

Westmoreland Town Board
Regular Meeting
October 13, 2025

Supervisor Charles Hebbard called this regular meeting to order at 6:01 pm on October 13, 2025. Present at this meeting were Councilpersons Burton Seymour Jr., Randy Rundle, Kirk Donley and Peter Smith. Also present were Highway Superintendent Russell Young, Codes Enforcement Officer Fred Fox Jr., Sole Assessor Holly Osterhoudt, Tax Collector Margaret Leone, Attorney Mitchell Whittaker and one (1) audience member. Absent from this meeting was Building Inspector Patrick Baron.

Supervisor Hebbard asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hebbard then recessed the regular meeting to allow comments from the floor.

There being no one wishing to address the board at this time, Supervisor Hebbard reconvened to the regular session.

Councilperson Seymour mentions that the board has multiple special meetings this month so we discussed many items.

Highway Superintendent Russell Young submitted this report:

- Highway Department is out roadside mowing with the boom arm. We are cutting brush and grass as far back as we can. Also, hauling brush out, to make room for more.
- The town board held a luncheon for five towns that assisted with storm cleanup. Thank you to the board for putting this event on, it was greatly appreciated.

Sole Assessor Holly Osterhoudt submitted this report:

I am continuing to add value, sales information and exemptions to the 2026 assessment roll. I have uploaded the data to the Oneida County FTP site so that they have updated addresses for the upcoming property tax bills. The assessor's office will be submitting any new address changes to the county weekly until November. After that, they will be given to the tax collector so that she has the current address of new property owners. If you have any questions or concerns, please call 315-853-8001 ext.8.

Supervisor Hebbard inquired about inflation checks from the state. Sole Assessor Osterhoudt says it has to do with filing taxes and income levels, and it is not related to the star program.

Codes Enforcement Officer Fred Fox submitted the following report:

Complaints

4-15-19 5845 Scadden Rd. Violation notice sent for junk and debris on the entire property (scrape metal, demolished trailer etc....) property maintenance on the house, garbage & junk vehicles. Order to Remedy Date 5-21-19.

3-9-20 Spoke with deceased owner's son, Brian Grant. Going to work with him on cleaning up property. He has already started. Photo(s) taken 3-12-20.

11-23-21 Re-Checked property. Vast improvement noted from initial inspection. Re-cited under Brian Grants name with an OTR date set for June 1, 2022.

7-12-22 Re-Checked progress still being made. Have to track down owner again, phone numbers I have are disconnected.

10-23-23 inspected property. high grass made it hard to view. Majority of junk and debris from initial violation notice was abated. To date no contact with owner's son, Brian Grant.

4-14-25 Clean up progress being made. Still no contact with owner's son. Spoke with tenant.

10-11-22 (6000) Greenway-Lowell Rd. Notice of violation written for unsafe structure and junk and debris. Building placarded for unsafe structure (foundation wall). OTR set for 11-8-22. 11-8-22 No progress made. Preparing paperwork for court. 11-15-22 Court paperwork filed. Court date set for 12-7-22. 12-6-22 No contact with owner as of this date. 12-20-22 I have to file court paperwork after the 1st of the year.

6-4-24 Sent a certified letter requesting owner to contact our office immediately upon receiving the letter. 6-26-24 Certified letter was received, no contact from owner to date.

7-9-24 Court paperwork submitted and mailed certified letter. Court date set for 8-28-24.

Water Plant Operator Ted Flint submitted the following report:

Westmoreland Water District

- Completed monthly & annual sampling requirements - no issues.
- Performed numerous UFPO dig requests and a 7 Emergency UFPO's
- Sampling for Lead & Copper, PFOA & PFOS was completed and results are being delivered to individual households where samples were taken. This is an every 3-year requirement.
- We continue with a lack of rain and have been monitoring our wells closely making adjustments when necessary.
- We hired "The Masonry Worker" to perform repairs to the base of our water tower. Repairs were completed and we should not have any issues going forward.

Tindall Corners Water District

- Completed monthly sampling requirements - no issues.
- Performed several UFPO dig requests and 4 Emergency UFPO's.

Spencer Settlement Water District

- Completed monthly sampling requirements - no issues.
- Performed 1 UFPO dig requests.

Reading Center Clerk Sarah Pullman submitted the following report:

- In the month of September, the reading center was open for a total of 63 ½ hours.
- The Reading Center welcomed 68 visitors
- We checked out 74 items, filled 119 holds within the Mid-York Library system, and provided checkouts for 28 e-books, 32 Audio books, and 10 e-magazines for a total of 263 items circulated through our library.
- We offered 2 take and make crafts.
- We will begin a weeding project within our library. We have not weeded in over 5 years, (could be longer) and need to discard old and tattered books. This project will take a little time to complete and we will plan on holding an on-going book sale once we are ready. Any books/items we cannot sell we will donate.

