

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 14 of May 14, 2026**

To Urge the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to Install a Traffic Signal/Stop Light at the Intersection of State Route 23 and County Route 7 in Craryville

WHEREAS, the Copake Town Board notes with sadness the passing on April 16, 2026 of North Hillsdale residents Janet Piwowarski, 76, and Jack Piwowarski, 78, active and beloved participants in numerous activities in Copake and the Roe Jan area, who died in a vehicular accident at the intersection of State Route 23 and County Route 7 in Craryville (hereinafter “the intersection”); and

WHEREAS, the fatal collision between the Piwowarskis’ automobile and an oil tanker truck resulted in the spillage of approximately 5,000 gallons of gasoline, which gasoline seeped into a nearby stream and into soil adjacent to and underneath the State 23 roadbed; and

WHEREAS, the spilled gasoline threatens the water supplies of nearby residences and Businesses; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Transportation are working to remediate potential negative environmental impacts of the gasoline spillage; and

WHEREAS, remediation efforts have caused the aforementioned State Departments to close State Route 23 at the east side of the intersection with County Route 7 and detour east-bound traffic north onto Craryville Road and east onto West End Road in Hillsdale, and to restrict west-bound traffic on Route 23 to local traffic only; and

WHEREAS, the closure of State Route 23 prevents traffic from driving directly to businesses located on State Route 23, east of the intersection, thereby reducing the number of customers patronizing those businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Copake requested installation by NYSDOT of a traffic signal at the intersection, and was advised in 2019 that traffic conditions did not warrant installation; and

WHEREAS, in August, 2022, Copake again requested installation by NYSDOT of a traffic signal at the intersection, and was advised in August, 2023 that after reviewing a private traffic assessment report, crash data for the previous three years, and a traffic quantity assessment report, NYSDOT concluded that installation of a traffic signal was not justified; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated April 20, 2026, Copake Supervisor Richard Wolf, and Hillsdale Supervisor Mike Dvorchak together wrote to NYSDOT seeking installation at the intersection of a traffic signal/stop light, noting that increased traffic from the Parker House Pub and Restaurant, two additional traffic entrances/exits at the Craryville Cobble Pond Farms gas station and

convenience store, and the significant number of senior drivers, combine to exacerbate already hazardous conditions at the intersection; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2026, approximately 100 residents of Copake and Hillsdale met at Copake Town Hall with representatives from NYSDOT, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of Health, and the Columbia County Health Department to insist that a traffic signal/stop light be installed at the intersection as soon as possible; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED** that the Copake Town Board urges the New York State Department of Transportation to promptly install a traffic signal/stop light to regulate traffic at the intersection of State Route 23 and County Route 7 in Craryville.

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

Resolution No. 14
Dated May 14, 2026
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Wolf
Councilperson Gansowski
Councilperson Gabaccia
Councilperson Haight
Councilperson Morningstar

Lynn M. DeRocha, Town Clerk

(seal)

May 14, 2026