

Organizational Meeting
Friday, January 2, 2026
9:00am

This meeting is being held in person in Town Hall but we are allowing remote access. This meeting is being recorded and the recording will be posted online within five business days.

Members Present: Supervisor Wolf, Councilperson Gansowski, Councilperson Gabaccia, and Councilperson Morningstar. Councilperson Haight is absent

Supervisor Wolf states that this meeting is being recorded and is open to the public remotely. The recording will be posted to the website within five business days.

Supervisor Wolf calls the 2026 Organizational Meeting to order and opens the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Engagement Letters

Supervisor Wolf states that Robert Patterson, town accountant, has submitted two letters, one for general accounting purposes and the other for the audit of the Justice Court.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gabaccia and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski authorizing the Supervisor to approve and sign the Engagement Letters for Robert Patterson.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 1 of January 2, 2026**

A Resolution regarding Appointment and Designations

Resolved that the Town Board does hereby make or reaffirm the following official appointments and designation for the year 2026, all appointments to continue at the pleasure of the Board unless otherwise noted:

Town Attorney: Jon Tingley, Gilchrist & Tingley PC

Attorney for ZBA and Planning Board: Ken Dow, Attorney at Law

Attorney for Shepherd's Run Application and for ancillary services relating to renewable energy siting:
Wisniewski Law PC

Attorney for Labor & Employment issues: Elena DeFio Kean

Town Accountant: Robert H. Patterson, CPA

Registrar of Vital Statistics: Lynn M. DeRocha

Handicapped Parking Permit Issuing Agenda: Lynn M. DeRocha

Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector: Erin Reis

Part-time Court Clerk: Lisa DeConti

Park Superintendent: William Gregory

Assessor's Clerk—Clerk Typist: Lorraine Strohmier

Board of Assessment Review — Clerk/Typist: Liana Jensen

Code Enforcement/Building Inspector Clerk/Typist: Linda Senk

Zoning Board Secretary — Clerk/Typist: Kellie Nardin
Planning Board Secretary — Clerk/Typist: Lisa DeConti
Building Custodian and Booking Agent: Robert Callahan
Person-in-Charge of the William Cemetery: Robert Callahan
Dog Control Officer: Kyle Miller
Summer Camp Program Director: Brittany Hay
Assistant Summer Camp Program Director: William Barlow
Editor of the Copake Connection: Roberta Roll

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilperson Morningstar and seconded by Gansowski, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution No. 1
Dated January 2, 2026
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Gabaccia	yes
	Councilperson Haight	
	Councilperson Morningstar	yes

Lynn M. DeRocha, Town Clerk

(seal)

January 2, 2026

TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 2 of January 2, 2026

A Resolution regarding Salaries and Stipends

Resolved that the salaries for the year beginning January 1, 2026 shall be affixed at the amounts hereafter stated and that the salaries shall be paid at the time specified:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary/Wage</u>	<u>Basis payable</u>
Budget Officer	\$1500/year	Monthly
Councilperson (4)	\$5000/year	Monthly
Highway Superintendent	\$77,886/year	Bi-weekly
Supervisor	\$16,000/year	Monthly
Admin. Asst. to the Supervisor	\$12,000/year	Bi-weekly
Deputy Supervisor	\$1,000/year	Monthly
Justice (2)	\$12,360/year	Monthly
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$51,668/year	Bi-weekly

Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$750/year	Bi-weekly
Deputy Town Clerk (2)	\$20.16 per hour	Bi-weekly
Sole Assessor	\$35,203/year	Bi-weekly
Code Enforcement Officer	\$36,907/year	Bi-weekly
Code Enf. Secretary/Clerk-Typist	\$20.16 per hour	Bi-weekly
Part-time Court Clerk	\$21.85 per hour	Bi-weekly
Park Superintendent	\$8,657/year	Bi-weekly
Custodian/Booking Agent	\$21,417/year	Monthly
Animal Control	\$4,644/year	Monthly
Park Maintenance Worker	\$22.61 per hour	Bi-weekly
Assessor's Clerk/Clerk-Typist	\$20.16 per hour	Bi-weekly
BAR Secretary/Clerk-Typist	\$20.16 per hour	Bi-weekly
Planning Secretary/Clerk-Typist	\$20.16 per hour	Bi-weekly
ZBA Secretary/Clerk-Typist	\$20.16 per hour	Bi-weekly
Summer Program Director	\$4300/year	Bi-weekly
Asst. Summer Program Director	\$3,600/year	Bi-weekly
Summer Park Counselor (1st year)	\$16.00 per hour	Bi Weekly
Summer Park Counselor (2nd yr.)	\$16.25 per hour	Bi-weekly
Summer Park Counselor (3rd yr.)	\$16.50 per hour	Bi-weekly
Summer Park Counselor (4th yr.)	\$16.75 per hour	Bi-weekly

Further resolved that the Stipends for the year beginning January 1, 2026 shall be affixed at the amounts hereinafter stated and that these stipends shall be paid on or before December 31, 2026.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Historian	\$700
Planning Board Chair	\$500
Planning Board Member (6)	\$400
Zoning Board of Appeals Chair	\$500
Zoning Board of Appeals Member (4)	\$400
Person-in-Charge of the Williams Cemetery	\$300
BAR Chair	\$200
BAR Members	\$150

Roll Call Vote. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Gabaccia and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution No. 2
Dated January 2, 2026
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Haight	
	Councilperson Gabaccia	yes
	Councilperson Morningstar	yes

Lynn M. DeRocha, Town Clerk

(seal)

