updated 2/7/2025
12. NYAOT, February 4, 2025 Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Executive Budget
13. NYAOT, 2024 Laws Digest
14. Town Clerk letter of appointment of Lisa Ranalletta as Deputy Town Clerk, Part-Time
15. Application for Use of Meeting Facility – NYMIR, Work Zone Safety Workshop
16. Letter from Senator Patrick Gallivan in support of Town of Boston funding

ITEM NO. IV NEW BUSINESS

1. Requests from the Floor (3-minute time limit per person)
2. Approval of 2024 Service Award points – Boston EMS
3. Approve Leave of Absence – Tina Weisedel
4. Appoint Deputy Town Clerk, Part-Time (\$21.41/hr.) – Lisa Ranalletta
5. Application for Use of Facility – Conservation Advisory Council – Snowshoe and Snowmen Event
6. Application for Use of Facility – Boys & Girls Club – July 9, 2025

ITEM NO. V OLD BUSINESS

ITEM NO. VI REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Highway Superintendent
2. Councilmembers
3. Town Clerk
4. Supervisor

ITEM NO. VII ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

1. Adjournment of Meeting

Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Cartechine and was seconded by Councilwoman Selby,

RESOLUTION 2025-18

ACCEPT PROPOSAL FROM TEXTMYGOV

The Town of Boston recognizes the need for improved communication channels between the town government and its residents to enhance accessibility, engagement, and responsiveness; and the Town Board has reviewed a proposal from TextMyGov, a smart texting technology service designed to facilitate direct communication between local government agencies and citizens through SMS messaging; and TextMyGov allows residents to ask questions, receive immediate responses, report issues, upload photos, and access town services through text messaging, thereby improving efficiency and community interaction.

The cost of implementing TextMyGov includes an annual subscription of \$4,000 per year for a three-year term, with a waived setup fee and access to unlimited users, departments, and support, as detailed in the proposal.

The Town Board of the Town of Boston hereby authorizes the adoption of TextMyGov communication services for the town's government operations and community engagement initiatives; and the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute the necessary agreements with TextMyGov and oversee the implementation process, including ensuring the required TextMyGov widget is placed on the town's website within the designated timeframe.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes

Carried

A motion was made by Councilwoman Selby and was seconded by Councilman Cartechine,

RESOLUTION 2025-19

**ACCEPT PROPOSAL FROM MUNIBIT FOR
WEBSITE REMODEL/HOSTING**

The Town of Boston recognizes the need to provide an accessible, user-friendly, and comprehensive website to serve the residents, visitors, and businesses of the community; and the Town Board has reviewed a proposal from Munibit, a website service provider offering customizable and interactive website solutions tailored to municipalities; and Munibit's pricing structure is based on the Town of Boston's population size of approximately 7,900, resulting in an annual cost of \$309 per month (billed annually at \$3,780.00), with no setup, design, or support fees.

The Town Board of the Town of Boston hereby authorizes the adoption of Munibit website services for the creation, hosting, and management of the town's website; and the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute any agreements necessary to implement Munibit's services and oversee the purchase of a custom domain for the website through an approved third-party provider.

Motion Con't:

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes Carried

A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and was seconded by Councilwoman Lucachik,

RESOLUTION 2025-20 AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF PARKS TRACTOR

The Parks Department is responsible for maintaining the green spaces owned by the town and providing certain mowing related services to the citizens of the Town of Boston; said Tractor is available for purchase from Deere & Company (Contract # PC69683) for the sum of \$15,303.66 by piggybacking off of the New York State Office of General Services Bid Award Number PGB-22792 as updated on December 24, 2024; and funding for this Tractor will be from account A00-7110-0200 Parks-Equipment.

The Town Board authorizes the purchase of a new John Deere 1025R Sub-Compact Utility Tractor (18 PTO hp) in an amount not to exceed \$15,303.66 by piggybacking off of the New York State Office of General Services Bid Award Number PGB-22792 as updated on December 24, 2024.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes Carried

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lucachik and was seconded by Councilwoman Selby,

RESOLUTION 2025-21 UPDATED AGREEMENT WITH ERIE COUNTY SPCA FOR ADOPTION OF SEIZED DOGS

The New York State Agriculture and Markets Law provides that dogs seized by the Town's Dog Control Officer must be held for the dog owner to redeem for prescribed periods of time; and the Town has a dog sheltering agreement with a private kennel to hold seized dogs during the statutory holding and redemption period, with the Town paying a daily boarding fee; and from time to time no owner can be identified and dogs are not redeemed during the statutory holding and redemption period and at the end of the redemption period, the owner forfeits title to the dog and it may be adopted, euthanized, or transferred; and the Town Board of the Town of Boston desires that whenever possible unredeemed dogs be offered for adoption; and in 2022 the Town entered into an agreement, subsequently reviewed in 2023, with the Erie County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals d/b/a SPCA Serving Erie County ("SPCA") for the SPCA to accept and to offer for adoption unredeemed dogs that remain in the Town's custody on expiration of the statutory holding

period and to provide other related services for the fees specified in that Agreement; and as a condition to continuing to provide services to the Town, the SPCA has requested that the Town enter into an updated agreement. The Town Board of the Town of Boston hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an updated agreement dated October 10, 2024, with the SPCA Serving Erie County to provide for adoption of seized but unredeemed dogs.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Cartechine and was seconded by Councilwoman Martin,

RESOLUTION 2025-22

AMENDED DOG SHELTERING AGREEMENT
WITH EDEN VETERINARY CLINIC PLLC

Pursuant to the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law the Town of Boston requires a facility to shelter seized and impounded dogs; and pursuant to Resolution No. 2018-37, the Town Board authorized the Town Supervisor to enter into a Dog Sheltering Agreement with Eden Veterinary Clinic PLLC; and the Town Supervisor entered into said Agreement with Eden Veterinary Clinic PLLC on August 16, 2018 for a one year term and with automatic annual renewals; and Eden Veterinary Clinic PLLC has requested an Amended Dog Sheltering Agreement that includes additional protocols concerning unclaimed and unidentified dogs; and the Town Board desires to continue contract with Eden Veterinary Clinic PLLC for the required services by entering into the proposed Amended Dog Sheltering Agreement.
On behalf of the Town of Boston, the Town Supervisor hereby is authorized to enter into a revised Amended Dog Sheltering Agreement with Eden Veterinary Clinic PLLC.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Cartechine and was seconded by Councilwoman Lucachik to approve Matthew Barry, Jayden Esford, Mason Morey, and Nathan Tatford to the Boston Volunteer Fire Company Junior Firefighter Program.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes Carried

A motion was made by Councilwoman Selby and was seconded by Councilman Cartechine to approve applications for annual refuse licenses: MRC Disposal Inc., Modern Disposal Services, Inc, and Waste Management of NY, LLC.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes Carried

Old business:

A motion was made by Supervisor Keding and was seconded by Councilman Cartechine to appoint Michael Lavtar as part-time Laborer, rate of pay of \$21.41 an hour.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		

five (5) Yes Carried

Reports and Presentations:

Councilwoman Selby reported on the following:

Happy to see that the Town is moving in the right direction as far as technology is concerned. It is important to keep up with changes, we will have a new website and TextMyGov. Maybe in the future we will be paper free.

Councilman Cartechine reported on the following:

Addressed the audience regarding eliminating paper packets and the use of tablets with a digital packet, conversation ensued. The junior firefighter program at Boston Fire Company has really grown and those young residents involved are dedicated, they have jobs to do while they are at the hall. We recognize Barbara Moore for all the work that she does with the blood drive, and was very happy to see her get recognition by ConnectLife. I am proud to participate in that blood drive, Barbara reaches out every eight weeks with a phone call to schedule a time. Boston Colden Fire Chief Council meeting last week. Thanked Bob our new code enforcement officer and Deputy Miller for attending. The companies submitted for grants, North Boston took the lead for the regional grant, they applied for Federal funding for a new air bank system.

Councilwoman Lucachik reported on the following:

There is no Planning Board meeting anticipated this month, hopefully one will be scheduled for March.

Councilwoman Martin reported on the following:

Annual Snowmen and Snowshoe event for Conservation Advisory Council is planned for February 22nd. Recognized Barbara Moore for her hard work and she is the driving force behind our successful blood drives. Thanked Bob, our new part time code enforcement officer for putting in the work, he came and introduced himself and gave us a background of what he has been working on. Zoning Board has been cancelled the last two months, March meeting is being planned. Hopefully everything will get caught up with our two new part-time code enforcement officers.

Town Clerk Quinlan reported on the following:

Yesterday at Town Hall courtroom there was a HEAP outreach for emergency services. Erie County representatives were steady with applicants. There will be a HEAP cooling event scheduled for April, more information to come. 2025 Town and County taxes are being prepared, to be mailed out mid-February and are due Monday March 17th. Public notice will be published in the Springville Journal. Erie County Department of Senior Services, Guide to Services, pertinent information for seniors and anyone needing Erie County phone numbers, on the table in the foyer and copies in my office. Scholarship opportunities for Town of Boston high school seniors; Boston Lions Club Scholarship, up to \$1,000, email bostonlionsclub@gmail.com for more information, and Boston Democratic Social Club Scholarship, up to \$500, email 411eci@gmail.com for more information. Town Hall will be closed on Monday February 17th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Supervisor Keding reported on the following:

Barbara Moore does do a lot for our community, looking back she was honored by ConnectLife with a plaque and the current article has been shared on social media and the Town Facebook page. Kissing Bridge reached out to the Town Hall, they have 50% off lift tickets for Town of Boston residents on February 13th. Update on salt shortage, seems to be getting better. Everyone from the State down; Office of General Services, Governor's office, Erie County is working on this. There were some Towns that were without salt. You may have seen a lot more snow packed roads or more sand usage. Thanks to our Highway Superintendent, we continue to remain in good shape, we have more salt coming in. Update on Erie County Sewer District #3, in the Spring they will be going back out to bid, there is a sewer line crossing. Erie County Sewer Authority is working with another division from Erie County for the permitting process. This is the area of Patchin Road to Back Creek. As the outgoing President; thanked the Association of Erie County Governments, Supervisors and Mayors, for the opportunity to serve. Meeting once a month to talk about issues and work together.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2025

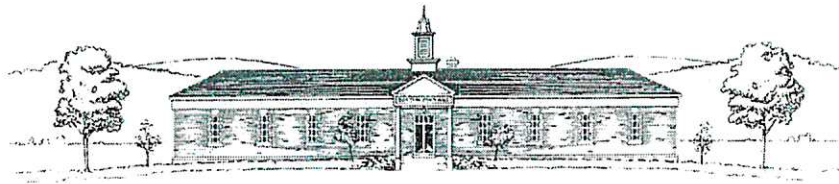
DRAFT

TOWN HALL
7:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Supervisor Keding and was seconded by Councilwoman Lucachik to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Supervisor Keding	Yes	Councilman Cartechine	Yes
Councilwoman Lucachik	Yes	Councilwoman Martin	Yes
Councilwoman Selby	Yes		
five (5) Yes			Carried

SANDRA L. QUINLAN, BOSTON TOWN CLERK



TOWN OF BOSTON

Town Board Meeting: February 19, 2025 Meeting

Abstract #1 – 2024 Payables Journal #PA-4842 \$ 12,346.06

Abstract #2 – 2025 Payables Journal #AP-4843 \$ 117,656.82

Less Credit – A Fund Barclay Damon - 285.00

Less Credit – DB Fund Genuine Parts Co. (NAPA) - 4.16

\$ 117,367.66

Abstract #3 – Solar Escrow Payments Journal #AP-4844 \$ 1,048.94

Total Payables Due

\$ 130,762.66

Breakout by Fund:	2024	2025	Total
General (A) Fund:	\$ 7,716.33	\$ 25,225.24	\$ 32,941.57
Highway (DB) Fund:	\$ 4,629.73	\$ 11,474.00	\$ 16,103.73
Lighting (L30) Fund:	\$ -	\$ 1,474.31	\$ 1,474.31
Fire (SF) Fund:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance (SM) Fund:	\$ -	\$ 458.06	\$ 458.06
Refuse & Garbage (SG) Fund:	\$ -	\$ 78,611.05	\$ 78,611.05
Water Funds:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trust & Agency (TA):	\$ -	\$ 1,173.94	\$ 1,173.94
Capital Projects (H):	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Total expenses submitted for approval:

\$ 12,346.06 \$ 118,416.60 \$ 130,762.66

TOWN HALL, 8500 BOSTON STATE ROAD, BOSTON, NEW YORK 14025
PHONE: (716) 941-6113 FAX: (716) 941-6116 TDD: 1-800-662-1220

The Town of Boston is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

February 19, 2025 - A B S T R A C T – 2024 Payables

Town of Boston Journal Proof Report Fiscal Year: 2024

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: PA - 4842		Journal Desc: AP Batch 50		Journal Date: 12/31/2024		Account Period: 13 - Post Closing		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ	Seq #	
A00-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund A00 Prior AP Account	12/31/2024	Fund A00 Prior AP Account	\$0.00	\$7,716.33	\$0.00	8	
A00-0690-0000-0000	CLEARING ACCT-JUSTICE	OFFICE OF STATE COMPTROLLER 1430830-2024-12-01 December 2024 - Justice Court Funds to State/County	12/31/2024	Vendor#: 178	\$3,709.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2	
A00-1440-0400-0000	ENGINEER- CONTR	LaBella Associates 253117 Project No. 2190909 - General Services (11/23/24 - 12/27/24)	12/31/2024	Vendor#: 1901	\$2,970.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	
A00-1650-0400-0000	CENT COMMUNICATIONS- CONTR	Surdej Web Solutions, LLC 3548 1 Year of Managed Wordpress Hosting - Dec. 2024 - Nov. 2025	12/31/2024	Vendor#: 1939	\$359.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	4	
A00-1920-0000-0000	MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION DUES	N.E.S.T. 2024 Dues 2024 Membership Dues - N.E.S.T. Solid Waste Management Board	12/31/2024	Vendor#: 342	\$594.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	
A00-5010-0400-0000	HIGHWAY SUPT-CONTR	EATON OFFICE SUPPLY CO., INC. PINV1234784 Highway - Hanging folders, desk pad, push pins, expo markers, cork board, wall calendar, laminated calendar	12/31/2024	Vendor#: 1320	\$82.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	7	
DB0-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund DB0 Prior AP Account	12/31/2024	Fund DB0 Prior AP Account	\$0.00	\$4,629.73	\$0.00	9	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	FLEET MAINTENANCE INC. 104588 Repair on 2020 Western Star 4900SA - Diagnostic & Replaced Ignition Relay	12/31/2024	Vendor#: 445	\$1,403.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	5	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	TOWN OF COLLINS 40326 Sweeper Parts Sales - 1/2 of invoiced cost	12/31/2024	Vendor#: 1263	\$3,225.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	6	
Total Number of 9 Transactions			No Errors		\$12,346.06	\$12,346.06	\$0.00		

PA - 4842 Summary By Fund Number

Fund	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ
A00	\$7,716.33	\$7,716.33	\$0.00
DB0	\$4,629.73	\$4,629.73	\$0.00
Total	\$12,346.06	\$12,346.06	\$0.00

February 19, 2025 - A B S T R A C T – 2025 Payables

Town of Boston Journal Proof Report Fiscal Year: 2025

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4843		Journal Desc: AP Batch 5		Journal Date: 2/19/2025		Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ	Seq #	
A00-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund A00 AP Account	2/19/2025	Fund A00 AP Account	\$0.00	\$25,225.24	\$0.00	95	
A00-1110-4000-0000	TOWN JUSTICE-CONTR	James Lembke 1/27/2025 Substitute Court Officer (3 hrs @ \$30/hr)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1985	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	92	
A00-1110-4000-0000	TOWN JUSTICE-CONTR	James Lembke 2/3/2025 Substitute Court Officer (2.25 hrs @ \$30/hr)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1985	\$67.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	93	
A00-1110-4000-0000	TOWN JUSTICE-CONTR	NYSAMCC, Inc. 2025 Dues 2025 Membership Dues for Karen Miller & Rebecca Neudeck	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1763	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	12	
A00-1220-0400-0000	SUPERVISOR- CONTR	Amazon Capital Services 19WP- N9QW-K7QV Supervisor - Dividers, highlighters, date stamp, white out / Buildings - Kleenex	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2003	\$45.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	2	
A00-1410-0401-0000	TOWN CLERK- CONTR	ECTCTCA 2025 Dues 2025 Erie County Town Clerks & Tax Collectors Association (ECTCTCA) Membership Dues	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1614	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	13	
A00-1420-0401-0000	ATTORNEY- CONTR	Barclay Damon, LLP 5324577 Professional Services Through 1/31/2025 - AML 305-a Review of Horseshoe Hill LLC (Res. 2024-72, 2024-77, 2025-16)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1726	\$5,340.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	60	
A00-1420-0401-0000	ATTORNEY- CONTR	Barclay Damon, LLP 5324577 Professional Services Through 1/31/2025 - AML 305-a Review of Horseshoe Hill LLC (Res. 2024-72, 2024-77, 2025-16)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1726	\$0.00	\$285.00	\$0.00	61	
A00-1440-0400-0000	ENGINEER- CONTR	CPL 105983 Project No. R25.17299.00 - General Services - Tennis Court Fence - Services Ending 1/24/25	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1918	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	59	
A00-1460-0401-0000	RECORDS MGT- CONTR	Toshiba America Business Solutions 6478553 DocuWare Cloud Storage - Software Support 2/1/25 - 2/28/25	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2080	\$306.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	72	
A00-1620-0400-0000	BUILDINGS- CONTR	RUCKER LUMBER INC. BLDG Acct. - Jan. 2025 BLDG Acct. #1475 - Invoice #185345	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 24	\$15.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	73	
A00-1620-0400-0000	BUILDINGS- CONTR	NATIONAL FUEL 2/2025 - Acct. #3237465 08 Acct. #3237465 08 - Town Hall - February 2025 (806 CCF)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 726	\$232.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	18	
A00-1620-0400-0000	BUILDINGS- CONTR	Amazon Capital Services 19WP- N9QW-K7QV Supervisor - Dividers, highlighters, date stamp, white out / Buildings - Kleenex	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2003	\$25.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	
A00-1620-0400-0000	BUILDINGS- CONTR	SHARE CORP. 294126 Buildings - Mint Cleaner & Deodorizer; Freight	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 236	\$209.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	24	
A00-1620-0400-0000	BUILDINGS- CONTR	Cintas 4219910251 Town Hall - 32 gallon trash bags (5)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1758	\$41.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	58	

**Town of Boston
Journal Proof Report
Fiscal Year: 2025**

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4843		Journal Desc: AP Batch 5		Journal Date: 2/19/2025		Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC	LIQ	Seq #
A00-1620-0400-0000	BUILDINGS- CONTR	Cintas 4220646326 Town Hall - (13) Mats	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1758	\$130.40	\$0.00	\$0.00		62
A00-1620-0400-0000	BUILDINGS- CONTR	Cintas 4220646291 Town Hall - (1) Community Room 4'x8' mat	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1758	\$19.83	\$0.00	\$0.00		65
A00-1620-0402-0000	BUILDING- CONTR-REC CENTER	A Village Locksmith 121747 Service Call - Boys & Girls Club Door Lock Alarm	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1617	\$169.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		1
A00-1620-0402-0000	BUILDING- CONTR-REC CENTER	NATIONAL FUEL 2/2025 - Acct. #6897553 08 Acct. #6897553 08 - Boys & Girls Club - February 2025 (306 CCF)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 726	\$106.65	\$0.00	\$0.00		16
A00-1650-0400-0000	CENT COMMUNICATIONS- CONTR	Vaspian, LLC INV-028112 February 2025 Billing - VOIP Phone Systems (20 extensions)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1947	\$408.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		8
A00-1650-0400-0000	CENT COMMUNICATIONS- CONTR	whynetWorks 00005780 January 2025 - IT System Support (4 hrs)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1703	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		25
A00-1650-0400-0000	CENT COMMUNICATIONS- CONTR	TSL CO. INC. 677 2025 Tax Software and Webpage Maintenance; Web Data Hosting	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 70	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		31
A00-1650-0400-0000	CENT COMMUNICATIONS- CONTR	GENERAL CODE PUBLISHERS GC00128935 eCode360 Annual Maintenance Fee (Online code Book) 2/1/25 - 1/31/26	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 58	\$1,195.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		37
A00-1650-0400-0000	CENT COMMUNICATIONS- CONTR	MembershipWare, LLC 25791A25-0001 Munibit Municipal Website (2/6/25 - 2/6/26) - Resolution 2025-19	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2120	\$3,708.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		38
A00-1670-0403-0000	CENT PRINT/MAIL- CONTR	Quadient Finance USA, Inc. 1/24/25 Acct. #7900 0440 8021 9839 - Postage Balance	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1943	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		9
A00-1670-0403-0000	CENT PRINT/MAIL- CONTR	EATON OFFICE SUPPLY CO., INC. PINV1249478 Central Print/Mail - 20 Cases of Paper	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1320	\$799.80	\$0.00	\$0.00		14
A00-1670-0403-0000	CENT PRINT/MAIL- CONTR	LINEAGE INV329158 Mail Machine Maintenance 3/25/25- /24/26 (Contract #N21031166-01)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1489	\$1,555.20	\$0.00	\$0.00		74
A00-1670-0403-0000	CENT PRINT/MAIL- CONTR	WNY IMAGING SYSTEMS 334907 Kyocera/TASKalfa 358ci (Supervisor's Office Printer)- Q1 Contract Charge and Q4 Overage supplies	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1239	\$135.04	\$0.00	\$0.00		94
A00-1920-0000-0000	MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION DUES	WNY SOUTHTOWNS SCENIC BYWAY 2025 Dues 2025 Membership Dues	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1344	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		35
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$18.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		75
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$25.53	\$0.00	\$0.00		76
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$510.31	\$0.00	\$0.00		77