Note: We have 5 full light panels out, one of the town workers told me that when the full light panel is out, changing the bulbs won't work and that there is another part that has to be replaced on it. Is it possible to have someone come in and take a look at these? It is getting darker earlier now and the library is poorly lighted at this time.

Supervisor Hebbard mentions the possibility of being open earlier in the day for a few days a week.

Town Attorney Mitchell Whittaker submitted the following report:

During the month of September, at the request of the Supervisor and the Town Board, I completed the following professional services for the town:

- Attended the regular monthly meeting of the Town Board.
- Collaborated with representatives from Avalon to post the HVAC job for the Town offices on their public bids site; the project was posted for bids as of 10/6, and we have already received inquiries about bidding.
- Researched the Town Code briefly regarding offenses and penalties for the failure of a resident to properly license their dogs.
- Drafted an amendment to the Solar Energy Law, for which we will have a public hearing before the Town Board Meeting, regarding a requirement for there to be a minimum distance of 1.5 miles between existing or planned solar energy systems moving forward.

Town Clerk Anna C. Storey submitted the following report:

In September, the Town Clerk's office sold eleven (11) new dog licenses and renewed fifty-four (54) dog licenses, for \$462.00. Of that, \$77.00 was sent to the Department of Ag & Markets for New York State's Dog Population Control Program. The Town Supervisor received \$385.00.

On September 25, 2025, renewal notices were sent out for thirty-nine (39) dog licenses due in October 2025. Late renewal notices were sent out for August's overdue licenses, totaling seven(7).

There were fifty-three (53) hunting licenses sold in September, as well as twenty-six (26) turkey licenses, one (1) trapping license, thirty-eight (38) fishing licenses, and one hundred thirty-eight (138) deer management permits. The Department of Environmental Conservation received \$2,970.79 and the town's commission was \$174.21.

There was one (1) marriage license sold in September. \$22.50 was sent to the NYS Department of Health and the town received \$17.50.

Ten (10) certified copies were issued for \$100.00. There were seventeen (17) building permits issued in September for \$1,544.00, two (2) septic permits and two (2) site plans for \$665.00. There was one (1) fire inspection totaling \$75.00.

Fourteen (14) permanent and one (1) temporary handicapped parking permits were issued or renewed during the month.

Checks Received:

1. Napoli Shkolnik	Water Settlement	\$31,580.76
2. COCVAC		\$636.95
3. COCVAC	Bill for July 2025	\$3,190.04
4. Westmoreland Union Cemetery Assoc. Gas		\$180.23
5. Shafer	Culvert install	\$500.00
6. Bank of Utica	Certificate Interest Check	\$2,484.00
7. Stanwix Heights VFD Inc.	Aug Bill	\$155.52
8. Clark Mills Fire District		\$124.14
9. Heitzmann	Culvert install	\$500.00
10. E-Z Riders Snowmobile Club, Inc.	fuel	\$289.19
11. Town of Westmoreland Fire District	July 2025	\$1,251.12
12. County of Oneida	Library Qtrly Payments 1-4	\$3,431.00
13. Westmoreland Justice Court	Court Funds August	\$9,976.00
14. County of Oneida	Sales Tax Q2	\$537,583.80
15. Westmoreland Central School District		\$9,037.13
16. Advantage Abstract Company	Water Search	\$20.00
17. Charter Communications	Franchise Fees	\$16,367.02

Communications Received:

1. Pipeline Safety Resources	
2. NYS Comptroller	Newsletter
3. NYAOT	Newsletter
4. NYMIR	Cyber Security Month
5. Comp Alliance	Safety Bulletin
6. Westmoreland Fire District	Summary of Budget
7. Mohawk Valley Edge	Newsletter

Councilperson Seymour suggested the town take advantage of an Amazon promotion though NYAOT that offers a free prime membership for three years.

Councilperson Smith asks if the 2nd quarter sales tax is higher than last year at this time, Supervisor Hebbard and Councilperson Seymour state that the number is actually down.

Oriskany Creek Watershed Committee Representative Roger Potenski submitted the following report:

- Meeting held at the Village of Waterville Municipal Offices, 4:30pm, September 23, 2025.
- A quorum of voting members was present.

