

Town Board Meeting May 12, 2025

Supv. Crossen called the monthly meeting of the Alabama Town Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken, Councilperson Klotzbach, Fisher, LaGrou and Supv. Crossen were present. Also present were Supt. Covell, Attorney Boylan, Mark Masse, Terry Thompson, Dylan Falker, Ben Falker and Katie Rivers.

Privilege of the Floor

Katie Rivers – is there a planning board meeting next week? Supv. Crossen answered no. She asked if the data center will be on 60 acres? Mark Masse answered yes. She also asked if it is as big as Amazon and continued to ask Mark Masse a few other questions directly.

Dave Bencic – the couch on Towline Road is still there. Disc. (7636 Maple St. Rd.) Supv. Crossen to have ZEO/CEO Morris look into it.

Highway – Supt. Covell gave update:

- Culvert checks have been done.
- Sign work being done from Winter damage.
- Ash tree on Galloway Road will need to be addressed.
- Snow and Ice equipment removed and cleaned up.
- Dirt Roads have been graded.
- Finished outfitting the new pickup truck.
- Replaced wall packs with LEDs.
- Mowing being done as needed.
- Supt. Covell attended training for Grievance Day for Board of Assessment Review.
- Cemeteries have been cleaned up from Winter.

Pressure Washer Estimates

- Received three (3) estimates for a Dealer Hot Water Pressure Washer
 - Chaffee Ward Equipment \$7,500.00
 - Kepner Equipment \$10,870.00
 - Industrial Pressure Washers \$11,201.00

MOTION by Councilperson Klotzbach, seconded by Councilperson Fisher to approve the purchase of a Dealer Hot Water Pressure Washer from Chaffee Ward Equipment at a cost of \$7,500.00. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

NYS DOT 2025 Mowing Contract

The DOT submitted a contract for 2025 roadside Mowing in the Town at a rate of \$500 per centerline mile, 9.8 miles for a total of \$4,900.00, to be paid out in two installments, June and October.

MOTION by Councilperson Klotzbach, seconded by Councilperson Fisher to accept the NYSDOT Roadside Mowing Contract for 9.8 miles at a rate of \$500.00 per centerline mile, to be paid to the Town in June and October, 2025 and to allow Supt. Covell to sign the contract. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Travel Request

Supt. Covell submitted a travel request for Highway School in Ithaca, NY June 1, 2025 to Jun 4, 2025. Approx. cost will be \$766.40. Disc. held.

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Supv. Crossen to approve the Travel Request for Supt. Covell to attend Highway School in Ithaca, NY June 1st to June 4th. Approved by roll call vote:
C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

STAMP – Mark Masse gave update:

Easements for the force main were sent to the Town for review.

Edwards waiting for water hookup.

Waiting for Army Corps. Permit.

People are flying drones over the STAMP property. Mark asks the Town to not permit drones on private property without permission from the owner. Disc. held. Supv. Crossen to see if other Towns have local laws or regulations for drones.

Easements for Force Main

Permanent Easement No. PE-1 – Alleghany Rd., TM# 11.-1-72.2

Permanent Easement No. PE-2 – 1358 Ham Rd., TM#11.-1-33

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to allow Supv. Crossen to sign permanent easements No. PE-1 Alleghany Rd., TM# 11.-1-72.2 and No. PE-2 – 1358 Ham Rd., TM#11.-1-33. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Water District #2 – improvements have been made. Disc. held.

Water District #1 – nothing new.

Solar Tier 4 Project

Drew Reilly from Wendel met with Supv. Crossen, Kevin Fisher and representatives from other Towns. They would like to see the project comply with Town and County Ag. Laws.

Disc. held on Town of Oakfield's solar project. They are having issues with changes to fencing and road usage. NY State allowed changes without notifying the Town.

Battery Storage Moratorium

The current moratorium expires in July. Disc. held.

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to send referral to County Planning for Local Law to extend the moratorium for the maximum time allowed. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Town Hall – Disc. on installing cameras in and around the Town Hall.

Court Security – Supv. Crossen contacted Corfu Police Dept. for court security, waiting for a return call.

Disc. held on creating a court security position to be able to hire our own, if needed.

MOTION by Councilperson LaGrou, seconded by Supv. Crossen to create the position of Court Officer. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Bicentennial Committee – nothing new.

7047 Maple Road – Clerk Borkholder informed the board that CEO/ZEO Morris did the final inspection on the property, it is all cleaned up per her conversation with him.