**Town of Boston
Journal Proof Report
Fiscal Year: 2025**

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4843		Journal Desc: AP Batch 5		Journal Date: 2/19/2025		Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ	Seq #	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$2.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	78	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$131.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	79	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$60.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	80	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$14.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	81	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$938.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	82	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$2,477.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	83	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$13.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	84	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$0.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	85	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$79.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	86	
A00-1950-0000-0000	TAXES & ASSESSMNTS ON PROPERTY	Sandra Quinlan, Tax Collector 2025 Town & County Taxes 2025 Town & County Taxes	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1769	\$130.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	87	
A00-3620-0400-0000	SAFETY INSPECT- CONTR	Amazon Capital Services 1JP9- J17P-4T31 Code Enforcement - Address book, Desk Calendar, S&H	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2003	\$40.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	36	
A00-3620-0400-0000	SAFETY INSPECT- CONTR	Amazon Capital Services 1PW7- CT3P-DC1K Code Enforcement - 18 Month Calendar, S&H	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2003	\$12.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	32	
A00-3620-0400-0000	SAFETY INSPECT- CONTR	Amazon Capital Services 1G7C- 79X3-JNRK Code Enforcement - 200 pack shoe covers, Rooftop Light bar (x2), S&H	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2003	\$157.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	33	
A00-3620-0400-0000	SAFETY INSPECT- CONTR	Amazon Capital Services 1HC4- 3MGF-HPPG Code Enforcement - Stapler, Hanging file bars (2), File organizer (2), Magnetic file holders, hanging file folders, pen holder, scissors, S&H	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2003	\$193.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	34	
A00-5132-0400-0000	GARAGE-CONTR	NATIONAL FUEL 2/2025 - Acct. #3237464 10 Acct. #3237464 10 - Highway Garage - February 2025 (1970 CCF)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 726	\$503.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	15	
A00-5132-0400-0000	GARAGE-CONTR	Cintas 4220147577 Highway - Uniforms	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1758	\$61.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	40	

**Town of Boston
Journal Proof Report
Fiscal Year: 2025**

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4843		Journal Desc: AP Batch 5		Journal Date: 2/19/2025		Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC	LIQ	Seq #
A00-5132-0400-0000	GARAGE-CONTR	Cintas 4220646327 Highway - (7) Mats, (660) Shop Towels	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1758	\$63.26	\$0.00	\$0.00		63
A00-5132-0400-0000	GARAGE-CONTR	Cintas 4220646327 Highway - (7) Mats, (660) Shop Towels	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1758	\$103.80	\$0.00	\$0.00		64
A00-5182-0400-0000	STREET LIGHTING-CONTR	NYSEG 1/25 - Acct. #1005-2715-660 Acct. #1005-2715-660 - 219 Lights (289 kwh)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 37	\$24.39	\$0.00	\$0.00		21
A00-5182-0400-0000	STREET LIGHTING-CONTR	NYSEG 1/25 - Acct. #1001-3627-426 Acct. #1001-3627-426 - St. Light Entire R2 (1530 kwh)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 37	\$142.69	\$0.00	\$0.00		22
A00-5182-0400-0000	STREET LIGHTING-CONTR	NYSEG 1/25 - Acct. #1001-3627-434 Acct. #1001-3627-434 - St. Light, Entire R3 (3671 kwh)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 37	\$1,736.01	\$0.00	\$0.00		23
A00-5182-0400-0000	STREET LIGHTING-CONTR	Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. 70127616001 Acct. #15446176 - NYSEG Energy Supply - St. Light Entire R2 (1/25) 1530 kwh	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2100	\$118.72	\$0.00	\$0.00		30
A00-5182-0400-0000	STREET LIGHTING-CONTR	Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. 70127616401 Acct. #15446169 - NYSEG Energy Supply - St. Light Entire R3 (1/25) 3671 kwh	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2100	\$284.83	\$0.00	\$0.00		27
A00-5182-0400-0000	STREET LIGHTING-CONTR	Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. 70127746801 Acct. #15446180 - NYSEG Energy Supply - 219 Lights (1/25) 289 kwh	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2100	\$22.42	\$0.00	\$0.00		28
A00-6772-0400-0000	PROGRAMS FOR AGING-CONTR	McCullagh Coffee 123784 Coffee For Nutrition Program	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1768	\$104.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		10
A00-7110-0400-0000	PARKS- CONTR	BOSTON HIGHWAY DEPT. January 2025 - Parks January 2025 - Parks Gas (106.7 gallons)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 90	\$299.83	\$0.00	\$0.00		56
DB0-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund DB0 AP Account	2/19/2025	Fund DB0 AP Account	\$0.00	\$11,474.00	\$0.00		96
DB0-5110-0410-0000	GEN REPAIRS-FUEL & DIESEL	Superior Lubricants Company, Inc. 801707 Ultrapure Diesel Exhaust Fluid; 55 GL Drum Deposit; Fuel Surcharge; Drum Deposit return	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2034	\$270.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		91
DB0-5110-0410-0000	GEN REPAIRS-FUEL & DIESEL	DECKMAN OIL COMPANY 801645 119/LB Petro-Canada Peerless OG2 Red Grease	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 147	\$689.84	\$0.00	\$0.00		67
DB0-5110-0410-0000	GEN REPAIRS-FUEL & DIESEL	KURK FUEL COMPANY 26800 Diesel Fuel - 1000 gallons (2.9764 per gallon)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 17	\$2,976.40	\$0.00	\$0.00		88
DB0-5110-0410-0000	GEN REPAIRS-FUEL & DIESEL	KURK FUEL COMPANY 26901 Diesel Fuel - 499.40 gallons (2.9764 per gallon)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 17	\$1,486.41	\$0.00	\$0.00		89
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	FLEET PRIDE 123129384 Kit Masters Thermal Switch	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 177	\$108.99	\$0.00	\$0.00		90
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Amazon Capital Services 1F7C-YVFH-DJDM Highway - Locking Pliers, Edge Trim, Locking pliers, Hole saw kit, Combination wrench, Pin wrench, Roof top mini strobe light, Car charger, Angle grinder	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2003	\$222.54	\$0.00	\$0.00		41

**Town of Boston
Journal Proof Report
Fiscal Year: 2025**

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4843		Journal Desc: AP Batch 5		Journal Date: 2/19/2025		Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ	Seq #	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	RUCKER LUMBER INC. HWY - Jan 2025 HWY Acct. #1470 - Invoice #'s 185249, 185257	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 24	\$3.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	42	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	RUCKER LUMBER INC. HWY - Jan 2025 HWY Acct. #1470 - Invoice #'s 185249, 185257	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 24	\$16.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	43	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$180.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	44	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$117.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	45	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$7.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	46	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$18.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	47	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$0.00	\$4.16	\$0.00	48	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$19.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	49	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$45.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	50	
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$66.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	51	

**Town of Boston
Journal Proof Report
Fiscal Year: 2025**

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4843		Journal Desc: AP Batch 5		Journal Date: 2/19/2025	Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ	Seq #
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$7.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	52
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	Genuine Parts Company - NAPA Auto Parts Jan 2025 -HWY Stmt. HWY Acct. #1961772 - Invoices 294714, 294880, 295093, 295227, 295309, 295526, 295881, 296212, 296483, 296769	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 204	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	53
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	WNY Auto Supply Jan 2025 - HWY Highway Acct. #140 - Invoice #238892	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2078	\$89.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	54
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	VALLEY FAB & EQUIP, INC. 137625 2" Square Tubing 11GA (20 ft), Plow Marker 36 inch	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 134	\$213.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	4
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	EMERLING FORD, INC. 281193 Engine Oil Filter Kit Element and Gasket (2)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 409	\$65.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	39
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	VALLEY FAB & EQUIP, INC. 137733 Female Brace Tube	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 134	\$265.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	66
DB0-5130-0400-0000	MACHINERY- CONTRACTUAL	ALLOY WELDING & FABRICATING, I 5903 (1) Piece of 3/16 carbon steel floor sheet to fit inside dump body	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 879	\$1,490.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	57
DB0-5142-0400-0000	SNOW REMOVAL- CONTRACTUAL	AMERICAN ROCK SALT CO LLC 0786568 Salt (35.70 Tons) - Ticket 1180239	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 135	\$1,544.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	5
DB0-5142-0400-0000	SNOW REMOVAL- CONTRACTUAL	AMERICAN ROCK SALT CO LLC 0786955 Salt (35.53 tons) - Ticket 1180552	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 135	\$1,537.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	6
L30-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund L30 AP Account	2/19/2025	Fund L30 AP Account	\$0.00	\$1,474.31	\$0.00	99
L30-5182-0401-0000	CONTRACTS	NYSEG 1/25 - Acct. #1001-3627-400 Acct. #1001-3627-400 - St. Light Dist. 1, R2 (477 kwh)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 37	\$63.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	19
L30-5182-0401-0000	CONTRACTS	NYSEG 1/25 - Acct. #1001-3627-418 Acct. #1001-3627-418 - St. Light Dist. 1, R3 (2384 kwh)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 37	\$1,188.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	20
L30-5182-0401-0000	CONTRACTS	Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. 701276151401 Acct. #15446174 - NYSEG Energy Supply - St. Light District 1, R3 (1/25) 2384 kwh	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2100	\$184.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	29
L30-5182-0401-0000	CONTRACTS	Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. 70127614301 Acct.#15446172 - NYSEG Energy Supply - St. Light Dist. 1, R2 (1/25) 477 kwh	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 2100	\$37.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	26
SG0-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund SG0 AP Account	2/19/2025	Fund SG0 AP Account	\$0.00	\$78,611.05	\$0.00	100

February 19, 2025 - A B S T R A C T – 2025 Payables

Town of Boston Journal Proof Report Fiscal Year: 2025

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4843		Journal Desc: AP Batch 5		Journal Date: 2/19/2025		Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ	Seq #	
SG0-8160-0401-0000	GARBAGE CONTRACTUAL BFI	WASTE MANAGEMENT 0043485-1342-7 January 2025 Curb Service & Hazardous Waste Collection / December 2024 Recycling Charge (52.27 tons)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 432	\$67,288.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	68	
SG0-8160-0401-0000	GARBAGE CONTRACTUAL BFI	WASTE MANAGEMENT 0043485-1342-7 January 2025 Curb Service & Hazardous Waste Collection / December 2024 Recycling Charge (52.27 tons)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 432	\$7,707.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	69	
SG0-8160-0401-0000	GARBAGE CONTRACTUAL BFI	WASTE MANAGEMENT 0043485-1342-7 January 2025 Curb Service & Hazardous Waste Collection / December 2024 Recycling Charge (52.27 tons)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 432	\$3,604.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	70	
SG0-8160-0401-0000	GARBAGE CONTRACTUAL BFI	WASTE MANAGEMENT 0043485-1342-7 January 2025 Curb Service & Hazardous Waste Collection / December 2024 Recycling Charge (52.27 tons)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 432	\$10.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	71	
SM0-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund SM0 AP Account	2/19/2025	Fund SM0 AP Account	\$0.00	\$458.06	\$0.00	97	
SM0-4540-0400-0000	CONTRACTUAL	NATIONAL FUEL 2/2025 - Acct. #3237466 06 Acct. #3237466 06 - EMS Building - February 2025 (529 CCF)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 726	\$168.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	17	
SM0-4540-0400-0000	CONTRACTUAL	HEALTHWORKS-WNY, LLP 529625 Boston EMS - Physical & Respirator Test (1/24/25)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1499	\$84.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	7	
SM0-4540-0400-0000	CONTRACTUAL	BOSTON HIGHWAY DEPT. January 2025 - EMS January 2025 - EMS Gas (73.20 gallons)	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 90	\$205.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	55	
TA0-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund TA0 AP Account	2/19/2025	Fund TA0 AP Account	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	98	
TA0-1000-0080-0000	Dog Shelter Fees	Eden Veterinary Clinic, PLLC 2299117 2/1/25 - Stray Dog - Boarding (3 days) + Rabies Vaccine	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1860	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	11	
Total Number of 100 Transactions			No Errors		\$117,656.82	\$117,656.82	\$0.00		

AP - 4843 Summary By Fund Number

Fund	Debit	Credit	ENC/LIQ
A00	\$25,510.24	\$25,510.24	\$0.00
DB0	\$11,478.16	\$11,478.16	\$0.00
L30	\$1,474.31	\$1,474.31	\$0.00
SG0	\$78,611.05	\$78,611.05	\$0.00
SM0	\$458.06	\$458.06	\$0.00
TA0	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$0.00
Total	\$117,656.82	\$117,656.82	\$0.00

February 19, 2025 - A B S T R A C T – Solar Escrow Payables

Town of Boston
Journal Proof Report
Fiscal Year: 2025

Created By: epericak

Journal Number: AP - 4844		Journal Desc: AP Batch 7		Journal Date: 2/19/2025		Account Period: 2 - Feb		Status: Currently Active	
Account#	Account Description	Trans Description	Date	Reference	Debit	Credit	ENC	LIQ	Seq #
TA0-0600-0000-0000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	Fund.TA0 AP Account	2/19/2025	Fund TA0 AP Account	\$0.00	\$1,048.94	\$0.00		2
TA0-1000-0031-0000	SOLAR ESCROW	CPL 105973 Project No. R25.17368.00 - Feddick Rd. Solar - Services Ending 1/24/25	2/19/2025	Vendor#: 1918	\$1,048.94	\$0.00	\$0.00		1
Total Number of 2 Transactions			No Errors		<u>\$1,048.94</u>	<u>\$1,048.94</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>		

AP - 4844 Summary By Fund Number

Fund	Debit	Credit	ENC\LIQ
TA0	\$1,048.94	\$1,048.94	\$0.00
Total	\$1,048.94	\$1,048.94	\$0.00

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

TOWN OF BOSTON, NEW YORK

JANUARY, 2025

TO THE SUPERVISOR:

PAGE 1

Pursuant to Section 27, Subd 1 of the Town Law, I hereby make the following statement of all fees and moneys received by me in connection with my office during the month stated above, excepting only such fees and moneys the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by Law:

A1255

<u>2</u>	DECALS	<u>1.66</u>
<u>9</u>	DEATH CERTIFICATES	<u>90.00</u>
<u>19</u>	FAXES	<u>4.75</u>

TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES

96.41

A2544

<u>50</u>	DOG LICENSES	<u>455.00</u>
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TOTAL A2544

455.00

A2555

<u>8</u>	BUILDING PERMITS	<u>1,160.00</u>
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TOTAL A2555

1,160.00

SR2130

<u>25</u>	WM BAG STICKER	<u>75.00</u>
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TOTAL SR2130

75.00

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY, 2025

page 2

DISBURSEMENTS

PAID TO SUPERVISOR FOR GENERAL FUND	1,711.41
PAID TO SUPERVISOR FOR REFUSE & GARBAGE	75.00
PAID TO NYSDEC FOR DECALS	28.34
PAID TO NYS ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM	53.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	1,867.75

FEBRUARY 1, 2025

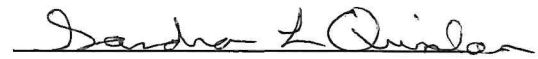

JASON KEDING

, SUPERVISOR

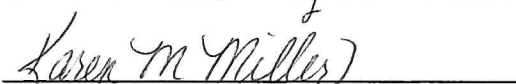
STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF ERIE, TOWN OF BOSTON

I, SANDRA QUINLAN, being duly sworn, says that I am the Clerk of the TOWN OF BOSTON that the foregoing is a full and true statement of all Fees and moneys received by me during the month above stated, excepting only such Fees the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by law.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this


Town Clerk

4th day of February 2025


Notary Public

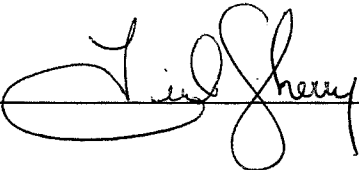
KAREN M. MILLER
Notary Public, State of New York
Reg. No. 01M16385215
Qualified in Erie County
Commission Expires 12-31-2026


FEB 10 2025

TOWN OF BOSTON DOG CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Month of : January 2025

<u>Dates of Month</u>	1st Week 1st - 7th	2nd Week 8th - 14th	3rd Week 15th - 21st	4th Week 22nd - 31st	TOTALS
Phone Calls Received	2	2	-	1	5
Phone Calls Returned	2	2	-	1	5
# of alive dogs picked up	0	0	0	0	0
# of dead dogs picked up	0	0	0	0	0
# of dogs released to owner	0	0	0	0	0
# of dogs euthenized	0	0	0	0	0
# of dogs adopted	0	0	0	0	0
# of dogs impounded	0	0	0	0	0

Signature of Dog Controll Officer: 

Date Submitted: 1-31-25

RECEIVED
 BOSTON TOWN CLERK

END OF MONTH REPORT - JANUARY 2025

MONTH	PERMIT #	PERMIT FEE	STRUCTURE VALUE	NAME	LOCATION	ACTION COMPLETED
1/8/2025	B25-01	\$50.00	\$13,620.00	LINDA NERI		GENERATOR
1/10/2025	B25-02	NO FEE	\$550,000.00	KYLE WITKOWSKI		DAIRY FARM - POLE BARN
1/13/2025	B25-03	\$50.00	\$8,447.15	FRANK MARANDO		GENERATOR
1/22/2025	B25-04	\$50.00	\$13,600.00	KURT SEDLMEIER		GENERATOR
1/22/2025	B24-164	\$100.00	\$200,000.00	OTTO NEIDERMEIER		RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION
1/9/2025	B24-146	\$50.00	\$19,000.00	SOUTHTOWN FEEDS & NEEDS		SIGN
1/27/2025	B25-05	\$150.00	\$69,729.00	DELORES WARNER		RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION

TOTAL PERMITS: 7
TOTAL FEES: \$450.00

RECEIVED
 01/27/2025
 10:00 AM

FEB 3 2025 AM 11:45

January 28, 2025

Mr. Jason Keding
Supervisor
Town of Boston
Town Hall
8500 Boston State Road
Boston, NY 14025

Re: December 31, 2024 Sponsor Report for the
Volunteer Ambulance Worker Service Award Program

Dear Supervisor Keding:

As the contracted Program Administrator, we are required to send to each Volunteer Ambulance Worker Service Award Program Sponsor by March 31st of each year a Sponsor Report, setting forth certain information about the Sponsor's Volunteer Ambulance Worker Service Award Program as of the last day of the previous calendar year. To comply with the Program provisions, we are sending you the attached page which accounts for changes in your Volunteer Ambulance Worker Service Award Program Trust fund during calendar year 2024.

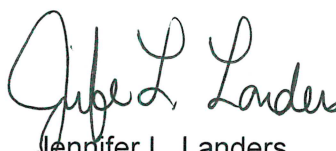
As soon as we receive the final approved and posted listing of the names of the calendar year 2024 volunteer ambulance workers which were prepared in accordance with our instructions, we will prepare and mail to the Town a more complete Sponsor Report for the calendar year ended December 31, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Paul Cognetta
Vice President of Operations
pcognetta@penflexinc.com



Jennifer L. Landers
Sr. Defined Contributions Analyst
jlanders@penflexinc.com

Enclosure

**Boston Emergency Squad
Volunteer Ambulance Worker
Service Award Program**

2024 Plan Year Asset Reconciliation

Share of Trust Account as of 1/1/2024:		\$646,058.03
Sponsor Contributions Added During 2024:		
Regular Contribution for 2023:	\$15,400.00	
Sponsor Credit: Participant Account Forfeitures:	(\$7,245.34)	
Total Sponsor Contribution:		\$8,154.66
Investment Income Earned During 2024:		
Income:	\$18,553.05	
Gain/Loss:	\$66,011.63	
Total Investment Income:		\$84,564.68
Expenses Paid During 2024:		
Administration Charges for 2023:	(\$1,591.00)	
2024 Distribution Fee:	(\$200.00)	
Total Administration Fee:		(\$1,791.00)
Trustee Fees:		(\$2,808.65)
Distributions Made to Participant / Beneficiaries During 2024:		(\$42,989.92)
Share of Trust Account as of 12/31/2024:		\$691,187.80



Erie County Environmental Management Council Annual Recommendations Report 2024



- Photos by John Whitney

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Executive Summary

The Erie County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is made up of representatives from many of the cities, towns, and villages within Erie County, as well as 12 at-large members from throughout the County. The EMC's mission is to advise County government on addressing local environmental concerns, as well as serving as a liaison between the community and County government.

To that end, the EMC prepares an Annual Recommendations Report to advise and inform strategic planning and set priorities for the allocation of resources that address environmental issues facing Erie County. It is important to note that many of the EMC's recommendations have been implemented, and the EMC would like to congratulate County leadership and staff for their work in improving the environmental quality of Erie County.

In particular, the EMC wants to recognize the County's recent achievements furthering priorities that focus on environmental stewardship and improved quality of life, such as:

- Releasing and adopting an equity-focused Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)
- Supporting sustainable transportation options including the installing the County's first Level 3 EV charger at Akron Falls Park
- Securing three major grants: \$3M for a green roof on the Central Library, \$1M for rooftop solar projects at the Central Library and the Botanical Gardens, and \$5M for a Community Forestry project, and
- Statewide leadership in NYSEDA's Clean Energy Communities programs – where Erie County was the first large community in the state to achieve 5-star status.

Over the past year, the EMC has also overseen some of its own programming:

- The EMC's Environmental Excellence awards are designed to bring attention to municipal and not-for-profit projects that have a positive environmental impact. This year's awardees were recognized through an Earth Day awards ceremony at Johnnie B. Wiley Amateur Athletic Sports Pavilion. (www.erie.gov/emc)
- The EMC continues to advocate for chemical-free lawns through its healthy lawns campaign, called "A Safe Home for the Gnomes" (www.erie.gov/healthylawns).
- The Climate Change Task Force, a committee of the EMC, continues to work with County staff and County-wide stakeholders on implementation of the equity-focused Community Climate Action Plan (www.erie.gov/climateaction), which it helped to create.