- Meeting minutes from the August meeting were approved.
- Review and update comments made on the master project list.
- Two culvert projects in the Town of Kirkland will be undertaken and expected completion in spring of 2026.
- Bridge on College Street to be improved as part of the NYS DOT project in the village.
- Retention pond work at the Westmoreland Central School is still awaiting NYSDEC permits.
- Commission is looking for more formal project and funding requests, with specific short-term needs.
- OCWC fund balance is at \$29,431.
- Municipal member 2026 dues invoices will be sent out the end of September. Commission voted to hold member funding levels the same as 2025. (total of \$15K)
- Heard a short introduction from Mr. Stu Miller, from the Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited organization. His group relayed how they are taking interests in the OCWC, and other watershed groups, as it relates to activities, impacts and needs for local fish populations. Biggest interest was in areas relating to dam removals, water passage ways, and run offs into the streams. Mr. Miller did relay that their group does water condition monitoring, and that their sensors placed at the end of the Oriskany Creek just before it empties into the Mohawk River, show extremely high fecal levels. Discussion took place regarding when the recordings were taken (July, August) and possible causes. (run offs, extremely dry conditions, water levels). Mr. Miller is to report back to the group with further background.
- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th at the Westmoreland Town Offices.

Supervisor Hebbard said attendance is up for OCWC and the town will stay a member for at least one more year.

Councilperson Seymour is working on the new salt barn quotes, he wants some input from Highway Superintendent Russell Young on the preferable height of the ceilings. Superintendent Young thinks higher will be better as the push the salt in.

Supervisor Hebbard said the new doors for town garage should be in next week. Supervisor Hebbard asks Attorney Whittaker about a potential start date for the HVAC system. It just depends on when bids come in, and we will leave it open on Avalon until there are enough proposals. Supervisor Hebbard says Delta Engineers can review the bids as well.

Supervisor Hebbard says he was approached by George Joseph, owner of North Star Orchards. He is business is suffering from the lack of water in this current dry spell. He would like to look into hooking up to the Tindall Water District. Water Plant Operator Ted Flint told him Mr. Joseph that this was a question for the board. The board discussed this possibility.

89 Councilperson Smith advanced a motion to pass the Local Law #2 of 2025, which contains an amendment to the solar energy law. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

90 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to adopt the tentative 2026 budget as written. Councilperson Donley seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

Supervisor Hebbard read the following budget modifications and called for a motion:

1. Move \$732.00 from DA599 Fund Balance to DA 5130.210 Machinery Insurance
Reason: cost of insurance came in higher than budgeted for

91 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to approve Budget Modification #1. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

92 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to approve and place on file the Supervisor, Town Clerk and Codes Reports for September 2025. Councilperson Donley seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

93 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to approve and place on file the Supervisor, Town Clerk and Codes Reports for September 2025. Councilperson Donley seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

94 Councilperson Donley advanced a motion to approve and place on file the minutes of the Regular Meeting September 8, 2025. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

95 Councilperson Donley advanced a motion to approve and order paid the vouchers of the General fund, vouchers #330 through #378, which total \$42,903.59 Councilperson Seymour seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

96 Councilperson Rundle advanced a motion to approve and order paid the claims of the Highway fund, vouchers #185 through #210, which total \$218,488.23. Councilperson Donley seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

97 Councilperson Smith advanced a motion to approve and order paid the claims of the water districts as follows:

Tindall Water District	voucher #18-19	which totals	\$ 331.75
Westmoreland Water District	vouchers #61-67	which totals	\$ 3,690.68
Spencer Water District	vouchers #15-16	which totals	\$ 975.91
Camelot	voucher #4	which totals	\$12,150.45

Councilperson Donley seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

Supervisor Hebbard stated the next Regular Meeting will be held Monday, November 10, 2025 at 6:00pm.

Supervisor Hebbard paused the regular meeting to allow comments from the floor.

Resident Brett Wylie stated that he had been at September's meeting to ask the board to look into installing a splash pad at the former pool site. Supervisor Hebbard feels that a splash pad would be far too complex of an undertaking for the town to become involved with. Mr. Wylie thinks that a lot of money could be raised through fundraising, and maintenance could be kept lower through volunteers, etc. Councilperson Seymour mentioned some of the research that he did, and found the operating expenses to be about the same as a pool. He doesn't think it's feasible for a small town like ours that does not collect sales tax. Mr. Wylie reiterated his concern for the lack of activities for children in this town.

There being no one else wishing to address the Board, Supervisor Hebbard reconvened to the regular session and asked for a motion to adjourn.

98 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to adjourn this meeting. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members present voted AYE. Supervisor Hebbard declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna C. Storey
Town Clerk