January 2, 2026

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 3 of January 2, 2026**

A Resolution regarding Expenditures by and for Departments

BE IT RESOLVED, that a department head (Town Clerk, Assessor, Building Inspector, Zoning Board Chair or Planning Board Chair) or the Park Commission may authorize an expenditure for equipment not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) without prior approval of the Town Board, provided that any such expenditure is made within the amount budgeted for the line item applicable to such expenditure, and that the department head shall promptly approve and provide a voucher for any such expenditure, to be subsequently audited by the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Park Superintendent may authorize an expenditure for equipment not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) without prior approval of the Town Board, provided that any such expenditure is made within the amount budgeted for the line item applicable to such expenditure, and that the Park Superintendent shall promptly provide a voucher for any such expenditure, to be subsequently audited by the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the Supervisor may authorize an expenditure not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) without prior approval of the Town Board, provided that any such expenditure is made within the amount budgeted for the line item applicable to such expenditure, and that the Supervisor shall promptly provide an invoice for any such expenditure, to be subsequently audited by the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that committees may not authorize the expenditure of funds without prior approval of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized to purchase all necessary supplies, stationery and dockets on behalf all departments not to exceed the total budgeted amounts for such purchases included in the current year budget as part of each department's budgeted .4 account, in accordance with the approved Town Procurement Policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notwithstanding the above, in the case of an emergency, the Supervisor may authorize the expenditure by a department head (Town Clerk, Assessor, Building Inspector, Zoning Board Chair or Planning Board Chair) of an amount not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) without prior approval of the Town Board, provided that prior approval is obtained from the Town supervisor and the supervisor provides prior notice by email to all Board members of the nature of the emergency, the amount to be paid and the identity of the recipient vendor, and provided that any such expenditure is made within the amount budgeted for the line item for the type of such

expenditure. The department head shall promptly approve and provide a voucher for any such expenditure, to be audited by the Town Board as soon as is reasonably possible, but no later than the next Town Board meeting.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution No. 3
Dated January 2, 2026
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Gabaccia	yes
	Councilperson Haight	
	Councilperson Morningstar	yes

Lynn M. DeRocha, Town Clerk

(seal)

January 2, 2026

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 4 of January 2, 2026**

A Resolution regarding Highway Wages and Hours

BE IT RESOLVED, that Effective January 1, 2026 the wage rate for Laborer shall be \$22.61 per hour. The Motor Equipment Operator shall be \$26.72 per hour. The Senior Motor Equipment Operator shall receive \$27.74 per hour. The Highway Equipment Mechanic shall receive \$27.74 per hour. The Road Foreman shall receive \$28.77 per hour.

Be it further resolved, that holidays, vacation and sick days for Highway employees are per the current contract.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilperson Gabaccia and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar , was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution No. 4
Dated January 2, 2026
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Gabaccia	yes

Councilperson Haight
Councilperson Morningstar yes

Lynn M. DeRocha, Town Clerk

(seal)
January 2, 2026

Highway Matters

A motion was made by Supervisor Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia to approve the 2026 284 Agreement, subject to change by NYS.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar to approve the 2026 Snow and Ice Policy.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar to accept all Counties, Towns, State, NPP (National Purchasing Program), HGAC Buy Cooperative Purchasing Program, and SourceWell bids for materials, services and equipment.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

Highway Superintendent Gregory has reappointed Jeremy Holdridge as the Deputy Highway Superintendent.

Highway Supervisor Gregory announces the Limited Seasonal Use for Sunset Rock Road. There will be no winter maintenance from December 1st through April 1st.

Supervisor Wolf mentions that the Town has been informed that the new IRS reimbursement rate for mileage is \$.72.5 per mile.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gabaccia and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar to continue in 2026 the long standing practice of convening Town Board Meetings at the Copake Town Hall also providing access online on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm with the exemption of the month of August when the monthly Town Board meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00am.

Three in favor. Councilperson abstained. Motion approved.

Board Member Appointments

Supervisor Wolf made the following personal appointments for 2026:

Budget Officer-Richard T. Wolf
Deputy Supervisor-Stanley Gansowski
Confidential Administrative Assistant-Gwen Menshenfriend
Town Historian-Lesley Doyel

Town Clerk Lynn DeRocha appoints Liana Jensen as Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for 2026.

Supervisor Wolf makes the following Town Board Member appointments to serve as liaison to committees:

Assessor's Office-Supervisor Wolf
Comprehensive Plan Review Committee-Supervisor Wolf

Conservation Advisory Committee-Councilperson Gabaccia
Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee-Councilperson Morningstar
Ethics Board-Councilperson Morningstar
Farmland Protection Plan Review Committee-Councilperson Gansowski
Parks Commission-Councilperson Gansowski
Highway Department-Supervisor Wolf
Planning Board-Councilperson Haight
Roads Advisory Committee-Councilperson Haight
Zoning Board of Appeals-Councilperson Gabaccia
Code Enforcement Officer-Councilperson Gansowski
Street lights and insurance-Town Board
Refuge and auditing-Town Board
Internal Audits-Councilperson Gabaccia

A motion was made by Supervisor Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar to appoint Councilperson Gabaccia to conduct the audit which is required pursuant to Section VII, Subdivision D. Paragraph 2.a. of the Policy Manual.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia to engage the services of Robert Patterson to conduct audits of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector and the Justice Court.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gabaccia and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar to approve authorizing Margaret Irwin of Riverstreet Task Order No. 4, to prepare a draft application for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for the development of the Copake spur, conditional upon securing the right of way, permission to modify the cow tunnel, and favorable engineering assessment, with the preliminary submission due by January 15th, with a cost of up to \$15,000, which includes seeking additional grant funds to help with the match if necessary, and only applies if the project moves forward.

Four in favor. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gabaccia and seconded by Councilperson Morningstar that the meeting be adjourned.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn M. DeRocha