While the report contains many separate recommendations, the EMC would like to bring attention to their interconnected nature. The EMC recognizes that environmental issues are also connected to social justice issues. For example, transitioning to electric vehicles can improve air quality in historically underserved communities. Thus, the EMC would like to stress the importance of the recommendations made in the Environmental Justice chapter as fundamental and supportive of the recommendations in other chapters.

Executive Summary

First and foremost, the County should work to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the effects of climate change at the same time. This work must be done with climate and environmental justice in the forefront of decision-making so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

1. **Improve our transportation system:** Work with regional partners to develop an equitable, zero-emission, multi-modal transportation system. Transportation is the largest part of our greenhouse gas inventory, and we need a multi-pronged approach – not business as usual.
2. **Use less energy and support renewables:** Ramp up local energy conservation and renewable energy use by sharing the County's experience with Energy Performance Contracts, Direct Pay incentives, and Community Solar with other municipalities, as well as promoting NYSEERDA's commercial and residential programs. Work to encourage renewable energy development especially on brownfields, parking lots, and on rooftops.
3. **Protecting land/stop sprawl:** Rural land serves as a source of food production, a carbon sink and wildlife habitat. Preventing sprawl in a strategic way and in coordination with community partners has multiple benefits and the County should use all available planning tools to encourage densification of development.
4. **Waste not, want not:** Support significant expansion of food composting through technical assistance, education, advocacy, and the pursuit of grants. By composting food, we reduce particularly potent greenhouse gas emissions and produce a valuable soil amendment.
5. **Prepare for a changing climate:** Our current infrastructure needs to be reassessed for its ability to withstand the impacts of climate change. For example, increasing the use of green infrastructure can help mitigate the effects of intense rain events, and heat pumps can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also providing air condition during extreme heat events.

The EMC urges County leaders to continue to invest in the protection and restoration of our people and environment. Prioritizing this work is an opportunity to improve our environment and to foster economic prosperity and quality of life for current and future generations of Erie County residents.

Introduction

The Erie County Environmental Management Council (EMC) writes a yearly recommendation report for the County, which is shared with the County Executive, Legislature, County departments, local municipalities, and the general public.

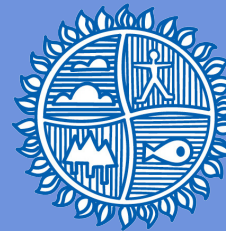
Background

The EMC is made up of representatives from many of the cities, towns, and villages within Erie County, as well as 12 at-large members from throughout the County. Their terms run for two years. A list of EMC members serving the current term is included in the sidebar.

The EMC's mission is to advise County government on addressing local environmental concerns, as well as serving as a liaison between the community and County government. To that end, the EMC prepares an Annual Recommendations Report to advise and inform strategic planning and set priorities for the allocation of resources that address environmental issues facing Erie County. It is important to note that many of the EMC's recommendations have been implemented, and the EMC would like to congratulate County leadership and staff for their work in improving the environmental quality of Erie County.

In particular, the EMC wants to recognize the County's commitment to further advance priorities that focus on improved quality of life and environmental stewardship such as:

- Releasing and adopting an equity-focused Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)
- Supporting sustainable transportation options including the installation of the County's first Level 3 EV charger at Akron Falls Park
- Securing three major grants: \$3M for a green roof on the Central Library, \$1M for rooftop solar projects at the Central Library and the Botanical Gardens, and \$5M for a Community Forestry project, and
- Statewide leadership in NYSEERDA's Clean Energy Communities programs – where Erie County was the first large community in the state to achieve 5-star status.



MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2025

At-Large Representatives:

Marcus Rosten, Chair
Sharon Bachman
Jeanne Beiter
Amun Ra
Tendaji Ya'Ukuu
Athena Clabeaux
Josh McClain
Anne McCooey
Dr. Susan McCartney
Jenny Mogavero
Andrea Ó Súilleabháin, J.D.
Dr. Noemi Waight

Municipal Representatives:

Aurora (T) - Don Owens
Boston - Mitch Tucker, Ph.D.
Clarence - Brenda Young, Vice Chair
Depew - Mayor Kevin Peterson
Evans - William Smith
Grand Island - Sam Akinbami
Hamburg (T) - Leona Rockwood, Secretary
Hamburg (V) - Village Trustee, Holly Park
Holland Councilmember, Daniel F. C. Lotito
Lancaster (T) - Julius McCann
Lancaster (V) - Mayor Lynne Ruda
Newstead (T) - Lewis Tandy
Orchard Park (T) - Richard Schechter
Tonawanda (T) - Cathy Stearns
West Seneca - Leane Schultz
Williamsville (V) - Jane Vohwinkel

EMC Members June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025

Introduction

Major national events have highlighted the need for the EMC to uplift environmental justice in a more direct way. Therefore, since 2022, the EMC's Recommendations Report has begun with an environmental justice chapter. The chapter discusses how decisions related to the environment add to the burden of neighborhoods that have historically been the target of disinvestment. We cannot rectify these wrongs without recognizing the systems and patterns that caused these outcomes. Thus, we recommend that environmental justice be the lens through which all the County's projects are completed moving forward, and the EMC has focused on environmental justice considerations in crafting the recommendations contained in this report. To that end, the Climate Change Task Force, a committee of the EMC, continues to work with County staff and County-wide stake-holders on implementation of the equity-focused Community Climate Action Plan (www.erie.gov/climate-action), which it helped to create.

In addition to its work with the Climate Change Task Force, the EMC has two other major initiatives:

- The EMC Environmental Excellence Awards (www.erie.gov/emc) are designed to bring attention to municipal and not-for-profit projects that have a positive environmental impact. This year's awardees were recognized through an Earth Day awards ceremony at Johnnie B. Wiley Amateur Athletic Sports Pavilion.
- The EMC continues to advocate for chemical-free lawns through its healthy lawns campaign, called "A Safe Home for the Gnomes" (www.erie.gov/healthylawns).

The EMC welcomes discussion about this report with County officials, department heads, and staff. We encourage leadership to share priorities outlined in this report with local officials and encourage departments and staff to provide feedback about implementing actions outlined in it. We also welcome discussion with local governments and the community.



- Members of the EMC

Introduction | 2024 EMC Award Winners



- MLK Day of Service Volunteers

The Annual MLK Day of Service, a local project organized by the Monarch of Infinite Possibilities LLC, the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor, and the NAACP Buffalo Branch, focuses on improving the environment. Over the past four years these organizations have grown the event from a handful of volunteers to hundreds of volunteers. They have also increased partnerships, as well as expanded the number of sites and types of projects. Not only has this project improved the environment, but it has also brought together the environmental organizations and groups on the East Side of Buffalo, strengthening relationships and building community.



- Frontier High School Tree Planting Project

The Frontier High School Elementary School Tree Project has been an annual program delivered for seventeen years by the school's Ecology Club to teach the importance of trees through classroom-based presentations and a tree seedling distribution. The project is sustained by fundraisers and with coaching from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County Master Gardener volunteers. The Club's students prepare an education plan for teaching all classroom levels of elementary students about the benefits of trees and tree-planting and care, including hands-on experience by using skits, props, activity booklets, a seedling planting demonstration, and a coloring contest. Annually, Ecology Club students seek feedback to improve the program and to incorporate current environmental issues.

Introduction | 2024 EMC Award Winners



- Omega Mentoring Program volunteering with Buffalo Freedom Gardens

Climate Connections for Buffalo's East Side Youth Project led by the Omega Mentoring Program at Jonny B. Wiley Center builds relationships with organizations so that the students, as well as the mentors, can learn about opportunities to take climate action - both preparing for and working to reduce the impact of climate change. In turn, the mentors and Just Buffalo Literary Center work with the students to synthesize this information and share it with the broader community. Sessions are held every other Monday evening during the school year to engage in programming, volunteer opportunities, writing projects, and tours that correlate to Erie County's Community Climate Action Plan.



Community Climate Action Plan Task Force Members:

Dr. Susan Clark, Chair – State University of New York (SUNY) University at Buffalo
Jason Kulaszewski, Secretary – EMC, UB Regional Institute
George Besch – Designing to Live Sustainably (D2LS)
Justin Booth – GObike
Joy Testa Cinquino – Buffalo & Erie County Public Library – Central Library
Amelia Cooke - State University of New York (SUNY) University at Buffalo
Kelly Dixon – GBNRTC
Emily Dyett – Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Nadya Elhalawany – WNY Youth Climate Council
Doug Funke – Citizens for Regional Transit
Clarke Gocker – PUSH Buffalo
Darren Kempner – NFTA
Faustenia Morrow – EMC
Jon Nickerson – National Grid
Jason Paananen – City of Buffalo
Kelley St. John – City of Buffalo
Kyle Semmel – Western New York Land Conservancy
Holly Schreiber - Buffalo Museum of Science
Whitney Skeans – National Grid
Matthew Sutton – Town of Tonawanda
Kelly Tyler – NYSERDA
Blossom Vance – Seneca Nation
Ignacio Villa - American Farmland Trust
John Whitney – Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sarah Wooton – Partnership for the Public Good
Brenda Young – EMC, Daemen University
Athena Clabeaux – WNY Youth Climate Council
Commissioner Dan Castle – Erie County Environment & Planning
Deputy Commissioner Bonnie Lawrence – Erie County Environment & Planning
Tuona Batchelor – Erie County Office of Economic Development
Monica Boutin – County Executive's Office/Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
Sarah Gatti – Erie County Office of Agriculture
Andrew McLaren – EEO
Sarah Sanford - Erie County Environment & Planning
Tracy Skalski – Erie County Environment & Planning
Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera – County Executive's Office
P. Josh Wilson – Erie County Environment & Planning

Introduction | 2024 EMC Award Winners



- Freddie at a community event on Grand Island

A Safe Home for the Gnomes Info:

The EMC continues to advance its Healthy Lawns Campaign, “A Safe Home for the Gnomes” with the spokesgnome Frederick Lawn Gnomested, aka “Freddie,” who was named during a contest last year. Residents pledge to not use chemicals on their lawn and then receive a lawn sign to post on their property. Pictures of the gnome at various environmental and community sites from around the region are posted to social media and community websites. The project has many partners, including the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). Assistance through the CCE’s Master Gardeners Program has proved to be vital. The EMC pursued this project because reducing the use of lawn care chemicals and increasing native plantings is something all homeowners can do. Moreover, these actions directly protect water quality, pollinators, and human health. For example, preventing excess lawn fertilizer from entering storm sewers can reduce the likelihood of a harmful algal bloom occurring in Lake Erie. Freddie can be found at public events and is popular with kids and adults alike!

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This can only be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and has equitable access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.¹

In Erie County, as in the rest of the nation, frontline communities such as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), as well as low-income communities, bear the largest burden of climate change impacts and associated pollution. These frontline communities have historically been systemically excluded from the environmental decision-making process and have had significantly limited opportunities for participation, while facing much greater risks of health complications imposed by environmental hazards.²

For example, Erie County residents living in older housing stock are more likely to be exposed to the dangers of lead-based paints and from lead plumbing.³ Lead has been shown to affect the development of fetuses and have behavioral and health impacts on both adults and children. Children are at particular risk of suffering long-term cognitive development effects from lead poisoning. Historical policies, system inequities, and racially biased income disparities in Erie County put people of color at particular risk of health threats related from lead exposure, due to concentrated poverty and aging infrastructure in predominantly BIPOC neighborhoods.⁴

Additionally, these households bear a greater energy burden related to climate change. As the region sees more high heat days, those older homes allow more of that heat inside the house. Older, inefficient homes, often prevalent in low-income and BIPOC communities due to historical disinvestment, require more air conditioning to address the higher heat, and increased usage of air conditioning drives up electric costs for residents who are already experiencing financial burdens. Pair this high heat issue with a respiratory issue, such as asthma, and you add on unexpected healthcare costs. Thus, the burden of climate change becomes even greater on low-income and BIPOC households. The outcomes of these inequities are evidenced by what are known as social determinants of health (SDOH).⁵

What are social determinants of health?

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life, and environmental injustices, such as pollution and lack of green space, are deeply tied to these determinants.

Examples of SDOH include:

- Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- Racism, discrimination, and violence
- Education, job opportunities, and income
- Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
- Clean air and water
- Language and literacy skills.

Environmental Justice

SDOH also are likely indicators of wide health disparities and inequities. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. That raises their risk of health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes and even lowers life expectancy relative to people who have access to healthy foods.⁶

Another example would be environmental hazard exposures in communities with functioning industrial sites, as well as remediation sites. The local communities facing the greatest risks from current and former industry are Buffalo, Lackawanna, and the Tonawandas as they each have long histories of industrial activity. Within these communities, environmental hazards are often clustered. People who live adjacent to, nearby, or downwind from these sites face an increased risk of adverse health impacts. Research on toxic hazards shows that people who live near these sites are more likely to experience higher rates of various health problems including low birth weights, birth defects, immune system disorders (such as Lupus), cancers of various types, and respiratory illnesses.

Environmental hazards in Erie County not only threaten public health and environmental quality, but they also present environmental and racial justice situations that impose disproportionate impacts across the social and geographic landscape. Because the County is a major provider of social services to BIPOC and low-and moderate-income (LMI) residents, it is imperative that Erie County use the SDOH framework to identify communities and ensure environmental justice efforts are inclusive of those populations in the decision-making process related to addressing environmental hazards in the County.

Similar to the County's approach with the CCAP, all of the report chapters and recommendations have been reviewed by the EMC through an Environmental Justice lens to make sure these considerations are woven into the recommendations and adequately addressed throughout the report.



- Planting a Butterfly Garden at Johnnie B. Wiley Stadium



- Omega Mentoring Program at Tifft Nature Preserve

Just Transition

Just Transition is a principle, a process, and a practice. The principle of just transition is that a healthy economy and a clean environment can and should co-exist. The process for achieving this vision should be a fair one that should not cost workers or community residents their health, environment, jobs, or economic assets. Any losses should be fairly compensated. And the practice of just transition means that the people who are most affected by pollution - the frontline workers and the frontline communities - should be in the leadership of crafting policy solutions.

Environmental Justice

Recommendations:

- 1. Build upon the work of the Office of Health Equity to extend the use of the Racial Equity Impact Analysis tool, which was part of the County Climate Action Planning process, to incorporate an environmental justice lens on County projects.**

Using the example created by the Live Well Erie and the climate action planning process, use the SDOH and direct interaction with impacted populations to ensure quality-of-life issues are being considered when allocating dollars for residential programming, and continue to provide racial equity training for all County employees and elected officials as part of the on-boarding process.

- 2. Prioritize the safety and health of historically underserved communities, control potential regressive impacts of future climate change mitigation and adaptation policies on these communities and prioritize the allocation of public investments in these areas.**

This work should rectify the way that climate change especially heightens the vulnerability of under-served communities, which bear environmental and socioeconomic burdens as well as legacies of racial and ethnic discrimination. The Climate Act requires all State agencies and authorities to prioritize reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and co-pollutants in communities historically impacted by environmental injustice. The County should do the same.

As part of the Community Climate Action Plan, the County had conducted a Climate Vulnerability Assessment that identified extreme heat as an increasing threat to our community that is especially threatening to vulnerable residents and disadvantaged communities. To help to address these issues the County has successfully pursued two grants. The first, is a New York State grant to work with University at Buffalo to create an Extreme Temperature Emergency Plan that will improve the County's response to extreme heat and cold events. Second, the US Department of Agriculture Community Forestry grant is a 5-year initiative to improve tree canopy in its most vulnerable communities.

Expanding tree canopy coverage is an important strategy in mitigating the impacts of climate change, such as heat waves, flooding, and air pollution. However, it also serves to correct the historical inequities in green space distribution, particularly in low-income and BIPOC neighborhoods, which have disproportionately less access to trees and green infrastructure. Increasing the tree cover in these areas will help reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, and contribute to overall public health, while addressing the long-standing disparities in access to environmental benefits.



- Volunteering at Juneteenth

Environmental Justice

3. Provide pathways and programs for residents to increase energy efficiency and reduce their climate footprint.

The County, across many of its operational areas, has deep interactions with the community – especially vulnerable populations. The County should ensure equitable engagement and distribution of resources for vulnerable populations in coordination with Live Well Erie⁷ as the New York State Climate Act⁸ is implemented. We recommend that the County implement the Erie County Low-Income Program for Sustainable Energy (ECLIPSE) and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs that support BIPOC and low and moderate - income (LMI) residents to help address sustainable housing, energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification of transportation and building heating, food access, public transportation access, broad-band, and agricultural programs. The County should also continue to work with the WNY Regional Clean Energy Hub to improve access to NYS clean energy programs for LMI residents. All of this work should complement and support existing work being done through local community-based organizations.

4. Support training opportunities to ensure that current and formerly employed power plant, natural gas, and carbon-based businesses' workers benefit from the transition to clean energy.

As the dominant human services provider in the community, Erie County has a unique understanding and capacity to ensure that our transition to a low-carbon community is a “just transition,” done equitably and in a way that lifts disadvantaged communities, people of color, and limits harm to workers impacted by economic change. Engaging and supporting displaced workers early on is imperative, and these efforts involve partnerships with community organizations to ensure that training programs reflect the needs and aspirations of BIPOC workers and historically underserved communities. This means establishing continuing education, registered apprenticeships, certifications, and licensing in trades and professions for current workers and supporting companies in transitioning their workforce to building operations and maintenance, design, construction, and other clean energy jobs. Consideration should be given to businesses and jobs in installation, manufacturing, and the entire supply chain.

What are social determinants of health?

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life. and environmental injustices, such as pollution and lack of green space, are deeply tied to these determinants. Examples of SDOH include:

- Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- Racism, discrimination, and violence
- Education, job opportunities, and income
- Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
- Access to clean air and water
- Language and literacy skills

SDOH also contribute to wide health disparities and inequities. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. That raises their risk of health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity – and even lowers life expectancy relative to people who do have access to healthy foods.⁹

Climate Change

Climate change is an urgent threat affecting all aspects of our economy, our well-being, and the natural world. For example, the local growing season has lengthened because of climate change, but with increased periods of drought, more irrigation infrastructure may be needed. Moreover, while it is anticipated that the region will experience more extreme heat waves, many of our most vulnerable residents cannot afford air conditioners or the cost to operate air conditioning. Thus, climate change demands swift, decisive action.

The EMC is grateful for the County's leadership on climate change, and we applaud the actions the County is taking to prioritize climate change as a guiding principle for its operations and service delivery.

In late 2023, the County Executive released Erie County's Community Climate Action Plan which was then adopted unanimously by the Erie County Legislature on February 1, 2024. The EMC's Climate Change Task Force helped lead the development of this plan, and more than 100 volunteers helped were involved. The CCAP also involved extensive community engagement in the planning process with the County holding over 75 presentations on the CCAP and participating in over 100 community events. Approximately 10,000 community members have signed up for more information about Climate Action through our monthly newsletter (individuals can sign up at www.erie.gov/climateaction). The County is working to implement the recommendations in the plan, in part through state and federal grants.

For its internal operations, Erie County developed a Climate Action & Sustainability Plan,¹⁰ which was also adopted unanimously by the Erie County Legislature in 2019. The plan contains aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals and outlines a series of actions to achieve those goals. The County's Green Team is implementing actions in the plan, such as running a compost facility at the Erie County Correctional Facility and advancing major energy conservation projects. A status report on this work is released annually and shared publicly on the County's sustainability website: www.erie.gov/sustainability. The report released at the end of the last year highlighted that the County achieved 34.2% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions since its baseline year of 2005.

Erie County works with partners across the region, New York State and the nation on this issue. For example, Erie County is partnering with the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council and UB Regional Institute on a federally funded regional climate action plan called "One Region for Climate Action." That planning process will result in updated community greenhouse gas inventories for both Erie



- Members of the Erie County Community Climate Change Task Force

and Niagara Counties, as well as all the municipalities in the two counties. Erie County also holds a leadership role on the NYS Association of Counties Climate Action Committee and helps convene a monthly meeting of NYS municipal sustainability managers. On the national

Climate Change

level, the County is a member of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network – a great resource for governments addressing climate change.

The County's efforts and accomplishments have been acknowledged by statewide programs. Through its many energy conservation and renewable energy projects, in 2024 Erie County was the first large community in New York State to achieve five stars, the highest level, recognition in New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Clean Energy Communities¹¹ program. As a result, the County has been awarded an almost \$1 million prize in the form of a grant to implement additional clean energy projects. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has also recognized Erie County's achievements, designating Erie County as a Silver Certified Climate Smart Community.¹² Silver is currently the highest level in the Climate Smart Community program and Erie County is one of only six counties to achieve this designation.

Climate Change Mitigation

While the County has made measurable progress reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its internal operations, in the past the County has not emphasized climate mitigation programming at the community level. The EMC recognizes that the County has worked with stakeholders and the community on an equity-centered Community Climate Action Plan and is doing more to assist local governments and residents. To that end, the EMC recommends that the County pursue the following climate mitigation initiatives:

- 1. Work with the community to implement the adopted, comprehensive equity-focused Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP).**

To help reduce climate warming, protect our community and help meet the goals of the New York State Climate Act, the County needs to implement the action items outlined in the CCAP. These actions include greening our transportation systems, protection of natural carbon sinks, and renewable energy. Finally, as the dominant human services provider in the community, the County has a unique understanding and capacity to ensure that our transition to a low-carbon community is a "just transition," done equitably, and in a way that lifts up historically underserved communities and people of color, and limits harm to workers impacted by economic change (see sidebar in Environmental Justice Chapter). www.erie.gov/climateaction.