Historian

Dawn Fisher sent a letter of interest for the position.

MOTION by Councilperson Klotzbach, seconded by Councilperson LaGrou to appoint Dawn Fisher as Town Historian. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Travel Policy

Town of Alabama Travel and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy

Policy Statement

Travel for official Town business that falls outside the normal scope of daily operations must be both budgeted and (if in excess of \$300) receive prior approval by the Town Board. It is the policy of the Town of Alabama to reimburse employees, elected officials, and appointed individuals for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses incurred while traveling for authorized business outside the Town.

Policy and Procedures

Individuals attending approved meetings or events where official Town business is conducted, and which occur over a standard meal period, are eligible for reimbursement of associated lodging, meal, and incidental expenses.

- Reimbursement will be based on the current U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) per diem rates for the travel destination: [GSA Per Diem Rates](#).
- Expenses will be reimbursed based on actual costs, supported by itemized receipts.
- Reimbursement above the GSA rates may be considered if:
 - The expenses are part of a conference or meeting package, and/or
 - Proper documentation is submitted.
- Any reimbursement exceeding the GSA allowance requires **prior approval** from the Town Board.

Travel Reimbursement Requirements

To receive reimbursement for travel expenses, the following conditions must be met:

- **Detailed itemized receipts** must be provided for all reimbursed expenses.
- Expenses must fall within the current GSA reimbursement rates, unless a written exception has been granted by the Supervisor.
- **Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable.**
- **Cannabis-infused foods or products are not reimbursable.**
- **Gratuities/tips** must not exceed **20%** of the total bill.

Transportation

When possible, a Town-owned vehicle should be used for travel. If one is not available, mileage reimbursement will be provided at the current **IRS standard mileage rate**.

Disc. held on “if in excess of \$500”. Change to \$300.00.

MOTION by Councilperson Klotzbach, seconded by Councilperson Fisher to adopt the Travel Policy with change. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

7443 Kenyon Ave. Request for Public Water

Dylan Falker applied to the County Water Committee for public water on a new parcel where he is building a house. He applied in February to remove the parcel from Ag. Exemptions. Below are the minutes from the meeting:

MEETING SUMMARY AND DECISION GENESEE COUNTY WATER SYSTEM HOOKUP
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 9:00 AM Small Conference
Room Genesee County Building 2 3837 W. Main Street Rd Batavia, NY

ATTENDEES: JOCELYN SIKORSKI, JARED ELLIOTT, JIM VEAZEY, FELIPE OLTRAMARI, AND DYLAN FALKER

APPLICATION NUMBER: WT-01-ALA-04-25 SUBJECT PROPERTY: 7443 Kenyon Ave., Alabama
TAX MAP NUMBER(S): 15.-1-70

APPLICANT’S NAME: Dylan Falker PURPOSE: Single-Family Home

MUNICIPAL RECOMMENDATION: Email Received March 31, 2025 6:12 PM The applicant and his family have invested their lives in both the Town of Alabama and their farm. From what I understand, Dylan plans to build the house on family property and intends to continue the family farm. Regardless of whether public water is available, the house will be built. However, it would be disappointing if the hookup isn't approved, as the family would have to spend thousands of dollars on a well with uncertain quality and quantity—funds that could be better invested in strengthening the farm. -Rob Crossen, Alabama Town Supervisor

1. IMPACTS ON THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE. “including the proximity of the hook-up to farms and surrounding farmland, the property’s enrollment status in the Agricultural Districts program, the enrollment status of property immediately surrounding it, the existence of drainage infrastructure, the farming history of the property, and the presence of prime farmland soils on a property yet to be built upon.”

Planning provided a map showing the property is enrolled in Agricultural District No. 2, however, the District is currently undergoing its eight-year review and the landowner has requested the property be removed from the program. Mr. Oltramari said that the County Legislature is holding a public hearing on the proposed modifications to the District on April 23, and are set to adopt the district with the modifications as proposed barring any further information becoming known during the public hearing. The District modifications would become effective on November 22, the District’s anniversary date.

Planning provided a soil composition map; the property is classified as containing 57.2% prime farmland soils, 42.7% Farmland of statewide importance and 0.1% Prime farmland if drained. Mr. Falker stated that a portion of the parcel would remain farmed. The driveway would follow the existing field laneway and the home would be built approximately 500 ft, back from Kenyon Ave., which would put it in the wooded hedgerow and part of the rear field.