- 2. Provide direct support, assistance and coordination for local governments.**

The County serves a convening and leadership role for local governments. Many local governments lack the resources or expertise to address climate change, and there may be opportunities for the County to efficiently address these capacity gaps. The County can also provide template legislation for municipalities looking to develop local laws, helping to align County and local planning efforts. The County is currently contracting for community solar for its internal operations, and this was structured so that local governments can use this procurement to negotiate their own contracts. Finally, the County should continue to find opportunities to support local governments, as they did with the Clean Energy Academy workshops held in 2022.

Climate Change

3. Provide pathways and programs for residents to increase energy efficiency and reduce their climate footprint.

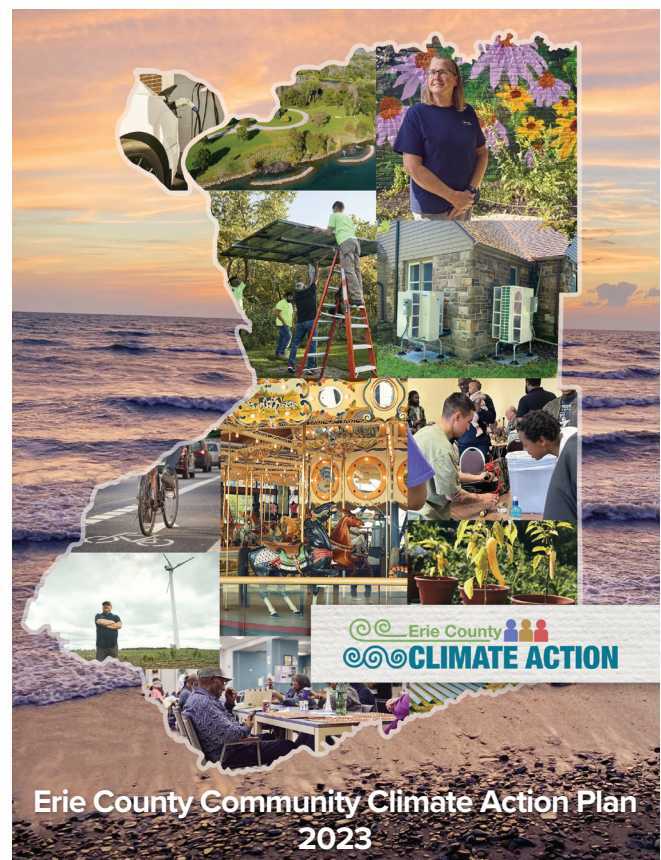
The County, across many of its operational areas, has deep interactions with the community – especially vulnerable populations. The County should ensure equitable distribution of resources when implementing the CCAP for vulnerable populations in coordination with the Live Well Erie¹³ framework, and social determinants of health. We recommend that the County create and uplift programs to assist residents to address sustainable housing, energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification of transportation and building heating, food access, public transportation access, broadband, and agricultural programs by building on existing work of the Food Policy Council, the Office of Agriculture, Greater Buffalo Niagara Transportation Council, and numerous community-based organizations.

Climate Change Adaptation

While the County will continue to work to mitigate the impacts of climate change, it should plan and respond to the inevitable impacts of climate change at the same time. Our recent Blizzard of 2022 demonstrates how extreme events can have large and unintended consequences and how planning and preparation, informed by the best science available, are key to protecting the community. Some things the EMC has recommended in the past to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, like adding bicycle infrastructure and localizing our supply chain, also make us more resilient to extreme weather resulting from climate change.

The County is experiencing impacts from climate change, including several tornados and heat waves just this year. As extreme weather events increase, the occurrences of flooding, severe erosion, seiche events, as well as sedimentation and debris accumulation in stream corridors, will also increase across all communities of Erie County. This results in escalating costs for repair, remediation and replacement of public and private infrastructure and the loss of habitat. The need to adapt to climate change and build a resilient Erie County is urgent.

County climate adaptation efforts must have a community focus, as well as leverage the County's primary role and significant expertise serving vulnerable populations. Many of the anticipated climate impacts, including extreme temperature events, disproportionately impact low-income people and people of color. The County's efforts should explicitly support racially equitable climate adaptation. The effort should also address concerns that, due to our ample supply of fresh water, the region may deal with an influx of "climate refugees" from other areas.



Erie County Community Climate Action Plan
2023

Climate Change

In 2022, through a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Climate Smart Communities program, the County completed a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). The CVA has helped the County better understand climate threats to our community and its capacity to respond to those threats. It identified extreme heat, extreme precipitation and wind events, and biological threats like vector borne diseases as posing the greatest threat to the community as the climate warms. The results of the CVA were used in the CCAP planning process, and climate adaptation actions are woven through all the CCAP's sector-based chapters.

Regarding climate change adaptation, the EMC recommends that the County:

- 1. Conduct comprehensive adaptation planning for the community, with a focus on protecting vulnerable communities.**

The CVA identified climate threats and the County's capacity to address these threats. Per the recommendation from the EMC that the County build on the recommendations of the CVA by creating climate-threat-specific plans to address the identified threats, Erie County will develop an Extreme Temperature Emergency Plan funded by the NYSDEC Office of Climate Change. It is important that the Extreme Temperature Emergency Plan, and other plans as they are created, include a focus on health and other impacts to vulnerable populations, especially people of color who will be disproportionately impacted by climate change, and should be informed by the County's experience with the Christmas Blizzard of 2022. There should also be a focus on localizing supply chains to make the County more economically resilient. Adaptation planning should be conducted in close coordination with the County's public health and human services efforts, especially around the areas of thermal vulnerability and vector-borne disease.



- Climate Action Outreach at Bidwell Farmers Market

- 2. Assure climate resilience of Erie County-owned infrastructure.**

The County maintains significant critical infrastructure, including roadways, wastewater collection and treatment, correctional facilities, buildings housing the County's staff, as well as numerous parks and forest lands. The County self-enforces a building code for its infrastructure. For new building projects, anticipating climate change and building infrastructure that is resilient will be much less expensive than rebuilding existing infrastructure later. It is recommended that the County update planning guidelines and procedures to reflect anticipated or potential impacts from climate change to lower future risks and costs.

Climate Change

TREE BENEFITS

**"TREASURE OUR TREES"
YOUR STREET TREE IS STUPENDOUS!**

IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH



Studies show being near trees can reduce stress levels by decreasing your blood pressure and slowing your heart rate.

PROTECT WILDLIFE



Trees provide a home and protection to animals

HELP US BREATHE



Through photosynthesis, trees produce oxygen

COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE



Trees absorb carbon-dioxide and convert it to oxygen

PROVIDE SHADE



Trees provide shade and keep your home and car cooler

PREVENT FLOODING



Trees help soak up excess water and keep soil in place

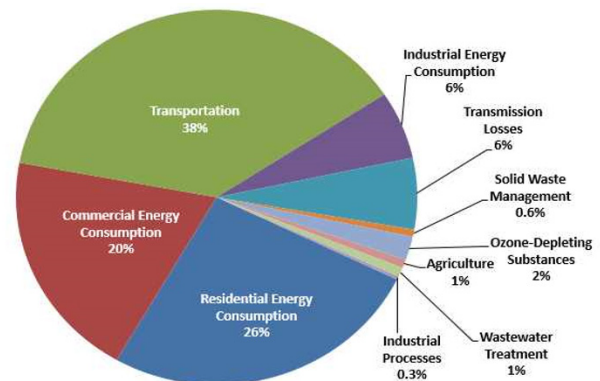
SOURCE OF FOOD



Many parts of a tree are a source of food for people and animals: roots, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds, nuts, pollens and sap.

Thermal Vulnerability and a Heat Emergency Plan

Heat and cold waves claim more lives than any other weather-related event, and despite living in a relatively cool-climate region, residents of Erie County experience vulnerability to both extreme cold and heat. Research has shown that cool-climate communities like ours are even more vulnerable to high heat events than warm-climate communities. This is largely because many homes in our community lack air conditioning. In low-income neighborhoods, there is an abundance of older, less insulated housing, and there are many residents who have health problems that make them sensitive to heat. Urban residents in "heat islands" are especially affected, along with rural residents in low-quality manufactured housing. Through its roles in emergency response and health, the County currently has some programs in place to address extreme temperature events, including coordinating availability and outreach for cooling centers. The Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) evaluated the increasing threat of high-temperature events, mapped areas that are especially vulnerable, and assessed the County's ability to respond. To make our community more climate resilient, the County will need to plan and build out programs and interventions to address thermal vulnerability. The County can use its information about temperature-vulnerable households developed through its health and human services roles, and work with existing federal and state weatherization programs to target vulnerable households for insulation and weather sealing projects. Other programs might include guidelines to incorporate shading into the design of public spaces, such as bus stops and sidewalks and incorporating more trees and other green infrastructure into urban spaces.



- Erie County Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Ecosystem Health



- Bluebird at Knox Farm State Park by John Whitney

Erie County has been actively involved in efforts to protect living infrastructure and enhance ecosystem health. These efforts include developing management tools such as the county-wide Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), which provides land use managers with tools for early warning and detection of biological stressors so corrective measures can be achieved in a timely and cost-efficient manner. The County works with the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA)¹⁴ and other partners to identify opportunities for enhancing natural habitats, including floodplains, woodlands, and wetlands along Lake Erie. The County has also helped the EMC to promote its Healthy Lawns Campaign called "A Safe Home for the Gnomes," which encourages reduction in lawn chemicals. Additional County initiatives include habitat restoration projects along the Buffalo River, stormwater pollution prevention education, and invasive nuisance species outreach and education.

The implementation of nature-based climate change solutions will strengthen our living infrastructure (see sidebar) and build resilience into the Western New York region. Some strategies in County projects include stabilizing shorelines, improving habitat, and increasing canopy cover.



A Safe Home for the Gnomes

Overuse and misuse of garden chemicals can be harmful to humans, pets, wildlife, and waterbodies. Collectively, residents control about 900,000 acres of lawn in New York alone – 75% of the managed turf in the state. The good news is there are many ways to care for your lawn that avoid putting family and neighbors at risk.

In 2017, the Erie County Environmental Management Council, with assistance from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, began "A Safe Home for The Gnomes" campaign to reduce the amount of chemicals used on area lawns and improve community health (www.erie.gov/healthy-lawns). Pledge to protect your family, pets, wildlife, and waterbodies by having a pesticide-free lawn when you eliminate insecticides, herbicides (weed-killers, "weed and feed"), fungicides, and other chemical pesticides and receive a free lawn sign to let your neighbors know that your lawn is healthy and safe: <http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/-erie-county-healthy-lawns-campaign>.



- Sumac by John Whitney

Ecosystem Health

The Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry is working on a feasibility study to stabilize the dunes at Wendt Beach and protect the unique habitat of the dunes and wetlands. In addition, as part of the \$5 million Community Forestry Partnership Project, the Department will develop a tree nursery using seeds and saplings collected from county parkland to address the expected shortages in supply stock. These trees will be available for community tree plantings to increase canopy cover in federally designated Justice40¹⁵ communities. Tree planting locations will be informed by a robust planning effort being undertaken by the Department of Environment and Planning resulting in a Community Forest Management Plan. This plan will include shared services recommendations to increase and maintain canopy cover. The project partners - the Black Rock Riverside Alliance, Buffalo Freedom Gardens, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monarch of Infinite Possibilities and the Town of Tonawanda - are also funded by the grant for an array of innovative projects to develop nurseries, urban orchards, and conduct educational and community engagement activities.



- Dragonfly by John Whitney



- Monarch Butterfly by John Whitney

Regarding Ecosystem Health, the EMC recommends that the County:

1. Pursue funding for long term maintenance of tree planting

The EMC recognizes that maintenance of trees is one of the most challenging aspects of planting efforts. Thus, the EMC recommends working with partners to establish a community endowment for this purpose. This has been accomplished in other communities across the nation and is needed here.

2. Update the drafted 2003 County Forest Management Plan

This plan, which is currently in the process of being updated, will guide proper forest management practices through sound ecological, economic, recreational, educational, and public safety considerations in anticipation of predicted climate changes.

Living Infrastructure

Living infrastructure refers to the network of natural systems and engineered systems, such as storm and wastewater practices, that affect ecological processes including the hydrological and nutrient cycles. Creating a robust living infrastructure strengthens a region's resilience to climate change.

Robust living infrastructure fulfills the following conditions:

- Harbors and supports indigenous flora, fauna, migratory species, and pollinators
- Conserves and replenishes fresh water and protects and restores fertile soils
- Connects people to nature
- Employs strategies to eliminate or regulate impacts to climate, water cycles, nutrient flows, natural hazards, and pests.

Ecosystem Health

3. Improve natural habitat for native species and pollinators

Continue to work with community partners to grow native plant species for transplant throughout the region at the Alden Correctional Facility. The County should also consider working with partners to develop a pollinator corridor to increase pollinator densities and educate the public on the importance of pollinators for our food production, native plants, and invasive species.

4. Support regional habitat connectivity

There are several ways the County could support this work, which often has other cost-saving benefits. First, in their own operations, the County should implement culvert design guidelines that preserve ecological function and maximize fish and wildlife passage on county bridges and culverts as they are routinely maintained and replaced, and leverage funding available through the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to construct wildlife crossings in priority locations. Such wildlife crossings have the added benefit of reducing animal-vehicle collisions, resulting in safer roads. The County could also integrate habitat connectivity into their planning process and ensure that land use decisions prioritize the protection and connection of large, intact habitats essential for wildlife movement, particularly as the climate changes. Integrate habitat connectivity into county-wide conservation and land use planning processes that land use decisions prioritize the protection and connection of large, intact habitats essential for wildlife movement, particularly as the climate changes.

The County could also work with local municipalities to enact policies and regulations, such as site plan reviews, zoning, conservation subdivisions, and setbacks, that support sustainable land use and natural resource protection and discourage unfettered suburban sprawl. Collaboration with municipalities can help ensure that large-scale developments and renewable energy projects are sited in ways that protect environmental integrity, natural resources, and wildlife connectivity.

Finally, the County should support regional initiatives such as the Western New York Wildway, a landscape-scale conservation plan aimed at creating a wildlife corridor of protected lands from the Allegheny Mountains to the Great Lakes, connecting to the continental-scale Eastern Wildway. The WNY Wildway focuses on conserving core habitats and linking them with wildlife corridors to ensure ecological resilience and wildlife mobility as the climate shifts.



- Bullfrog by John Whitney

Natural Resources Inventory

A Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) identifies and describes important naturally occurring resources within a community, watershed, or region. It provides the basis for land conservation planning, allows natural resource information to be included in local planning and zoning, and provides communities with a strong foundation for informed decision-making.

For communities considering techniques for protecting natural resources, a NRI is a necessary tool for developing priorities. Explore this tool at www.erie.gov/nri

Energy

The EMC commends the County's leadership on energy conservation and development of renewable energy resources. In particular, the County's commitment to utilize 100% renewable energy for its electric operations by 2030 stands out as an ambitious and important goal, demonstrating the County's willingness to lead by example. Also deserving of recognition is Erie County's designation as a 5-Star Clean Energy Community in 2024 (the first large community in NYS), and implementation of an energy performance contract that included about \$12 million of energy-efficiency projects at almost all County-owned buildings. These projects reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by more than 15% across the County's building stock. The addition of renewable solar energy on County property also reduced GHG emissions by nearly 220 metric tons, or what 465 acres of mature forest sequester in a year. The County is also currently contracting for community solar for its internal operations (a procurement that can be used by other governments).

Renewable Energy Goals

Goal	Scope	Source
100% renewable energy in County buildings by 2030	Internal Operations	Erie County
NYS Goal: 70% renewable energy by 2030	Community-wide	NYS Climate Act
NYS Goal: 100% clean energy by 2040	Community-wide	NYS Climate Act

Even with this progress, for the County to meet its goals¹⁶ and the renewable energy requirements of the New York State Climate Act,¹⁷ there will need to be an increased focus on improving energy efficiency and supply for the community. Poor quality housing, high utility bills, and energy burden afflict many low-income residents. Moreover, addressing low-income community energy needs supports the County's anti-poverty and health goals. Currently, the County has programs that address community energy for some populations, including those administered by the Home Energy Assistance Program and the Community Development Block Grant program, but the County's Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) requires a broader approach. For this reason, the EMC is very excited to see the County embark on the Erie County Low-Income Program for Sustainable Energy project (ECLIPSE; see sidebar), and we encourage the County to push forward with strong community energy programs.



- Climate Action Showcase

Energy

1. Support local municipalities and their residents to ensure responsible renewable energy development that includes input from vulnerable populations and protects regional agricultural and natural resources in light of an accelerated renewable energy siting process.

It is important that the County assertively advocate for renewable energy (solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and biofuels) developments. Advocacy should prioritize the interest low-income and minority County residents, whose voices are almost never heard in of discussions about renewable energy projects, although these groups are most impacted by climate change. Outreach and advocacy should also include residents of rural communities (including low-income and minority residents), as renewable energy projects are often built in rural settings. The County should engage these residents in renewable energy siting discussions and work to dispel misinformation about renewable energy development. The County should also work within its state-wide and national organizations to advocate for incentives for solar developments in parking lots.

2. Leverage contracting capacity and first-hand experience/expertise to support municipal energy efforts

The County has gained significant energy-related experience through its work with energy performance contracts, electric vehicle infrastructure, LED lighting, green procurement, and renewable energy development. It is recommended that the County share its expertise and experience about green energy and energy efficiency opportunities with local governments. Additionally, we recommend that the County uplift and support organizations already doing work in this arena such as the University at Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI),¹⁸ People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo,¹⁹ and others.



- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers installing Solar Panels



- Heat Pumps on the Erie County Board of Election Building

3. Develop community programs to address energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy burden.

Historically, the County has had a limited but important role in addressing community energy use. To address CCAP's strategies, it is critical the County have a focused effort on community energy at a broad level, coordinated with existing New York State programs. The EMC strongly

Energy

supports the ECLIPSE program's focus on developing a community energy program (see side bar) and also the County's new grant-funded staff position supporting the WNY Regional Clean Energy Hub, which conducts connects small businesses and residents to NYS clean energy programs and incentives. Public education should leverage existing contact with the community through the County's human services work, Climate Action efforts, and should uplift existing community networks to facilitate information dissemination. Where applicable, the County should provide information and materials to help residents and business owners navigate this somewhat complicated landscape.



- Windmills by Athena Clabeaux

Erie County Low-Income Program for Sustainable Energy Project (ECLIPSE)

Erie County's Departments of Environment and Planning, Social Services, and Public Works are working on a NYSERDA-funded project to create a community-scale energy program to spur local energy-related economic development, increase use of green energy in the community, and reduce energy cost burden and improve access to renewable energy for moderate and low-income households. ECLIPSE researched several models, including Community Choice Aggregation and Community Distributed Generation, to achieve these goals. The feasibility study recommended a community solar model. As a result, the County requested proposals for Community Solar Services. That contractor has been selected and approved by the legislature. This community energy program will roll out at the end of 2024 season.

Clean Energy Communities Program

Local governments in New York State can use the Clean Energy Communities program to implement clean energy actions, save energy costs, create jobs, and improve the environment. In addition to providing tools, resources, and technical assistance, the program recognizes and rewards leadership for the completion of clean energy projects through grants to support ongoing clean energy projects. The program is competitive and is currently in its third round. Through the current round of the program, municipalities in Erie and Niagara Counties have earned over \$1.9 million in grants for clean energy projects. For more information, visit: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/How-It-Works>

Land Use and Erie County Land

Land use decisions have both an immediate and long-term impact on the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the way in which we live, work, commute, and recreate. As a home rule state, local municipalities in New York have control and authority in their jurisdictions to make rules and decisions concerning a wide range of land use issues. These decisions affect the total health of the entire Western New York bioregion. Despite this, there are opportunities for Erie County to advance land use practices that will lead to greater stability and resiliency for our communities. For example, the County reviews local planning/zoning actions and often provides recommendations to the local municipality.

Erie County also manages approximately 11,000 acres of land that are in the cities, towns, and villages throughout Erie County. With its far-reaching land portfolio, the County not only has the duty to administer responsible land use decisions that support and enhance good stewardship practices, but it also has a powerful opportunity to demonstrate how land use practices can further enhance ecosystem health, which will lead to greater resiliency for the Western New York region from both the effects of climate change and crisis-level events.

The EMC applauds the County's recent work with the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) to redevelop the former Bethlehem Steel site into a shovel-ready business park renamed Renaissance Commerce Park. This project has brought a brownfield back to productive use as an employment center at the urban core of the region. The redevelopment of urban brownfield sites prevents sprawling commercial development in the region and creates employment opportunities, which are easily accessible to urban residents.

Regarding Land Use and Erie County Land, the EMC recommends that the County:

1. Invest in and use Erie County's land portfolio for developing and implementing natural solutions and sustainable land use decisions to address the growing impact of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and the extinction crisis

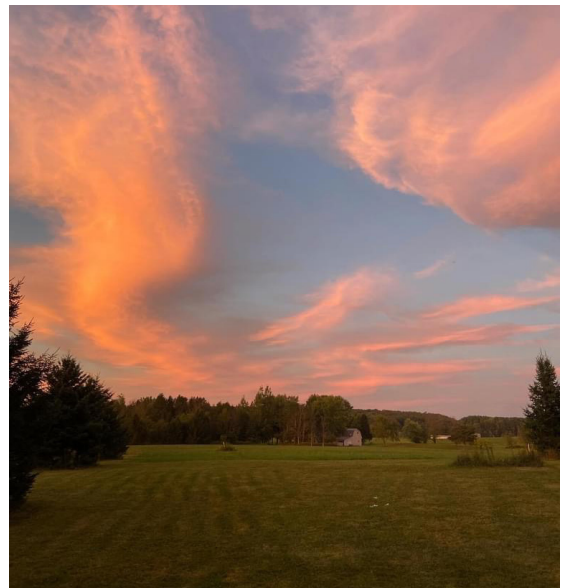
Erie County maintains a large portfolio of properties across diverse landscapes, including agricultural, forest, beach, waterfront, high elevation, suburban, and urban settings.

This biodiversity places Erie County in a prime position to demonstrate best land use practices such as:

- Increasing no-mow or low-mow areas
- Utilizing meadows and forests instead of lawns for large, unused County properties
- Greenspace set-asides
- Riparian buffers
- Hedgerows
- Sustainable forestry management

Introduce nature-based solutions to climate change, such as:

- Tree and pollinator plantings
- Permeable surfaces
- Wetland creation for developing green infrastructure



- Farmland

Land Use and Erie County Land

2. Use Erie County's land portfolio to develop and implement a regional approach to sustainability

With its land portfolio, Erie County has an excellent opportunity to lead the sustainability movement in Western New York. The County is encouraged to explore and develop a regional approach to sustainability. For example, by creating an agribusiness park in the Town of Evans, Erie County can model sustainable approaches to growing, manufacturing, and production; demonstrate how to secure and protect agricultural, natural, and sensitive lands from development; work with municipalities to ensure the proper location of large-scale utility-grade energy generating systems; and improve and protect water quality by working with municipalities to ensure the entirety of our waterways are monitored and protected. This includes testing of retention and detention ponds, monitoring invasive species growth in the ponds, testing and treatment of over-flows, and evaluating regional sprawling development's effect on local watersheds.

3. Strengthen Erie County's Resilience through Strategic Land Conservation and Connectivity Initiatives

With less than 5% of Erie County's land currently protected, the conservation of natural resources is essential for ensuring clean air and water, fertile soils, and biodiversity, all of which are critical for climate resilience, economic stability, and community health. The pressures of climate change, population growth, and development underscore the urgency of expanding these protected areas. New York State's commitment to the 30x30 initiative, which aims to conserve 30% of the State's lands and waters by 2030, and funding from the Environmental Bond Act, provide a significant opportunity to increase the amount of protected land in Erie County. These initiatives align with federal and international goals to combat biodiversity loss and climate change, with an emphasis on projects that enhance climate resilience, protect water quality, and restore natural habitats. A key opportunity to advance this goal is the Western New York Wildway, a landscape-scale conservation initiative that aims to create a wildlife corridor of protected lands stretching from the Allegheny Mountains to the Great Lakes. The WNY Wildway is essential to protecting and connecting Erie County's largest remaining intact habitats and ensuring wildlife can move freely as the climate changes, while contributing to New York State's 30x30 goals by addressing habitat fragmentation, one of the leading causes of biodiversity loss. Erie County should actively pursue and partner on state and federal grants within this framework to protect, connect, and restore critical habitats.



- Franklin Gulf

Land Use and Erie County Land



- Omega Mentoring Program at Tifft Nature Preserve

Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based solutions to climate change, sometimes called “natural climate solutions,” involve conserving, restoring, or better managing ecosystems to remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. Examples include allowing forests to regrow, restoring coastal wetlands, and switching to restorative agricultural practices, such as cover crop rotation, which support healthy soils. These ecosystems reduce climate change by capturing CO₂ from the air and sequestering it in plants, soils, and sediments. They also provide a wide range of other important benefits, such as cleaner air and water, healthier economy, and increased biodiversity.²⁰



- Reinstein Woods by Athena Clabeaux

Important Partners and Resources

There are many excellent area organizations, entities and plans that support sustainable land use. The County already works with them on a regular basis, and they play an important role in land use projects.

- **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper:** <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/>
- **Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District:** <https://www.ecswcd.org/>
- **Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance:** www.erie.gov/lewpa
- **Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan:** www.erie.gov/agriculture
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County:** <http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/>
- **WNY Land Conservancy:** <https://www.wnylc.org/wnywildway>
- **WNY Regional Sustainability Plan:**
<http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2018-04/Western-NY-CGC-Plan-Report.pdf>
- **One Region Forward:** <http://www.oneregionforward.org/>

Transportation

Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Erie County. Fortunately, with control of 1,200 miles of roadway, the County exerts more control over transportation than any other source of emissions. Over the past few years, the County has made significant progress on transportation, and the EMC commends Erie County for its role in:

- Membership in the GO Buffalo Niagara Transportation Management Association,²¹ which encourages Erie County employees to utilize low-emission transportation options
- Offering Reddy Bike membership to its employees through the efforts of the Green Team. Additionally, a free bicycle helmet has also been given to employees who sign up for that membership. The County's Labor Management Healthcare Fund has paid for a Reddy Bikeshare rack to be installed in the front of the Rath building, giving employees easy access to this benefit. Installation of 14 public electric vehicle charging stations in County parks and at SUNY Erie and three chargers for County fleet vehicles
- Modernization of the County fleet, including lease of eleven battery electric vehicles and twenty hybrid vehicles for both the Parks Department and the Sheriff Office, which replaced gas-powered vehicles, and
- Support of Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA)'s bus electrification efforts.

The traditional model for transportation greenhouse gas reductions is to reduce the number of vehicle miles travelled, increase fuel efficiency, and power transportation with renewable energy. Often, vehicle electrification is held up as the dominant approach. Electric vehicles fueled by green energy certainly address climate change, and electric cars, trucks, and buses play an important role in the transition to a low carbon economy. But fundamentally, the EMC believes that the County should emphasize creating Complete Streets (see sidebar p. 30) that serve pedestrians, bicycles, buses, and more. Moreover, the EMC sees that it needs to build out a robust system of public transportation, and that we will have missed an opportunity if we focus on electrifying our existing transportation system without creating communities that are less centered around cars. Thus, we commend the County for their work to include alternative work options such as telework, tax-free metro passes, and bike programs and amenities.

We need a more effective and reliable multimodal public transportation system that provides equitable access to jobs, housing, and an improved quality of life for all our residents, including low-income residents, people of color, and the other-abled. Furthermore, valuable public space is devoted to roadways and parking because cars require much more space than other transportation modes.



- Erie County EV being charged at Level 3 Charger at Akron Falls Park



- Electric Vehicles at Earth Day Event

Transportation

As we update our transportation systems, reducing use of cars will allow us to reclaim this public space. Development must also be oriented around all modes of transportation, including pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit. To this end, we urge the County to be a leader in the community by siting its operations to facilitate low-impact modes of transportation.

Finally, our transportation infrastructure must be green infrastructure, designed to contribute to our resilience to climate change and designed to protect our waterways from stormwater impacts. Green roadways with trees and plantings can help absorb the impact of storm events, reduce urban heat, and protect biodiversity. Roadways with permeable (porous) pavement and features like bioswales absorb stormwater, reduce impacts on waterways, and help address the County's watershed management goals.

Regarding Transportation, the EMC recommends that the County:

6. Work with regional partners to develop an equitable, zero-emission, multi-modal transportation system

The County should work with the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), the Greater Buffalo Niagara Transportation Council, electric utilities, and other community partners to expand metro services through zero-emission regional light rail services and other enhanced public transportation options like bus rapid transit. We support continuing to add electric vehicle infrastructure at County facilities and public libraries, including rural locations, to encourage the adoption of electric vehicle use. Finally, County transportation investments should have an emphasis on infrastructure for bicycling, walking, and other low-impact modes of transportation. To this end, the County should work with municipalities to honor local Complete Streets policies when implementing County roadway projects and adhere to Complete Streets methods on all County roadway projects including implementation of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Transportation Council's Regional Bicycle Master Plan.²²

What Are Complete Streets?



Complete Streets are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to prioritize safety, comfort, and access to destinations for all people who use the street, especially people who have experienced systemic underinvestment or whose needs have not been met through a traditional transportation approach. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street,

walk to shops, jobs and schools, bicycle to work, and move actively with assistive devices. They also allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk or move actively to and from train stations.

There is no singular design prescription for Complete Streets; each one is unique and responds to its community context. A Complete Street may include: sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, and more.

A Complete Street in a rural area will look quite different from a Complete Street in a highly urban area, but both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.²³

Transportation

7. Support local communities as they transition to a green, low-carbon transportation system

Many roadways in Erie County are controlled by local governments. The County should support local governments, share design, policy and implementation guidance for green measures, such as implementation of Complete Streets, guidelines and model legislation for LED street lighting, Smart Cities technology, electric vehicle infrastructure, and equitable access to transportation. The County should work with local governments to locate jobs and services in locations that are accessible to public transit, and other alternative transportation modes. The County should also continue to work with Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, NFTA, New York State, local governments, and community stakeholders to assure that transportation investments are coordinated and emphasize accessibility, equity, public transit, and Complete Streets goals. Finally, the County should work with local communities to promote sustainable work arrangements for their staff that reduce commuting travel.

8. Continue to reduce transportation emissions from County operations.

Although the County has leased and purchased several electric and hybrid vehicles, we encourage the County to set goals and create policy to replace the County's fleet of gas-powered vehicles with electric-powered, and to lead the community on this issue. This will greatly reduce County greenhouse gas emissions and may also reduce fuel and maintenance costs. Some existing heavy-duty vehicles might be suitable for electric retrofits, and new heavy-duty electric vehicles are becoming more available and economical. Sheriff's patrol cars may be a particularly good opportunity because of their high idling rates, and leading manufacturers are now providing purpose-made patrol cars with hybrid electric drivetrains. Although there are currently supply chain issues with electric vehicles, the County should prepare for the transition by continuing to install electric vehicle charging stations. Finally, many County employees are reimbursed for extensive use of personal vehicles for their work, at a cost of more than \$1 million per year. The EMC recommends that the County reduce emissions from reimbursed personal vehicle travel. Solutions could include providing electric vehicle (EV) chargers in staff parking areas, increased reimbursement for EV drivers, and offering EV fleet vehicles for staff use.



- Reddy Bikes at the Rath Building

Waste

The waste produced from people's everyday choices, otherwise known as Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), can result in a number of negative environmental and health impacts. Organic waste, such as food and yard waste, which is sent to a landfill, creates methane which is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Single-use plastics that end up in litter can become microplastics in our drinking water. Household hazardous waste (HHW), which includes products with warning labels such as "flammable," "toxic," or "corrosive," and includes pesticides, solvents and fuel, are often disposed of in an unsafe manner. This includes pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases, putting them out with the regular trash. Improper disposal of HHW pollutes the environment and poses threats to human health, including water contamination or even physical injury to sanitation workers.

Erie County is actively working to address waste both in its own operations and in the community. For example, the County is composting food waste at the Alden Correctional Facility and has expanded that compost program to receive food waste from other County buildings. The County is also working with municipalities through the Erie County Solid Waste Management Board to promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting to residents.

Even with outreach and education, reducing solid waste through municipal collection and disposal services is an ongoing challenge for local municipalities due to resident confusion about how to manage household waste streams, and the lack of composting facilities for yard and food waste. Changing markets have interrupted the U.S. recycling system resulting in less materials being accepted for recycling and instead going into landfills. Erie County has supported Extended Producer Responsibility legislation to shift cost for recycling from the municipalities to the producer of the products. While it has yet to pass, it would require clear, consistent consumer education on the proper end-of-life management of consumer packaging to reduce confusion and contamination.



- Buffalo Recycling Enterprises Tour with Omega Mentoring Program

Waste

Erie County also works to address household hazardous waste (HHW). Erie County's HHW Program provides for safe disposal of hazardous chemicals and materials. In recent years, this program was expanded and now includes both single-day events and a voucher program that allows residents to dispose of these materials year-round at a facility in Tonawanda. The County has also added "paint only" collections to its events. Due to a NYS law regarding paint recycling, these events are much less expensive to hold than the HHW events.

Electronic waste, or e-waste, is not considered household hazardous waste. However, e-waste contains hazardous material that is stable while in use but can become a risk when the product reaches end-of-life and is not disposed of properly. NYS consumers are required to recycle many electronic waste items, such as computers, computer peripherals, televisions, small-scale servers, and small electronic equipment, through a municipal or private e-waste recycler. Though the County does not hold e-waste recycling events in general, it continues to provide education and outreach to consumers on how to dispose of e-waste properly.



- Recycling at Juneteenth 2024

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

More commonly known as trash or garbage — consists of everyday items we use and then throw away, such as product packaging, grass clippings, furniture, clothing, bottles, food scraps, newspapers, appliances, paint, and batteries. Food waste is the single most common material landfilled and incinerated in the United States, comprising 24 and 22 percent of landfilled and combusted municipal solid waste, respectively.

Waste

Regarding this issue, EMC recommends that the County:

1. Work to support composting

Composting food waste has multiple benefits, from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to creating a soil amendment. Thus, the County should prioritize support of composting in the commercial and residential sectors. For example, the County could explore allowing municipal use and/or commercial use of its composting site at the Alden Correctional Facility. The County could also provide technical assistance to municipalities on starting their own programs. Finally, the County should work with the New York State to provide guidance documents on the development of compost sites.

2. Support laws and policies that reduce single-use waste and promote materials recovery

Support for legislative action on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper products (PPP). This proposal provides sustainable funding from producers to relieve municipalities of the financial burdens they currently face in operating recycling programs. We support the legislation to require clear, consistent consumer education on the proper end-of-life management of consumer packaging to reduce confusion and contamination. This change is necessary for New York state, where the recycling rate is just 18%. See sidebar for further information on EPR.

3. Support materials recovery by adding glass wine and liquor bottles to the New York State Bottle Bill

The bill has successfully reduced roadside litter by 70 percent. Adding wine and liquor bottles to the Bottle Bill should have a great impact on the entire recycling industry. When glass is collected as part of the “single stream” recycling programs used by most municipalities, it mostly gets broken and contaminates the plastic and paper that can be recycled and also damages the machinery that sorts the collected recyclables.

4. Expand education and outreach programs

Addressing the need to reduce food waste and to compost food scraps should be promoted in County outreach. We continue to encourage creating chemical disposal/reduction education for existing County programs and use existing County methods of communication, such as electronic newsletters, the website, social media, emails, and press releases to educate the public on how to reduce their chemical use. Topics could include proper storage and disposal, reducing pesticide use, label reading, and safe alternatives. The county could also promote existing programs and sponsor repair cafes where household items are fixed for reuse.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the manufacturer’s responsibility for its product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the manufacturer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to manufacturers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging. Source: NYS Product Stewardship Council.



- Climate Action Showcase March 2023

Water

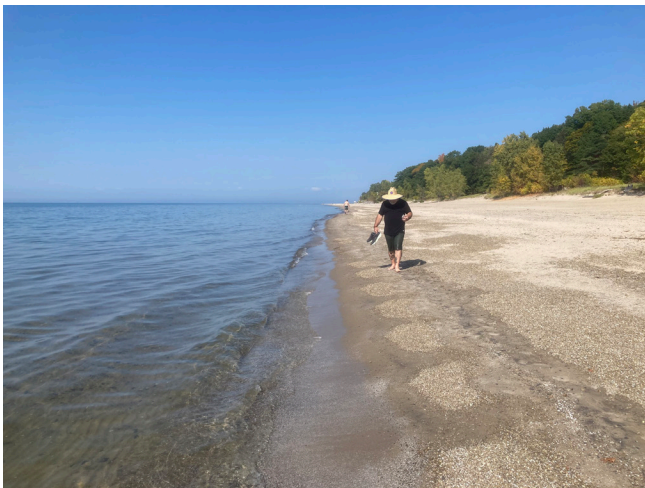
Available clean water is necessary for all life including biological processes, industrial production, home life and landscapes, navigation, and recreation. It is a driver of sustainability and economic prosperity. In Erie County, we live on a Great Lake and water is plentiful, but it should not be taken for granted.

Impacts to water quantity and quality make it a resource that requires conservation and protection to sustain its availability for use. Water is connected and integral to land use, transportation, and ecosystem management, which makes it particularly susceptible to impacts from how we plan, operate, and manage our developed/built and natural environments. Water is affected by a variety of residential, recreational, and commercial practices – and by both point source and non-point source pollution. Some examples include undersized wastewater facilities, combined sanitary sewer overflows, failing septic systems, contaminated stormwater runoff, industrial production through discharges of chemicals and heated water from manufacturing, pesticides, excess nutrients, and pathogens from agricultural runoff and more. There are numerous pollution sources to consider throughout our watershed. As we begin to learn more about the ever-expanding impacts of PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) to our communities it will be important to address as well.

Septic systems (or on-site waste treatment systems) have not received their due attention as sources of nonpoint source pollution. While specific testing has not been completed at the system level, water quality testing has shown that nutrient and pathogen levels impairing New York streams and waterbodies are found in areas where there are septic systems and especially clusters of septic systems. For this reason, Erie County is working on education and outreach to septic system owners to reduce nonpoint source pollution to regional waterbodies. The education program seeks to reduce pollution at the source and prolong the useful life of septic systems by promoting proper maintenance of septic systems. In addition, the Erie County Health Department is beginning a program to pump out septic systems and test wells for low-income households, as well as assist with repair/replacement. The collaboration of these two programs is an example of working toward a common goal to protect both public health and environmental health.

Climate change is compounding impacts to water quality and quantity.²⁵ For example, there has been a significant increase in seiche events, which cause coastal flooding, erosion along the shoreline, and dangerous rip currents along the coastline, leading to significant economic loss and posing threats to human life. Moreover, frequent and more intense storms are causing extreme heavy

rainfall events that increase soil erosion and movement of pollutants. Weather patterns are predicted to become more variable, which could include periods of drought followed by wet weather.²⁶ Heavy rainfall after a period of drought can reduce water infiltration and increase runoff, flushing accumulated pollutants and sediments, which lead to increased turbidity and contaminant concentrations in waterbodies.²⁶ These extreme pollution events coupled with warmer water temperatures may result in water fouling events such as harmful algal blooms, which are becoming more prevalent throughout our waterways each summer.



- Lake Erie

Water

Climate change is also expected to cause periods of drought.²⁷ In Erie County, there are both residences and agriculture operations that depend on groundwater supplies, not Lake Erie. Drought and lack of aquifer recharge can leave rural landowners without an adequate water supply. It is important that communities, particularly rural communities, adapt and plan for resiliency to ensure a clean and steady supply of water in a changing climate.

Appropriate use of land and understanding upstream and downstream connections to natural ecosystems is critical to conserving and protecting water resources. Best practices should be incorporated into land use for green infrastructure, riparian buffers, and conserving forests near water sources. Improving absorption and water filtration will help to prevent devastating downstream flooding and erosion.

Promoting a cultural shift in thinking about how we manage our lives for the protection and sustaining of our water resources is paramount. Education is key to making change. Several organizations are hard at work in Erie County to educate the public, private business, and government on water issues; and they are assisting with programs and projects to implement best water protection and conservation practices to ensure clean available water. It is important that they continue their work and receive County support.

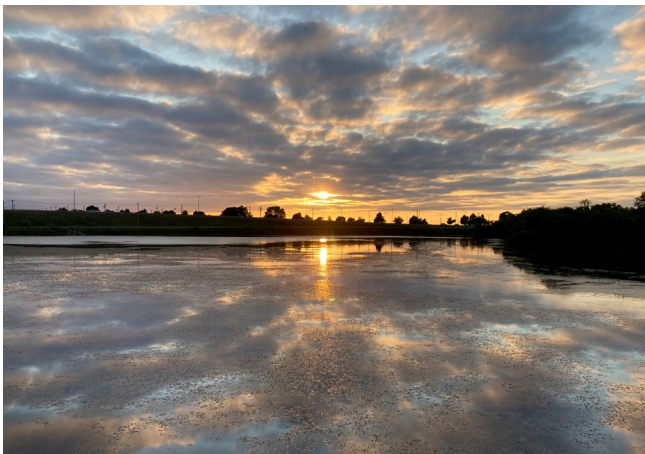
Regarding water, the EMC recommends that the County:

1. Continue to support the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) in preparing a Nine-Element Watershed Management Plan for the Lake Erie and Niagara River watershed region.

A Nine Element Watershed Management (9E) plan is a type of clean water plan that details a community's water quality concerns and a strategy to address these concerns. The 9E plans are developed by people who live and work within the watershed with support from local and state agencies. The nine minimum elements are intended to ensure that the contributing causes and sources of nonpoint source pollution are identified, that key stakeholders are involved in the planning process, and that restoration and protection strategies are identified that will address the water quality concerns.

LEWPA 9E planning will assess approximately 10 percent of regional streams to see where direct issues are located. Projects to be identified in the waterways or the watershed could include green infrastructure, living shorelines, stabilizations, buffer planting, agricultural best management practices, land protection, or testing for and repairing failing septic systems.

The 9E plan is required by some grant funding programs and having the plan will also potentially provide more project funding opportunity for Erie County and LEWPA.



- Tift Nature Preserve

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a group of stormwater management and treatment practices designed to infiltrate and/or reuse stormwater using soils and vegetation, rather than pipes and storage structures. Common green infrastructure approaches include porous pavement, green roofs, trees, tree boxes and infiltration planters, rain gardens, vegetated swales, pocket wetlands, vegetated median strips, cisterns, reforestation, and protection and enhancement of riparian buffers and floodplains.

Water

2. Leverage State and Federal Funding to Prioritize Water Quality Investments

There are several potential funding sources that may be advancing in the next 12 months, including the approved State Environmental Bond Act and the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. County projects utilizing these programs should prioritize water quality investments where eligible and focus on holistic approaches to meeting the needs of the watershed.

3. Promote the concept of Living Infrastructure in comprehensive planning and decision-making

Partner with other organizations, such as UB Regional Institute, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and One Region Forward, to promote the municipal use of the concept of Living Infrastructure in comprehensive planning and decision-making to mitigate the impacts of increased stormwater runoff through trainings and workshops. Appropriate planning for stormwater attenuation can mitigate impacts from flooding, capture stormwater pollutants, and build the resilience of water supply and availability by enhancing recharge to the hydrologic system.