Mr. Elliott said and Mr. Dylan confirmed that the land has been used most recently to grow hay.

The Committee agreed that the development would have little to no impact on the viability of agriculture. The proposed home would be on just shy of 3 acres much of it would remain in agriculture. It was also noted that there are several neighboring residential uses.

2. CONSISTENCY WITH COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

The committee acknowledged that the proposed development has no impact on this goal.

3. CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER AVAILABLE INFRASTRUCTURE.

Broadband is available. No natural gas or sewer service is present.

4. CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS, ZONING, AND OTHER LAND USE CONTROLS AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.

Mr. Oltramari displayed maps showing the Town's current zoning and comprehensive plan vision and stated that the property is located within Agricultural-Residential zoning district but not targeted for growth in the comprehensive plan. Residential homes are a permitted use under the current zoning and the use is not inconsistent with the Town's comprehensive plan. The Vision map also places the property in the quarry buffer area and in the area previously mined by U.S. Gypsum. There was a discussion about the potential impacts of both of these.

5. IMPACT ON VILLAGE/ CITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS.

The committee acknowledged that as previously discussed in other hookup meetings that single and two family homes have little to no impact regarding Village/City revitalization programs.

6. WHETHER IT IS MEETING A PUBLIC HEALTH OR COMMUNITY NEED.

The committee acknowledged that this proposal would not negatively affect public health. The applicant was advised to be aware of potential radon gas given that a basement is planned and the proximity to bedrock.

7. IMPACT ON LAND IDENTIFIED AS AN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK OR NATURAL ASSET CORE BY THE GREEN GENESEE SMART GENESEE (GGSG) PROJECT

Planning provided a map showing the GGSG asset cores and ecological network in the area and Mr. Oltramari noted that the property would not have a negative impact, as it lies outside the asset cores and ecological network corridors.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Veazey to conditionally approve one hookup on parcel 15.-1-70 in the Town of Alabama with the stipulation being that the property be officially removed from the Agricultural District Program or the Town of Alabama approve the water hookup prior to the November 22, 2025 District anniversary date pending adoption of the District modifications by the Genesee County Legislature. Motion seconded by Mr. Elliott and carried 4-0.

VOTES

FELIPE OLTRAMARI - YES JOCELYN SIKORSKI – YES JARED ELLIOTT - YES JIM VEAZEY - YES

The County won't approve the hookup until November when the Ag. Exemption comes off, but did send it to the Town for them to approve prior to November. Disc. held.

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Supv. Crossen to approve the public water hookup at 7443 Kenyon Ave. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

ARPA Report – Supv. Crossen informed the Board that the 2024 ARPA Report has been accepted. The funds were spent on a truck for the Water Dist. #2 project.

Alabama Cemetery –

Disc. on grant funds for new sign:

Need to price signs and figure out what kind of sign will be covered by the \$5,000 grant.

Also looking to replace existing rules signs.

Approval of Minutes

4/14/25 Board Meeting – MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson LaGrou to accept minutes as presented. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Supervisors Report

5/3/2025 -- MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to accept report as written. Approved by Roll Call Vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Jeff Covel receipt – Supt. Covel submitted a receipt from January, 2025 on May 7, 2025. It is past the 90 days as required in the Reimbursement Policy. Disc. held.

MOTION by Councilperson LaGrou, seconded by Supv. Crossen to pay the reimbursement from January 2025 to Jeff Covel. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Audit Bills

MOTION by Councilperson Fisher, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to accept Abstract #005-2025 and pay bills in the amount of \$212,889.59 vouchers 108 to 127 General Fund; \$18,344.37 vouchers 75 to 89 Highway Fund; \$18.00 voucher 13 Water District 1. Approved by Roll Call Vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Town Clerk's Report

May 2025 -- MOTION by Councilperson LaGrou, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to accept report as written. Approved by Roll Call Vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Assessor's Report – Not submitted

CEO/ZEO Report – Not submitted

Communications

Supv. Crossen received complaints about the White Game Farm house having a large hole in it.

Disc. held.

MOTION by Councilperson LaGrou, seconded by Councilperson Klotzbach to adjourn meeting at 8:53 p.m. Approved by roll call vote:

C. Fisher – yes C. Klotzbach – yes C. LaGrou – yes Supv. Crossen – yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca L. Borkholder
Town Clerk