- Sunset by Sailboat

Riparian Buffers

Riparian buffers are strips of vegetation (trees, shrubs or grass) located next to streams or other waterbodies. By planting vegetation along streams, space is created between the water and upland land uses, which helps protect the water quality and stream habitat. Riparian buffers provide the benefit of:

- stabilizing streambanks,
- erosion and sediment control,
- habitat and food for wildlife and pollinators,
- shade for streams, filtration of nutrients and other pollutants in runoff, and reducing the impact from floods by **increasing water infiltration**.²⁵

List of Water Quality Organizations

Local partner and environmental groups include:

- **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper:** <https://bnwaterkeeper.org>
- **Buffalo Sewer Authority:** <https://buffalosewer.org>
- **Erie County Cornell Cooperative Extension:** <http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/>
- **Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District:** <https://www.ecswcd.org>
- **Erie County Division of Sewerage Management:** <https://www.erie.gov/dsm>
- **Erie County Water Quality Committee:** <http://ecswcd.org/html/ecwqc.html>
- **Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance:** www.erie.gov/lewpa
- **Tonawanda Creek Watershed Committee:**
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tonawanda-Creek-Watershed-Committee/139510572866742>
- **WNY Stormwater Coalition:**
<https://www2.erie.gov/environment/index.php?q=western-new-york-stormwater-coalition>

Water

4. Promote and implement green infrastructure practices

Erie County should continue to seek green infrastructure opportunities at its facilities and continue to assist Municipal Separate Storm Sewer communities in implementing green infrastructure projects. Outreach field day events and/or presentations should be organized to showcase such projects to municipalities, stakeholders, and the public.

5. Use best management practices on County road ditches

Revamp the Erie County Highway Department's procedures for cleaning, reshaping, and vegetating road ditches to meet the municipal stormwater maintenance requirements for reducing soil erosion, improving visibility and safety, and reducing future maintenance. This effort should build upon Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District's hydroseeding initiative, which partners with Erie County Highway to vegetate cleaned road ditches.



- Lake Erie

Seiche Events: Lake Erie, the shallowest of the Great Lakes, is known for its seiche events. Seiches are created by standing waves oscillating through an enclosed body of water. When low pressure systems and associated winds progress over Lake Erie from the west-southwest, they blow along Lake Erie's longest axis, from Toledo towards Buffalo, which causes the lake to dip in the west and pile up water on the east. These events are most pronounced in the fall and winter months. When storms subside, and wind force decreases, the water piled along the coastline of the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie flows back into the lake, creating an oscillating wave motion as the water rocks back and forth for hours to days after the peak of the event. Several recent seiche-driven flood events, and expected impacts of climate change, have underscored the need for proactive flood resilience planning along the Lake Erie waterfront.

Conclusion

While the report contains many separate recommendations, the EMC would like to bring attention to their interconnected nature. The EMC recognizes that environmental issues are also connected to social justice issues. For example, transitioning to electric vehicles can improve air quality in historically underserved communities. Thus, the EMC would like to stress those recommendations which are the most fundamental to support all the others.

First and foremost, the County should work to address climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change at the same time. This work must be done with climate and environmental justice in the forefront of decision-making so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. The adopted equity-focused Community Climate Action Plan provides an excellent roadmap. Thus, the EMC's priority recommendations are:

- 1. Improve our transportation system:** Work with regional partners to develop an equitable, zero-emission, multi-modal transportation system. Transportation is the largest part of our greenhouse gas inventory, and we need a multi-pronged approach – not business as usual.
- 2. Use less energy and support renewables:** Ramp up local energy conservation and renewable energy use by sharing the County's experience with Energy Performance Contracts, Direct Pay incentives, and Community Solar with other municipalities, as well as promoting NYSEERDA's commercial and residential programs. Work to encourage renewable energy development especially on brownfields, parking lots, and on rooftops.
- 3. Protecting land/stop sprawl:** Rural land serves as a source of food, a carbon sink and wildlife habitat. Preventing sprawl in a strategic way and in coordination with community partners has multiple benefits and the County should use all available planning tools to encourage densification of development.
- 4. Waste not, want not:** Support significant expansion of food composting through technical assistance, education, advocacy, and the pursuit of grants. By composting food, we reduce particularly potent greenhouse gas emissions and produce a valuable soil amendment.
- 5. Prepare for a changing climate:** Our current infrastructure needs to be reassessed for its ability to withstand the impacts of climate change. For example, increasing the use of green infrastructure can help mitigate the effects of intense rain events, and heat pumps can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also providing air condition during extreme heat events.

The EMC urges County leaders to continue to invest in the protection and restoration of our people and environment. Prioritizing this work is an opportunity to improve our environment for current and future generations and improve economic prosperity and quality of life to foster a place where people want to grow their future.

Endnotes

- ¹ www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice
- ² Poverty in Buffalo: Causes, Impacts, Solutions, Partnership for the Public Good 2018, p. 16 https://ppgbuffalo.org/files/documents/poverty_low_wage_work_income_inequality/truth_commission_report__poverty_in_buffalo_causes__impacts__solutions.pdf
- ³ Erie County New York Community Health Assessment 2014 – 2017, page 32 and 33 <http://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/CHA.pdf>
- ⁴ Erie County New York Community Health Assessment 2014 – 2017, page 32 and 33
- ⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/index.htm>
- ⁶ <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>
- ⁷ www.erie.gov/livewellerie
- ⁸ <https://climate.ny.gov/>
- ⁹ <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>
- ¹⁰ www.erie.gov/casp
- ¹¹ www.nyserda.ny.gov/all-programs/programs/clean-energy-communities
- ¹² www.climatesmart.ny.gov
- ¹³ www.erie.gov/livewellerie
- ¹⁴ www.erie.gov/lewp
- ¹⁵ <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>
- ¹⁶ www.erie.gov/paris
- ¹⁷ <https://climate.ny.gov/>
- ¹⁸ <http://regional-institute.buffalo.edu/>
- ¹⁹ www.pushbuffalo.org/
- ²⁰ <https://www.american.edu/sis/centers/carbon-removal/fact-sheet-nature-based-solutions-to-climate-change.cfm>
- ²¹ <https://www.gobuffaloniagara.org/>
- ²² <https://www.gbnrtc.org/bikebuffaloniagara>
- ²³ <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/publications/what-are-complete-streets/>
- ²⁴ Resilient Buffalo Niagara Climate Change Action Strategy Document - Strategies to Respond to Climate Change Resilient Buffalo Niagara was prepared by Dr. Himanshu Grover, University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning December 2014. <http://uploads.oneregionforward.org/content/uploads/2015/01/Resilient-Buffalo-Niagara.pdf>
- ²⁵ USGCRP, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, 1515 pp. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018. <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/front-matter-about/>
- ²⁶ <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/freshwater/watersheds-flooding-and-pollution>
- ²⁷ USGCRP, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, 1515 pp. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018. <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/front-matter-about/>

NYSEG and RG&E are Leveraging AI to Create a More Resilient and Reliable Grid

The Grid Model Enhancement Project (GMEP) updates NYSEG and RG&E's records for overhead electric distribution equipment

The project uses AI to pinpoint needs for preventative repairs, enhancing the reliability and safety of the grid

BINGHAMTON, NY —February 4, 2025 — New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) have been updating their systems of record to detect possible risks, make necessary improvements, and take preventative actions to support reliability and safety of the grid.

“Through a combination of vehicle, drone, and in-person imagery capture, we are updating the records of our entire overhead distribution system. With more than 45,000 miles of overhead lines in New York, this is the largest combined acquisition of data on company-owned equipment,” said Shawn Ras, senior manager of Data Projects for Avangrid. “We will use imagery recognition models to compare the images against our internal systems, allowing us to recommend equipment replacement and upgrades.”

The project, which started in September 2024 and is projected to continue until the end of 2025, will use vehicles, drones, and authorized personnel to conduct the survey. The first stage, which is nearly complete, includes vehicles outfitted to take photos of overhead electric equipment. With the help of innovative AI tools, the Companies will be able to assess more than 45,000 miles of line and detect utility equipment that is not up to their safety or durability standards.

When equipment issues are detected, the next stage will employ drones and personnel on the ground to review and take the necessary steps to upgrade and repair the detected equipment.

The GMEP is a survey of overhead electric distribution equipment and does not require power interruptions. The focus of the survey is strictly utility equipment and not private property. All authorized personnel working on this project will have identification and badges and vehicles are marked with the Company logo.

The imagery capture will become the basis of an internal AI model to assess equipment health, enabling NYSEG and RG&E to provide more reliable power delivery in the future. This will be a part of the Companies' ongoing efforts to invest in the upkeep and safety of the grid and to provide safe and reliable electric service.

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About NYSEG: New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) is a subsidiary of Avangrid, Inc. Established in 1852, NYSEG operates approximately 35,000 miles of electric distribution lines and 4,500 miles of electric transmission lines across more than 40% of upstate New York. It also operates more than 8,150 miles of natural gas distribution pipelines and 20 miles of gas transmission pipelines. It serves approximately 894,000 electricity customers and 266,000 natural gas customers. For more information, visit www.nyseg.com.

About RG&E: Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) is a subsidiary of Avangrid, Inc. Established in 1848, RG&E operates approximately 8,800 miles of electric distribution lines and 1,100 miles of electric transmission lines. It also operates approximately 10,600 miles of natural gas distribution pipelines and 105 miles of gas transmission pipelines. It serves approximately 378,500 electricity customers and 313,000 natural gas customers in a nine-county region in New York surrounding the City of Rochester. For more information, visit www.rge.com.

About Avangrid: Avangrid, Inc. (NYSE: AGR) aspires to be the leading sustainable energy company in the United States. Headquartered in Orange, CT with approximately \$46 billion in assets and operations in 24 U.S. states, Avangrid has two primary lines of business: networks and renewables. Through its networks business, Avangrid owns and operates eight electric and natural gas utilities, serving more than 3.3 million customers in New York and New England. Through its renewables business, Avangrid owns and operates a portfolio of renewable energy generation facilities across the United States. Avangrid employs approximately 8,000 people and has been recognized by JUST Capital as one of the JUST 100 companies – a ranking of America’s best corporate citizens – in 2024 for the fourth consecutive year. In 2024, Avangrid ranked first among utilities and 12 overall. The company supports the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goals and was named among the World’s Most Ethical Companies in 2024 for the sixth consecutive year by the Ethisphere Institute. Avangrid is a member of the group of companies controlled by Iberdrola, S.A. For more information, visit



#1 IN UTILITIES

CNBC 2024

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Bread Of Life Outreach Center



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Who We Are!

Bread of Life Outreach Center

PO Box 113 8745 Supervisor Avenue * Colden 14033 * 716 941-3550 * breadoflifeoutreach@gmail.com

Visit our website at www.breadoflifecolden.org

Our Food Pantry contact information: Phone no. 716 344-6357 * Email bolofoodpantry@gmail.com

We're an all-Volunteer Organization serving the towns of
Aurora, Boston, Colden, Concord, and Holland



The Bread of Life Outreach is a Christian ecumenical ministry of love and compassion, which recognizes the dignity of all. Our source and inspiration are found in the Gospel message "to feed the hungry and clothe the naked." Drawing on the strength and love of each other and through the generosity of gift and talent, we offer fellowship, comfort, support, and opportunity to all.

What we offer:

- Food Pantry affiliated with FeedMore WNY
- Mobile Food Pantry
- Community outdoor emergency food cupboard
- BOLO Cares; providing weekend foods for Elementary students
- Social Worker
- Case Worker
- Clothing / Thrift Store
- Registered Little Library with more books inside
- Annual Health Fair
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Educational Programs
- Recreational Programs

In 2024 we provided the following to families in need:

- Provided 35,775 meals
- 142 children are members of the food pantry
- Mobile Food Pantry 4,729
- 192 weekend lunches from October - December
- Provided 89 Filled Backpacks for school age children
- Provided 32 Winter Coats, Boots, Hats and Mittens
- Provided 50 Easter Meals
- Provided 124 Thanksgiving Meals
- Provided 123 Christmas Meals
- Provided 275 Christmas Gifts
- Provided \$14,990 for client clothing allowance.



2025 Legislation to Know

Updated 2/7/25

**Thousands of pieces of legislation get introduced in Albany during the year.
The bills listed below may be of particular interest to towns**

Home Rule

S1247/Addabbo (No Same As): Adds GML 96-aa requiring that when the state or an organization is attempting to convert land to public use in a municipality with a population of less than one million, a hearing shall be held in such municipality where such land is located to allow for public comment and input from neighbors; requires a ten day notice of such hearing to members of the community.

Affordable Housing Component of Comprehensive Plans

1. A27/S2083 Burdick/Kavanagh: Amends Town Law 272-a(3) to add new subsection (p) to include an affordable housing needs assessment as one of the criteria that can be considered as part of a comprehensive plan. Despite the word “Requires” in the Leg. Summary, it appears to be permissive because, as currently drafted, 272-a(3) reads: “*3. Content of a town comprehensive plan. The town comprehensive plan may [emph. added] include the following topics at the level of detail adapted to the special requirements of the town:*”
2. A49/S2084 Burdick/Kavanagh: Amends Town Law 272-a such that:
 - Under subsection (4), TB shall determine whether it is in the public interest to prepare [rather than merely “may prepare”] a comprehensive plan...and “updates thereof to ensure that it addresses housing needs.”
 - Under subsection (10), adds language that the TB shall determine whether it is in the public interest to update the comprehensive at least once every 10 years and to ensure that it addresses housing needs.

- Under subsection (12), as with a comprehensive plan and any amendments thereto, any “updates” to the plan must also be filed with the town clerk and county planning.

Records

A32/Burdick (No Same As) - Adds §79-r to Civil Rights Law. Requires municipalities that collect demographic information about a person's gender or sex to update all applicable forms and data systems to include a gender "x" option.

Migrant Transfers

A1759/S803 Buttenschon/Tedisco – Enacts the “migrant home rule transfer and transparency act”, which prohibits a municipality from relocating migrants to another municipality in New York unless and until a resolution authorizing the relocation has been adopted by the governing bodies of the receiving municipality and the receiving county; mandates written notice prior to location; provides a fine for violations.

First Responders

1. A2437/S782 Schiavoni/Palumbo: Adds RPTL 466-n to provide eligibility for a property tax exemption for enrolled members of a volunteer ocean rescue squad in certain municipalities upon the adoption of a local law, ordinance or resolution. NOTE: Also on 3rd Reading.
2. A2438/S781 Schiavoni/Palumbo: Adds RPTL §466-m, to establish eligibility for a tax exemption on real property for enrolled members of ocean rescue squads in certain municipalities; repeals a section of law relating to the eligibility of enrolled members of Southampton Village Ocean Rescue for a tax exemption on real property. NOTE: Also on 3rd Reading.
3. S458 Palumbo (No Same As): Amends RPTL 412-a to eliminate real property tax exemption for fire districts, fire protection districts and ambulance districts developed through IDAs in certain counties.

Town Websites

S783 Skoufis (No Same As): Amends GML 30 and 300 and another proposed bill (A2852-A/S3353-A, not in BW packet) to remove requirement for municipalities with populations less than 1500 to maintain official websites. NOTE: Also on 3rd reading.

Speed Limits

1. A1754/S2713 Shrestha/May: Amends V&T §§1643 & 1662-a to enact "local control for speed limits"; authorizes cities, villages, and towns to adjust the speed limit to lower than fifty-five miles per hour, but not less than twenty-five miles per hour, for portions of state highways that are particularly dangerous.
2. S90/Tedisco (No Same As) Amends V&T §§1620 & 1624, to provide that the maximum speed limit on state highways may be established pursuant to an engineering and/or traffic investigation authorized or performed by the department of transportation or the municipality within which the section of state highway subject to such speed limit is located.

Assessor

A3047/Lunsford (No Same As) – amends Town Law §20 to make town assessors an appointed position statewide; ends elections for town assessors.

Highway

A467/Magnarelli (No Same As) - amends Highway Law §10-c, to provide that whenever the estimate for construction work exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars **[increased from 300k]**, such work must be performed either with the municipality's own forces or by contract let by competitive bid.



February 4, 2025

Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Executive Budget

before the

THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND
ASSEMBLY WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Comments Submitted by the New York Association of Towns

Testimony Delivered by Executive Director, Christopher Koetzle

Thank you for allowing the New York Association of Towns (NYAOT) to provide testimony on the 2025-2026 Executive Budget and its impact on New York's 933 towns. At its core, local governments and the state share the same mission: to foster safe, thriving communities for residents and visitors alike. Collaboration is essential to achieving this goal, and we look forward to working together with the Legislature throughout the year.

NYAOT and New York's Towns: A Quick Overview

Founded in 1933, NYAOT has remained committed to its mission: training, educating, and advocating for towns across New York State. While the landscape of local government and how we provide those services have evolved over the decades, our core purpose remains unchanged.

Our Work and Commitment to Towns

NYAOT provides a wide range of resources and training opportunities to support town officials at every level, including:

- Annual and regional conferences to provide in-depth training and networking opportunities.
- Webinars and educational programs tailored to current municipal challenges.
- Presentations at partner organization conferences to expand outreach and collaboration.
- Responsive support, answering inquiries and providing guidance to local officials.
- Publications, newsletters, and manuals to ensure town leaders have the tools they need.
- On-the-ground engagement, meeting directly with town leaders to understand their needs.

New Leadership, Stronger Advocacy and Partnerships

A major change in 2024 was the appointment of Chris Koetzle as Executive Director of NYAOT. With 15 years of experience as Supervisor of the Town of Glenville, Chris brings firsthand knowledge of the challenges towns face daily. Under his leadership, NYAOT is more focused on training, advocacy, and hands-on support for local governments. We also strongly urge the Legislature to consider NYAOT a resource and partner. Our staff understands town operations and law better than anyone in the state.

Challenges for Towns in 2025

Through direct engagement with our members, NYAOT identified three of the most pressing challenges towns will face this year:

Workforce Development – Recruiting and retaining a skilled municipal workforce remains a top concern for towns. We appreciate the state's efforts to address this issue and the proposals included in the Executive Budget, but there is still more to be done to ensure towns can effectively staff essential services. In addition to the proposed budget proposals for workforce development outlined in our testimony, NYAOT also urges the Legislature to take the following actions to strengthen workforce development:

- Reform Civil Service to create a more nimble hiring process, Evaluate Tier 6 to improve retention and ensure public service remains an attractive career option.
- Raise the salary cap for retirees who return to public service, allowing experienced professionals to help fill critical workforce gaps.

Infrastructure Funding – As detailed in our testimony, towns urgently need sustainable funding to maintain and improve roads, water systems, and other essential infrastructure. Without stable, long-term investment, municipalities will struggle to keep up with rising costs and necessary improvements.

Managing the Tax Cap The rising trend of tax cap overrides underscores the need for modifications to the tax cap formula:

- Since 2022, the percentage of towns overriding the tax cap has increased by 8%.
- Last year, a quarter of all towns enacted an override.
- 22% of those overrides turned out to be unnecessary, indicating that the cap is too rigid and does not reflect actual municipal needs.

NYAOT has two recommendations for reform as they relate to the State Budget – 1. Exempt ambulance districts from the tax cap, and 2. exempt wage increases to support workforce development

Year	No Override	Override	% No	% Yes
2024	691	229	75%	25%
2023	742	229	76%	24%
2022	812	164	83%	17%
2021	772	210	79%	21%
2020	800	185	81%	19%

* Totals exceed 933 due to certain town special districts.

At NYAOT, we are dedicated to helping towns navigate these challenges through strong advocacy, practical training, and direct support. Our commitment to towns is stronger than ever, and we will continue working to ensure that local governments have the resources and knowledge they need to thrive.

NYAOT's Response to the 2026 Executive Budget

Governor Hochul's Executive Budget maintains critical funding for local governments and introduces new tools and options to help towns address pressing challenges. However, to ensure that New York's towns have the resources they need to thrive and serve their residents effectively, targeted investments in key areas are essential. Our top priorities for the state budget include:

- Strengthening Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM)
- Increasing Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) Funding
- Creating a CHIPS-Like Program for Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Ensuring Ambulance Services Are Properly Funded as an Essential Service
- Funding for Workforce Development

By addressing these priorities, we can build stronger communities and ensure local governments have the resources they need to serve New Yorkers effectively.

AIM: Strengthening Communities through Fair and Sustainable Funding

In the State of the State, the Governor declared, "Your family is our fight." The town family represents half of New York's population—if you don't live in a city or on a reservation, you live in a town. One of the most effective ways to support New York's families and future is by increasing AIM funding. It supports making homeownership more affordable, increasing wages, enhancing public services, maintaining local infrastructure and more. AIM is the only form of general-purpose aid that offers the flexibility towns need to cover essential costs. It also saves New Yorkers money - every dollar in AIM is a dollar not levied on homeowners through property taxes. Despite the need for this funding, AIM has failed to keep pace with inflation, making it increasingly difficult for towns to maintain the services that residents rely on and increasing the real property tax burden.

The Cost of Inaction and Inequities

To account for inflation, AIM should have been \$283 million higher in 2024.

- Since 2011, towns lost \$1.4 billion in AIM funding because the program remained stagnant.
- The current AIM formula results in smaller cities receiving disproportionately higher aid than larger towns, creating inequities in funding distribution. For example, the Town of Amherst in Erie County has a population of approximately 130,000 and receives around \$660,000 in AIM. On the other hand, the city of Albany has a population of around 100,000 and receives almost \$13 million in funding.

AIM Needs Reform – But Immediate Increases Are Critical

AIM is not a perfect program, and we are eager to work with the Governor’s office, the Legislature, and stakeholders to reform the funding formula so that resources are distributed fairly and effectively. However, while we work toward long-term improvements, our immediate priority is securing an increase in AIM funding this year.

We acknowledge and appreciate that the Executive Budget maintains the \$50 million in temporary AIM funding from last year. And while we understand the state’s fiscal challenges, investing in AIM is an investment in New York’s communities, economic growth, and the well-being of millions of residents.

Investing in Local Roads: Strengthening New York’s Transportation Infrastructure

We support the continued funding of the CHIPS program and appreciate that the Governor’s Budget proposes funding above the levels outlined in the five-year capital plan. However, transportation remains the single largest expenditure for towns, and funding has not kept pace with rising costs. Therefore, we ask the Legislature to increase CHIPS funding in the 2025-2026 State Budget.

According to data from 2023:

- Towns spent over \$1.8 billion on transportation-related expenses.
- One-fifth of every dollar spent by towns goes toward maintaining roads and bridges, highway barns, equipment fleets, salt and sand, asphalt, and concrete.
- Towns spend half a billion dollars more on roads than on public safety.
- Over the past decade, more than 1,000 miles of town roads have been eliminated due to rising costs, yet expenses continue to grow.

Just as with AIM, every dollar not funded through CHIPS must be raised locally. While the tax cap successfully slowed property tax growth statewide, it has not reduced the rising costs of maintaining essential local infrastructure.

Why Investing in Local Roads Matters

Local governments own 85% of all roads in New York State, with towns maintaining 62.9% of all centerline miles—more than any other level of local government. Beyond property tax increases, failing to invest in these roads leads to higher long-term costs for all New Yorkers:

- Every dollar in delayed road and bridge maintenance results in \$4 to \$5 in future repairs, ultimately increasing property taxes.
- New York motorists lose up \$8.9 billion annually to deteriorating roads and bridges, congestion, and missing safety features (“[New York Transportation by the Numbers](#)” January 2025, TRIP National Transportation Research Group).

CHIPS: A Reliable, Long-Term Funding Source

While we support state programs like PAVE-NY and BridgeNY, these initiatives were never meant to replace necessary increases to the CHIPS base. Unlike short-term or competitive grant programs, CHIPS provides steady, predictable funding, allowing towns to engage in long-term capital planning—a practice strongly encouraged by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC).

Our Ask: A Stronger Commitment to Local Transportation Infrastructure

We urge the state to:

- Increase CHIPS base funding beyond what is proposed in the Executive Budget.
- Prioritize long-term, stable infrastructure funding to help towns plan, invest wisely, and maintain New York's roads effectively.

By making these investments now, we can improve road safety, reduce long-term costs, and provide New Yorkers with the reliable transportation infrastructure they deserve.

Investing in Water and Sewer Infrastructure: A Sustainable Future for New York

Currently, municipalities rely on competitive grants for water and sewer infrastructure funding, often vying with private entities for a limited pool of resources and leaving out smaller communities that don't have the resources to dedicate to grant applications. NYAOT believes that **no one should have to compete for clean water**.

Thus, to truly address the public health and environmental crisis this crumbling infrastructure presents, as well as support initiatives like affordable housing development, NYAOT urges the state to establish a CHIPS-style program that provides municipalities with a stable, long-term funding source for water and sewer improvements in addition to clean water infrastructure grant funding.

Aging Infrastructure and Rising Costs

Like our roadways, New York's water and sewer systems are in urgent need of repair. Rising labor and material costs, fiscal constraints, and inadequate funding sources have led to delayed infrastructure improvements, putting public health at risk.

- New York has some of the oldest water infrastructure in the country.
- 25% of New York's 600+ wastewater treatment facilities are operating beyond their 30-year life expectancy.
- One-third of the state's 22,000 miles of sewer systems have exceeded their 60-year lifespan ([source: ASCE Infrastructure Report Card, 2015](#)).
- In 2008, the Department of Environmental Conservation estimated \$36.2 billion was needed over 20 years to repair municipal wastewater infrastructure ([source: DEC Wastewater Report, 2008](#)). Given inflation and the rising cost of materials this number has undoubtedly grown exponentially over the last 17 years.

The situation is just as dire for clean drinking water:

- In 2008, the Department of Health projected \$38.7 billion would be needed over 20 years to upgrade drinking water infrastructure ([source: DOH Drinking Water Report, 2008](#)).
- According to the Office of the State Comptroller, that meant \$80 billion in total water infrastructure investment was needed at that time—a number that has only grown over.

Additionally, sewer and water service costs are skyrocketing for a majority of towns.

- In 2011, towns spent \$375 million on water. In 2023, that rose to \$670 million - a 79 percent increase.
- In 2023, towns spent \$291 million on sewers - a \$44 million or 15 percent increase over the last 12 years.
- 484 towns that made expenditures on water services in 2023 - or 51 percent of towns.
- 351 towns that made sanitary sewer expenditures in 2023 - or 37 percent of towns.

Infrastructure, PFAS, and Other Emerging Contaminants: A Public Health Crisis

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often referred to as "forever chemicals," have been detected in various water supplies across New York State. In response, testing protocols and regulatory standards have undergone significant changes, most recently aligning with stricter federal Environmental Protection Agency standards. However, municipalities now face the daunting task of mitigating contamination and protecting residents from long-term exposure. Addressing this crisis requires dedicated investment in infrastructure upgrades and PFAS remediation technologies to ensure clean, safe drinking water for all communities.

Our Ask: An Additional Approach to Water and Sewer Infrastructure Investment

We appreciate the \$400 million allocated to the Environmental Protection Fund in the Executive Budget, as well as the additional \$500 million for clean water infrastructure. However, strictly grant-based funding is insufficient given the state of our aging infrastructure and the massive investment needed to modernize it.

To ensure municipalities have a stable, dedicated funding stream, we strongly urge the creation of a CHIPS-like program for water and sewer infrastructure. Such a program would:

- Enable long-term, strategic infrastructure planning, a practice highly encouraged by OSC
- Allow towns to be proactive, addressing infrastructure needs before they reach crisis levels.
- Provide predictable funding, ensuring municipalities are not forced to rely on inconsistent or competitive grants.
- Help address PFAS contamination, giving local governments the resources they need to upgrade water treatment systems and safeguard public health.

The need for sustainable, long-term funding for water and sewer infrastructure is clear. By creating a dedicated funding source, New York can ensure municipalities have the financial

stability to modernize their systems, protect drinking water, and plan for the future—without waiting for emergencies to drive action.

Ambulance Services: Funding an Essential Public Safety Need

The Governor’s budget includes a key proposal in Health and Mental Hygiene Part R aimed at strengthening Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and ambulance service across New York State. This legislation:

- Establishes an Emergency Medical Community Assessment Program (EMCAP) to evaluate EMS services statewide, issue reports, and provide recommendations.
- Requires the development of a statewide EMS plan to improve coordination and service delivery.
- Mandates counties to establish countywide EMS plans to ensure comprehensive emergency coverage.
- Declares general ambulance service as an essential service, requiring municipalities to provide ambulance services jointly or individually.
- Creates a new section of General Municipal Law to allow all levels of local government to establish special districts for ambulance services.

While NYAOT supports declaring ambulance services as essential, we strongly recommend the following modifications to ensure effective implementation without overburdening local governments.

1. Provide Direct State Funding for Local Ambulance Services

Ambulance services are a growing component of town budgets, yet municipalities are expected to shoulder these increasing costs without state funding.

- In 2018, towns spent \$120.6 million on ambulance services.
- By 2023, that figure rose to \$142 million—an 18% increase in just five years.
- Currently, more than 36% of combined fire/ambulance budgets is allocated solely to ambulance services.

If the state is going to mandate ambulance services, it must also provide funding to help municipalities meet this obligation. Without financial support, this unfunded mandate will put even more strain on already limited local resources.

2. Exempt Ambulance Districts from the Tax Cap

While NYAOT believes all special improvement districts should be excluded from the tax cap formula, this exemption is especially critical for mandated ambulance districts. Requiring municipalities to provide ambulance services without excluding them from tax cap calculations forces local governments to make difficult trade-offs, potentially reducing funding for other essential services.

3. Remove Language Declaring Ambulance Services a "Matter of State Concern"

The proposed General Municipal Law § 122-b(1) states that general ambulance services are "a matter of state concern" that must be provided by every county, city, town, and village.

- Declaring ambulance service a matter of state concern effectively eradicates home rule authority from local governments on this issue. It means that municipalities have no authority to adopt local laws to assist ambulance service in their communities
- Local municipalities know their communities' needs best and should retain authority to adopt local laws impacting and supporting local ambulance service.
- While state guidance and support are welcome, local governments must be able to have the flexibility to respond effectively to the needs of their community.

A well-funded, locally controlled EMS system is the best way to ensure high-quality emergency medical care for all New Yorkers, and these modifications achieve that.

Investing in Critical Industries: Local Government Workforce Development

Governor Hochul's State of the State emphasized the importance of investing in critical industries, and NYAOT believes that none could be more critical than local governments. Towns serve nearly half of New York State's population, providing essential services such as water and sewer management, police protection, and road maintenance, including snow plowing.

However, local governments are struggling to attract and retain workers due to things like barriers in the civil service system and an inability to compete with private-sector wages. Hiring delays, job insecurity, and wage stagnation create long-term vacancies, leaving towns understaffed and compromising public health, safety, and welfare.

NYAOT's Workforce Development Initiative

To address the workforce shortage, NYAOT has partnered with SUNY Potsdam to develop an innovative microcredential program. This program allows individuals to obtain professional credentials—such as grant writing—in an efficient and cost-effective manner, on their own schedule. By equipping individuals with relevant skills, this initiative benefits both future town employees and the towns they serve.

Workforce Development in the Budget

NYAOT supports key civil service reforms proposed in the budget, including:

- Removing mandatory maximum age limits for municipal police officers (PPGG Part C)
- Extending the waiver of civil service exam fees until June 30, 2026 (PPGG Part _)

However, more must be done to strengthen the local government workforce. NYAOT recommends the following be included in the state budget:

- Funding a reimbursement program for commercial driver's licenses (CDLs): CDL training costs range from \$4,000 to \$12,000. NYAOT proposes a state-funded reimbursement program for individuals who obtain a CDL and commit to working for a local government or the state for a specified period.
- Temporarily excluding wage increases from the tax cap.

Investing in local government workforce development is an investment in the stability, safety, and prosperity of communities across New York State. NYAOT urges the state to take bold action to ensure local governments remain strong and fully staffed for the future.

Other Budget Issues

Cybersecurity

NYAOT takes no position on PPGG Part K, which would require municipalities to report cybersecurity incidents to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services within 72 hours of discovery and ransom payments within 24 hours.

Similarly, NYAOT does not take a position on PPGG Part X, which mandates annual cybersecurity awareness training for local government employees who use technology as part of their official duties. However, we appreciate that this proposal:

- Provides access to state cybersecurity training at no cost, reducing the financial burden on municipalities.
- Allows municipalities to fulfill the requirement through existing cybersecurity training programs, such as those offered by New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR).

NYAOT has long recognized the importance of cybersecurity in safeguarding municipal systems and data. We work proactively with NYMIR, which provides property, casualty, and cybersecurity insurance to local governments. Through this partnership, NYMIR offers cybersecurity training to its members, helping to strengthen municipal defenses against cyber threats. We support that the Governor's proposal recognizes these existing training programs and ensures that municipalities can continue utilizing proven cybersecurity education resources to meet state requirements.

Other Budget Legislation

Finally, NYAOT supports the following proposals in the Executive Budget:

- An optional real property tax exemption for certain qualified low-income households (ELFA Part K)
- An optional real property tax exemption relating to property rehabilitation (ELFA Part M)

- The prohibition on institutional real estate investors from purchasing, acquiring, or putting an offer on a single-family or two-family residence unless the residence has been listed for sale to the general public for at least 75 days (Rev Part F)
- Strengthening laws that help towns acquire abandoned properties. The proposal clarifies when a vacant dwelling is abandoned and adds a new basis for determining property abandonment (ELFA Part J)
- Authorizing DASNY to provide planning, design, procurement and construction management services to counties, cities, towns and villages (TED Part JJ)
- Changing interest rates on court judgments or accrued claims against municipalities from 9% to a market rate equal to the weekly average one-year Treasury bill rate

Conclusion

Thank you for your time and consideration. Towns are the backbone of New York State, providing essential services that keep our communities safe, functional, and thriving. Investing in the local government is about ensuring the strength and sustainability of the services that millions of residents rely on every day. NYAOT remains committed to supporting policies that empower towns and the dedicated individuals who serve them. We appreciate your leadership in addressing these challenges and look forward to working together to build a stronger future for all.



New York Association of Towns

2024 Laws Digest

2024 Legislative Digest

There were 4,096 bills introduced in the New York State Legislature in 2024. Of the 805 bills that passed both houses, Governor Kathy Hochul signed 679 while issuing 126 veto messages (including items in the budget).

Town officials are urged to familiarize themselves with the new laws listed in this digest under the category of their particular responsibility. Town attorneys and town supervisors are especially encouraged to review all of the new laws reported, and, in turn, alert their fellow town officers to new legislation involving their various responsibilities.

Many officers find the section on Special Acts at the end of this digest most valuable. As a matter of fact, it is the only record to ascertain conveniently and quickly a statute affecting a single town or towns in a certain county, enacted in a particular year.

A copy of the Laws Digest will be available on the Members Only section of NYAOT's website.

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Animals & Agriculture

Chapter 605 – Defines cannabis as an agricultural product and makes it eligible to receive an agricultural assessment along with other protections afforded in the Agricultural Districts law.

Assessors, Assessments & Taxation

Chapter 6 – Allows municipalities to establish an adjustable percentage real property tax exemption based on permanent partial disabilities of not less than 50% or more than 100%. Expands the documents eligible to prove disability for purposes of a local property tax exemption for persons with disabilities to include certifications of disability from the state Workers Compensation Board.

Chapter 209 – Expands the real property tax exemption for persons with disabilities (RPTL 459-c) to include a person with a disability who has their primary residence in a special needs trust, or a property owner who has a tenant with a disability whose lease provides them with a life interest in the property as long as the tenant remains in the residence.

Chapter 372 – Authorizes, at local option, a real property tax exemption to certain volunteers who live in such municipality but who serve in a neighboring municipality.

Chapter 373 – Requires taxing jurisdictions to include on the statement of taxes the due dates, without interest or penalties, for the payment of taxes via installments for

those real property owners who elect to pay taxes in installments.

Chapter 590 – Establishes, at local option, a real property tax exemption for improvements made to residential real property for the purpose of reducing carbon emissions.

Chapter 646 – Allows for the consideration of the inclusion of on-site day care facilities when evaluating payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) projects.

Chapter 673 – Enacts the Climate Change Property Tax Relief Act. Authorizes local governments to opt in to adopting a local law providing a reduced assessment in the event a property is impacted by a local or major disaster. Outlines the requirements for such local law or resolution. Declares that such local laws may provide for retroactive relief for disasters that have already occurred.

Codes & Code Enforcement

Chapter 615 – Expands code enforcement training to include programs that can be completed online with flexible scheduling options that allow for completion at the desired time and pace of code enforcement personnel.

Environment

Chapter 284 – Extends for 4-years the authorization of the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation to provide a fifty percent interest rate subsidy for Clean Water State Revolving Fund financings.

Finance

Chapter 167 – Extends for 2-years provisions authorizing municipalities to pay the first installment on an issue of serial bonds two years after the date of issuance of such bonds or two years after the date of the first bond anticipation note or notes issued in anticipation of such bonds, whichever is earlier; to redeem bonds prior to maturity in such amount, in such manner, at such times, and upon such terms as may be determined by the finance board of the municipality at the time of issuance of such bonds, and at such prices as may be determined by the issuer at the time of issuance; to issue variable rate bonds and notes; suspends the five percent down payment requirement applicable to bonds or notes in certain circumstances; to the use of installment contracts, variable rate obligations, and original issue discount bonds; and the promulgation of rules by the State Comptroller regarding the approval of negotiated sales of bonds and notes.

Chapter 479 – Authorizes regional planning council eligibility for federal and/or state grants.

Chapter 497 – Defines the term "municipality" to mean a county or a city or town with a population of one hundred thousand or more for the purposes of the Electronic Open Auction Public Bond Sale Pilot program.

Fires, Fire Districts & Firefighters

Chapter 316 – Authorizes ambulance services and advanced life support first response services to store and distribute blood and initiate and administer blood transfusions.

Chapter 354 – Exempts the Varna Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., within the town of Dryden (Tompkins County) from the 45% limit on non-resident members.

Chapter 401 – Clarifies the procedures affecting the first annual election of fire district officials to a board of fire commissioners by specifying that every registered fire district voter is entitled to cast one vote for each vacant position on such a board.

Chapter 588 – Expands disability benefits for firefighters who suffered any condition or impairment of health caused by endocrine/thyroid cancer.

Health

Chapter 34 – Provides the Department of Health an additional two years to promulgate regulatory relief for municipal limited health care service facilities.

Chapter 461 – Requires places of public assembly to maintain epinephrine auto-injector devices and to have at least one employee who is trained in its use. Defines such places of public assembly to mean those with an occupancy of 1,000 people. Includes all stadiums, ballparks, gymnasiums, field houses, arenas, civic centers and similar facilities used for sporting events; and (ii) concert halls,

recital halls, theatres, indoor and outdoor amphitheaters or other auditoriums used for the presentation of concerts. Excepts venues owned by churches, religious organizations, granges, public associations, or free libraries.

Highways

Chapter 108 – Clarifies that the 2023 authorization for the Town of Lorraine (Jefferson County) to designate certain town roads as low-volume roads and certain low-volume roads as minimum maintenance roads included nothing in the underlying chapter that limits, diminishes or otherwise affects the powers of any municipality other than the Town of Lorraine.

Housing

Chapter 1 – Expands to include authorities among those sanctioned to require owners and agents of multiple residences and multiple dwellings to provide names and contact information of residents and their contact information to local emergency service providers.

Chapter 100 – Replaces the penalty that would deny rental permit or certificate of occupancy for non-response, or knowing and intentional submission of false information, to a municipal vacancy survey, with the imposition of a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars.

Chapter 672 – Regulates short-term rentals. Details requirements for such rental units, rental hosts, and booking services. Subjects

occupancies of such units to certain taxes. Sets forth authorization and requirements for municipalities that have their own short-term residential rental unit registry as of the effective date. Requires short-term units in such municipalities to be registered with both the municipality and the state. Prohibits any municipality from creating its own short-term rental residential rental unit registry after the effective date.

Labor & Employment

Chapter 5 – Provides for crediting of probationary service upon permanent appointment. Specifies that any person appointed provisionally to a title in accordance with NYS Civil Service Law section sixty-five and who then receives permanent appointment to the same title immediately following the provisional appointment shall have all time spent as a provisional appointee credited to any probationary term that is required upon permanent appointment to a position.

Chapter 302 – Requires the notification of a public employee when their personal information has been released to the public as the result of a Freedom of Information Law request.

Chapter 303 – Permits individuals within twelve months of meeting the minimum age or educational qualifications for a competitive class civil service role to take the civil service examination for that position.

Chapter 306 – Requires an appointing authority to provide certain information

regarding judgments about an employee's inability to perform their duties due to a disability to the employee and the authorized representative of such employee. Details such information to be shared.

Chapter 651 – Expands the Municipal Adoption Program, e.g., adopt-a-park, shoreline or roadway programs, to include lakes as eligible to participate.

Land Use

Chapter 355 – Adds community gardens to the hierarchical ranking of priorities for the use of real property conveyed by lands banks.

Chapter 618 – Requires electric vehicle charging stations and electric vehicle capable parking spaces to accommodate wheelchair accessible electric vehicles.

Chapter 626 – Prohibits well permits from being issued to an applicant who uses carbon dioxide to complete or recomplete natural gas or oil resources.

Chapter 643 – Requires new construction that includes dedicated off-street parking to provide electric vehicle charging stations and electric vehicle ready parking spaces.

Libraries

Chapter 241 – Expands state aid eligibility for library construction and makes permanent a reduced match for library construction aid; conforms the existing match and eligibility requirements

applicable to projects located in "economically disadvantaged" and "economically distressed" communities; and remove the cap of fifty percent of total system-wide project allocations applicable to certain individual library aid projects.

Chapter 270 – Includes the Ogden Farmers' Library, located in the town of Ogden (Monroe County), as an eligible library for the financing of projects through the dormitory authority.

Chapter 271 – Includes the Parma Public Library, located in the town of Parma (Monroe County), as an eligible library for the financing of projects through the dormitory authority.

Miscellaneous

Chapter 17 – Clarifies that if a cemetery borrows from its permanent maintenance fund (PMF) and subsequently and clearly demonstrates it lacks sufficient future revenue to make repayment then such allowance from the PMF shall be in the form of a grant that the cemetery is not required to repay. Specifies that a cemetery, including a surviving cemetery following a merger or consolidated cemetery following a consolidation, may seek a modification of the method of repayment, or conversion of a loan to a grant, if the cemetery can clearly demonstrate that the cemetery merged or consolidated into the surviving cemetery will not produce sufficient future revenue to make repayment under the existing loan.

Chapter 62 – Prohibits utility corporations, including municipal utilities, from charging

customers for gas or electric service that was rendered more than three months of the monthly billing period. Requires such utilities to provide a thirteen-month usage history in their bills.

Chapter 609 – Mandates that all municipalities maintain an official website with a “.gov” domain name, which is accessible to the public and update such website regularly. Requires such website to contain at least: the hours of operations; elected officials; services provided; a plain language privacy policy; the most recent annual financial reports; current year budget; most recent independent audit report; notice of municipal elections, public hearings, public meetings, and regular board meetings; agenda and minutes of municipal meetings; an up-to-date version of the town code, or a link to same; and for certain municipalities, the most recent fiscal performance plan or multiyear financial plan;

Chapter 656 – Provides the option for the expenditure of cemetery trust fund revenue solely for the maintenance and preservation of cemetery grounds.

Police, Peace Officers & Public Safety

Chapter 9 – Adjusts the requirement that youth camps and sports programs have at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) to allow a description of reasonable access to an AED, instead. Details related elements to be included in such AED implementation plans.

Chapter 25 – Extends, from one year to two years, the time in which a mandated reporter must receive updated training.

Chapter 30 – Removes reference to self-insurance policies, clarifies that supplemental uninsured/underinsured motorist (SUM) insurance coverage shall apply to police vehicles that are principally garaged or used in this state, and removes the requirement that SUM coverage be no less than the bodily injury liability insurance limits of the policy.

Chapter 38 – Clarifies that downed power lines must be responded to within seventy-two hours of reportage. Requires utilities to develop emergency response plans that include provisions to prioritize the securing of downed wires over routine maintenance or other work unrelated to a response to an emergency event.

Chapter 196 – Adds electric scooters, bicycles with electric assist and/or bicycles to the list of required accident reporting by police. Details that such reports include the type or types of vehicles involved.

Chapter 205 – Allows severely disabled individuals to renew parking permits without providing an updated certification or additional medical documents.

Chapter 425 - Clarifies that police agencies may be listed as the petitioner in Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) litigation in lieu of the police officer.

Chapter 472 – Specifies that the counties of Nassau and Suffolk are included in the

authorization for firefighters and law enforcement officers in cities, towns, and villages outside of New York City to possess and administer epinephrine.

Purchasing, Procurement & Competitive Bidding

Chapter 164 – Extends for 5-years the authority of local governments to purchase technology products and software, security, law enforcement and disaster relief from the Federal General Service Administration; authorizes local governments to utilize and purchase from county contracts for construction trades/ service related contracts; and, make purchases utilizing the Office of General Services (OGS) contracts.

Chapter 304 – Requires contractors and subcontractors working on covered projects to submit their payrolls or transcripts to the municipality's fiscal officer.

Town Court and Vehicle & Traffic

Chapter 279 – Adds Monroe to the list of counties authorized to conduct electronic appearances in connection with a criminal action.

Chapter 285 – Adds Oswego to the list of counties authorized to conduct electronic appearances in connection with a criminal action.

Chapter 427 – Requires courts to notify and provide a copy of the issuance, amendment, or revocation of a temporary

extreme risk protection order (ERPO) to the statewide computerized registry of orders of protection and warrants of arrest. Further requires courts to report specified demographic data at the time an ERPO is transmitted.

Chapter 541 – Expands "Melanie's law" to include persons who are related by consanguinity or affinity to parties who are or have been in an intimate relationship with the named victims, regardless of age among those eligible for orders of protection issued via family and criminal courts.

Chapter 589 – Allows the submission of an affirmation rather than a notarized affidavit when moving for a waiver of certain court costs, fees, and expenses for persons of insufficient means.

Chapter 622 – Allows courts to issue protective orders and regulate the disclosure of juror names when there is good cause. Specifies that the court is to instruct a jury to make no inference regarding the guilt or innocence of the defendant, based on the issuance of such a protective order.

Chapter 665 – Clarifies that an unsworn affirmation may be substituted in an administrative proceeding with the same force and effect as an affidavit.

Special Acts

Chapter 46 – Defines the metes and bounds of certain land to be conveyed by

the state to the town of Romulus (Seneca County).

Chapter 83 – Eliminates the requirement that the state Department of Environmental Conservation establish a certified nuisance wildlife permit in the Town of Southold's (Suffolk County) Long Island Urban Deer Management Pilot program, and instead use the existing cull permit process.

Chapter 192 - Extends limitations on the shift between classes of taxable property in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk.

Chapter 193 – Extends limitations on the shift between classes of taxable property in the town of Clarkstown (Rockland County).

Chapter 193 – Extends limitations on the shift between classes of taxable property in the town of Orangetown (Rockland County).

Chapter 203 – Allows the towns of Harmony and North Harmony (Chautauqua County) to elect a single town justice to preside in the town courts of both towns.

Chapter 238 – Authorizes the town of New Windsor (Orange County) to levy up to a 5% hotel occupancy tax.

Chapter 239 – Allows an establishment in the town of Mount Kisco (Westchester County) to be able to obtain a retail license for on-premises consumption even though

it is located within two hundred feet of a school or place of worship.

Chapter 251 – Exempts the residency requirement for the comptroller and building inspector in the town of Chester (Orange County).

Chapter 262 – Authorizes the town of New Windsor (Orange County) to alienate certain parklands for use as a sewer treatment plant and to dedicate other lands as replacement parklands.

Chapter 269 – Expands the area in the town of Harrison (Westchester County) subject to the town's residential parking system.

Chapter 274 – Expands the authorization granted to the town of Greenburgh (Westchester County) to lease and operate a tennis facility to include all racquet/paddle sports.

Chapter 287 – Extends by one year the date in which certain property may be transferred to the town of Huntington (Suffolk county) by the State commissioner of transportation.

Chapter 288 – Extends a residential-commercial property tax exemption program currently authorized for Livingston County to include Steuben County.

Chapter 319 – Allows for the appointing instead of electing a treasurer for the park district in the town of Southold (Suffolk County).

Chapter 323 – Provides for the refund of penalties accrued on certain real property taxes in the town of Scarsdale, (Westchester County).

Chapter 330 – Authorizes the town of Oyster Bay (Nassau County) to discontinue as parklands and convey such parkland to the State department of environmental conservation.

Chapter 349 – Authorizes the town of Cortlandt (Westchester County) to levy up to a 3% hotel occupancy tax.

Chapter 350 – Authorizes the town of Clarkstown (Rockland County) to levy up to a 5% hotel occupancy tax.

Chapter 360 – Authorizes the town of Poughkeepsie (Dutchess County) to levy up to a 5% hotel occupancy tax.

Chapter 383 – Permits the town of Putnam Valley (Putnam County) to lease certain sports field fences for advertisements.

Chapter 393 – Authorizes the town of Kinderhook (Columbia County) to alienate and discontinue the use of certain parklands.

Chapter 395 – Authorizes the town of Brookhaven (Suffolk County) to alienate and discontinue the use of certain parklands.

Chapter 405 – Authorizes the town of Yorktown (Westchester County) to alienate

and discontinue the use of certain parklands.

Chapter 406 – Permits the town of Kent (Putnam County) to lease certain sports field fences for advertisements.

Chapter 407 – Authorizes the town of Brookhaven (Suffolk County) to discontinue a portion of real property currently used as parkland for the construction of sewer facilities.

Chapter 408 – Authorizes the village of Ballston Spa (Saratoga County) to transfer ownership of the Woods Hollow Nature Preserve to the town of Milton (Saratoga County).

Chapter 416 – Authorizes the town of Hempstead (Nassau County) to transfer ownership of certain parkland to the village of Freeport.

Chapter 417 – Exempts a certain parcel of land in the town of Islip (Suffolk County) from certain use restrictions and alienates certain parklands.

Chapter 442 – Permits the town of Greenburgh (Westchester County) to establish and operate a red-light camera (RLC) program at no more than two town-owned intersections within town limits. Stipulates that no photographs, microphotographs, videotape, or any other recorded images created by said RLC program are to be accessed by the public through filing a Freedom of Information Law request to any State agency. Requires the town to follow appropriate public-

contract-awarding process when purchasing or leasing any equipment for its RLC program.

Chapter 484 – Exempts certain parcels of land in the Town of East Hampton (Suffolk County) from licensing restrictions for manufacturers and wholesalers of alcoholic beverages who sell at retail for on-premises consumption.

Chapter 495 – At local option, allows the town of Southampton (Suffolk County) to keep their chief of police in office until such person has attained the age of sixty-five.

Chapter 507 – Authorizes the town of Springfield (Otsego County) to adopt, amend and enforce local laws and rules to regulate docks, boathouses and moorings on Otsego Lake consistent with the laws of the United States.

Chapter 511 – Authorizes the town of Wawayanda (Orange County) to levy up to a 5% hotel occupancy tax.

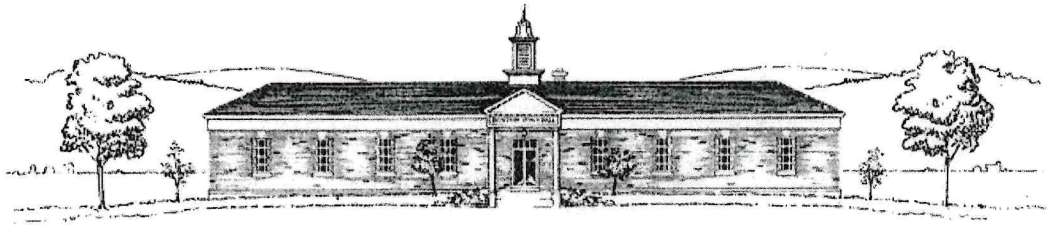
Chapter 512 – Authorizes the town of Chester (Orange County) to levy up to a 5% hotel occupancy tax.

Chapter 517 – Enacts the Seneca County Water and Sewer Authority Act.

Chapter 532 – Authorizes the town of Ramapo (Rockland County) to levy up to a 5% hotel occupancy tax.

Chapter 533 – Authorizes the town of Ossining (Westchester County) to levy up to a 3% hotel occupancy tax.

Chapter 645 - Authorizes the town of Southampton (Suffolk County) to enact a homestead real property tax exemption.



TOWN OF BOSTON

JASON A. KEDING
Supervisor

MICHAEL A. CARTECHINE
JENNIFER L. LUCACHIK
KELLY L. MARTIN
KATHLEEN SELBY
Town Board

SANDRA L. QUINLAN
Town Clerk - Tax Collector

ROBERT J. TELAAK
Highway Supt.

DEBRA K. BENDER
KYLE W. CALABRESE
Town Justice

RYAN F. McCANN
Town Attorney

LAURIE A. BAKER
Prosecutor

THELMA HORNBERGER
Assessor

THOMAS C. MURPHY
Code Enforcement Officer

February 12, 2025

Honorable Town Board Members,

I am pleased to report that as of February 10, 2025 I have appointed Lisa Ranalletta as part time Deputy in the Town Clerk's office.

I would like to request that she is compensated at the rate of \$21.41/hr as approved at the January 1, 2025 reorganizational meeting.

Thank you,

Sandra L. Quinlan
Town Clerk

TOWN HALL
(716) 941-6113
Fax (716) 941-6116

TOWN SUPERVISOR
(716) 941-6518

TOWN COURT
(716) 941-6115
Fax (716) 796-6170

HIGHWAY GARAGE
(716) 941-5869
Fax (716) 941-3677

NUTRITION PROGRAM
(716) 941-5773

8500 Boston State Road Boston, New York 14025-9848

The Town of Boston is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 1-866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or fax 202-690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

TOWN OF BOSTON
APPLICATION FOR
USE OF TOWN MEETING FACILITY

RECEIVED
BOSTON TOWN CLERK

2025 02 10

Name/Organization New York Municipal Insurance Recirpocal (NYMIR) Date 02 / 10 / 2025

Name of person responsible for facilities Karen Buckley / Jason Keding

Title V.P. Marketing & Member Services / Town Supervisor

Applicant Address 8500 Boston State Road, Boston, New York 14025

Applicant Daytime Phone # 716-941-6518 # Of Attendees: +/- 50

Date(s) Requested* April 30, 2025 Time 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Type of Event Work Zone Safety Workshop

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, REQUEST PERMISSION TO USE THE FOLLOWING: (check all that apply)

☐ Town Hall Community Room w/o Kitchen

☐ Planning Board Room

☒ Court Room

I agree that all facilities used will be properly cleaned to the best of my ability upon completion of the event and that I will be responsible for any damages caused to any of the facilities or grounds .

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: 

Upon Completion, please submit to Town Clerk

APPROVED/DENIED : 2/10/2025
(date)

INSPECTION: _____
(date)

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



PATRICK M. GALLIVAN

February 14, 2025

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
State Capitol – Room 330
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Robert Ort
Republican Conference Leader
New York State Senate
909 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Liz Krueger
Chairperson – Finance Committee
New York State Senate
416 Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Legislative Leaders and Chairperson:

I respectfully request that the Senate support funding in the amount of approximately \$20 million for the Town of Boston, Erie County, to repair their water system in order to improve water quality and ensure reliable water service for the community.

Thank you for your consideration of the abovementioned request and please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick M. Gallivan" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator, 60th District

Approval of 2024 Service Award points – Boston EMS



JASON A. KEDING
Supervisor

MICHAEL A. CARTECHINE
JENNIFER L. LUCACHIK
KELLY L. MARTIN
KATHLEEN SELBY
Town Board

SANDRA L. QUINLAN
Town Clerk - Tax Collector

ROBERT J. TELAACK
Highway Supt.

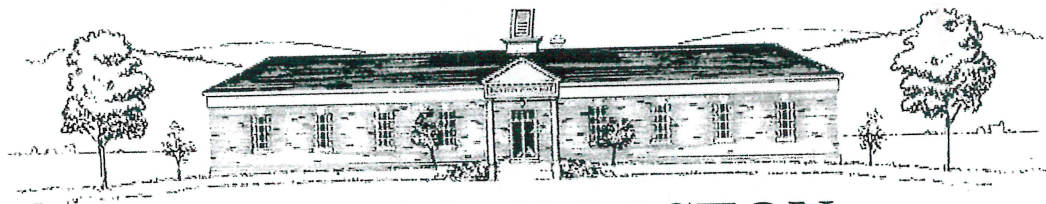
DEBRA K. BENDER
KYLE CALABRESE
Town Justice

RYAN MCCANN
Town Attorney

LAURIE BAKER
Prosecutor

THELMA HORNBERGER
Assessor

THOMAS C. MURPHY
Code Enforcement Officer



TOWN OF BOSTON

FEB 3 2025 AM 11:45

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally request a leave of absence from my position in the

Congregate Dining/Nutrition Department from July 1, 2025 to August 29, 2025

I have discussed this with the Supervisor's Office, and they are aware of my plans and arrangements that have been made to cover my shifts during my time away.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name: Yvonne M. Wasedel

Date: January 31, 2025

TOWN HALL
(716) 941-6113
Fax (716) 941-6116

TOWN SUPERVISOR
(716) 941-6518

TOWN COURT
(716) 941-6115
Fax (716) 941-5169

HIGHWAY GARAGE
(716) 941-5869
Fax (716) 941-3677

NUTRITION PROGRAM
(716) 941-5773

8500 Boston State Road Boston, New York 14025-9848

The Town of Boston is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 1-866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or fax 202-690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

Appoint Deputy Town Clerk, PT (\$21.41 /hr.)

Lisa Ranalletta

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BOSTON
APPLICATION FOR USE OF FACILITY

This Application is subject to Approval by the Town Board and MUST be received at least 1 week prior to Town Board meeting

*****Application, fees, plans, layouts and any additional proof from other agencies must be completed and submitted at time of application. Must be a Boston Resident to request use. *****

Name/Organization Conservation Advisory Council Date 02 / 4 / 2025

Name of person responsible for facilities Caitlin Tucker

Title Member, Conservation Advisory Council

Applicant Address [REDACTED]

Applicant Daytime Phone # [REDACTED] # Of Attendees: 50

Date(s) Requested* 02/22/2025 Time 8am Type of Event Community Outreach

Set Up 8:00 am Take Down 2:30 pm

Sporting Leagues — Please attach Schedule

****Certificate of Insurance from your organization must be submitted at least 1 week before your 1st sporting event****

*****Please confirm that your dates do not conflict with any Sporting Leagues*****

Baseball—Josh Haeick	716-649-6170	Football—Nick Jagow	716-725-9680
Southtown Slammers/	716-225-7936	Soccer—Jessica Blesy	716-809-0121
Mike Bellagamba			

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, REQUEST PERMISSION TO USE THE FOLLOWING: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ South Boston Park Shelter | Boston Town Park |
| ☒ Town Hall Community Room w/ Kitchen
And Bathroom Facilities | ☐ Lions Shelter
And Bathroom Facilities |
| ☐ North Boston Park Fields | ☐ Small Shelter |
| | ☐ Town Fields |

WILL YOUR EVENT HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Parade | - Who will provide traffic control? _____
(Submit proof in writing from that agency at time of application) |
| ☐ Parking
(over 50) | - Please submit parking Plan: _____
(This must be approved by Park's Superintendent before submittal to Town Clerk with application) |
| ☐ Rides | (Certificate of Insurance from your insurance company must be submitted 1 week before use begins) |
| ☐ Fireworks | (Certificate of Insurance from Firework Vendor must be submitted 1 week before your event) |
| | - Who will provide Fire Stand By? _____
(Submit proof in writing from that agency at time of application) |
| ☐ Vendors
(over 5) | - Please submit Layout _____
(This must be approved by Park's Superintendent before submittal to Town Clerk with application) |

Alcoholic Beverages:
(IF SERVING ALCOHOL, CHECK ALL
THAT APPLY)

Are you serving alcohol?
Are you having a Private Party?
Are you having a Public Special Event?

☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Yes ☒ No

PLEASE NOTE: ALL parties must submit a Certificate of Insurance 1 week before your event.
Public Special Events serving alcohol must also submit a copy of your NYS Liquor License 1 week before your event.

Certificates of Insurance: You must list the Town of Boston as additionally insured and the dates of the event must be on the Certificate of Insurance. Your insurance agent can help you with this. The following is a list of Liability amounts needed:

Private Party (Host Liquor)	\$ 500,000
Public Special Event (Liquor Legal)	\$1,000,000
Ride Vendor	\$1,000,000
Fireworks	\$1,000,000
Sporting Leagues	\$1,000,000

FEES: A **\$75 Maintenance Fee** must be included with this application. These funds will be utilized to cover the cost of bathroom supplies, final clean up and administrative costs.

KEYS: Keys may be picked up on the business day before the scheduled event and should be returned the first business day immediately following.

TOWN OF BOSTON PROPERTIES ARE SMOKE FREE

COMMUNITY EVENTS SIGN: If your organization needs to use the Community Announcement sign near the Emergency Squad Bldg, the "Request to use Coming Events Sign" application must be completed and submitted to the Highway/Parks Dept. This form can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office or at www.townofboston.com.

Requests may be submitted after September 1st the year before your event.

I agree that all facilities used will be properly cleaned to the best of my ability upon completion of the event and that I will be responsible for any damages caused to any of the facilities or grounds. I will submit to the Town Clerk all Certificates of Insurance and NYS Liquor License if necessary at least 1 week prior to my event. I have contacted the above mentioned sporting leagues and there are no conflicts with dates.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: Caelyn Tucker

Upon Completion, please submit to Town Clerk

FEE REC'D 02/5/2025 APPROVED/DENIED : _____
(date) (date)

REC'D
BOSTON TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BOSTON
APPLICATION FOR USE OF FACILITY

**This Application is subject to Approval by the Town Board
and MUST be received at least 1 week prior to Town Board meeting**

*****Application, fees, plans, layouts and any additional proof from other agencies must be completed and submitted at time of application. Must be a Boston Resident to request use.*****

Name/Organization Boys & Girls Club of Op. Boston Date 2/15/2025

Name of person responsible for facilities Carli DiNardo & Kim Estes
Title Unit Directors

Applicant Address 8550 Boston State Road

Applicant Daytime Phone # 716 226-4165 # Of Attendees: 100-120

Date(s) Requested* July 9, 2025 Time 10:30am Type of Event Field Day
Set Up 10:30-11:00am Take Down 2:00-3:00pm
Sporting Leagues — Please attach Schedule

****Certificate of Insurance from your organization must be submitted at least 1 week before your 1st sporting event****

*****Please confirm that your dates do not conflict with any Sporting Leagues*****

Baseball—Josh Haeick	716-649-6170	Football—Nick Jagow	716-725-9680
Southtown Slammers/	716-225-7936	Soccer—Jessica Blesy	716-809-0121
Mike Bellagamba			

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, REQUEST PERMISSION TO USE THE FOLLOWING: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ South Boston Park Shelter | ☒ Boston Town Park
Lions Shelter
And Bathroom Facilities |
| ☐ Town Hall Community Room w/ Kitchen
And Bathroom Facilities | ☐ Small Shelter |
| ☐ North Boston Park Fields | ☐ Town Fields |

WILL YOUR EVENT HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Parade | - Who will provide traffic control? _____
(Submit proof in writing from that agency at time of application) |
| ☐ Parking
(over 50) | - Please submit parking Plan: _____
(This must be approved by Park's Superintendent before submittal to Town Clerk with application) |
| ☐ Rides | (Certificate of Insurance from your insurance company must be submitted 1 week before use begins) |
| ☐ Fireworks | (Certificate of Insurance from Firework Vendor must be submitted 1 week before your event)
-Who will provide Fire Stand By? _____
(Submit proof in writing from that agency at time of application) |
| ☐ Vendors
(over 5) | - Please submit Layout _____
(This must be approved by Park's Superintendent before submittal to Town Clerk with application) |

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(IF SERVING ALCOHOL, CHECK ALL
THAT APPLY)

Are you serving alcohol?
Are you having a Private Party?
Are you having a Public Special Event?

☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Yes ☒ No

PLEASE NOTE: ALL parties must submit a Certificate of Insurance 1 week before your event.
Public Special Events serving alcohol must also submit a copy of your NYS Liquor License 1 week before your event.

Certificates of Insurance: You must list the Town of Boston as additionally insured and the dates of the event must be on the Certificate of Insurance. Your insurance agent can help you with this. The following is a list of Liability amounts needed:

Private Party (Host Liquor)	\$ 500,000
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Ride Vendor	\$1,000,000
Fireworks	\$1,000,000
Sporting Leagues	\$1,000,000

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: Tim Eley

Upon Completion, please submit to Town Clerk

FEE REC'D 2/5/2025 APPROVED/DENIED : _____
(date) (date)

Please consider adding maintenance fee?

Revised 5/2022

Thank you