

Town of Grand Island – Regular Meeting #13

A regular meeting of the Town Board of Grand Island, New York was held at the Town Hall, 2255 Baseline Rd., Grand Island, NY at 8:00p.m. on the 20th of July 2026.

Present:	Thomas A. Digati	Deputy Supervisor
	Daniel F. Kilmer	Councilman
	Jose A. Garcia	Councilman
	Rhonda G. Diehl	Councilwoman
	Karen M. Cooney	Deputy Town Clerk
	Peter C. Godfrey	Town Attorney
Excused:	Peter J. Marston	Supervisor

Deputy Supervisor Thomas A. Digati called the meeting to order at 8:00p.m.
Grand Island resident Cal Kern gave the Invocation.
Councilwoman Rhonda G. Diehl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

This is an opportunity for residents to comment on any matter regarding the meeting agenda items only.

Speakers: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

Local Law Intro #5 of 2025 – Battery Energy Storage Systems Law

- A. Correspondence – Planning Board**
- B. Adopt EAF Parts 2 & 3 and SEQRA Negative Declaration – Proposed Local Law Intro #5 of 2025 – Battery Energy Storage Systems Law**
- C. Adopt LWRP Consistency Findings – Proposed Local Law Intro #5 of 2025 – Battery Energy Storage Systems Law**
- D. Adopt Proposed Local Law Intro #5 of 2025 – Battery Energy Storage Systems Law**

A Public Hearing was held on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 8:00p.m. for the purpose of hearing anyone who wanted to comment on Local Law Intro #5 of 2026 – Battery Energy Storage Systems Law.

Speakers: Erik Anderson, Mike Young, Kristen Cascio

Deputy Supervisor Thomas A. Digati declared the Public Hearing closed.
A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Digati, seconded by Councilman Garcia to table Local Law Intro #5 of 2026 – Battery Energy Storage Systems Law.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Councilwoman Diehl to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting #12, July 6, 2026.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

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CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Building Permits Issued – June 2026
2. Meeting Minutes – Economic Development Advisory Board – June 11, 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Councilman Kilmer to approve the consent agenda as distributed.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

COMMUNICATIONS – TOWN BOARD:

SUPERVISOR – PETER J. MARSTON:

Special Event Permit Application – CrossRiver Ministries – August 2, 2026, and September 6, 2026

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Digati, seconded by Councilwoman Diehl to approve the Special Event Permit Application for CrossRiver Ministries to use the gazebo in the Town Commons for their Sunday Evening Outreach/Church on Sunday, August 2, 2026, and September 6, 2026. A certificate of insurance has been provided.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

COUNCILMAN – JOSE A. GARCIA:

Local Law Intro #4 of 2026 – Amend Chapter 386 of the Town Code – Vehicles, Motor Driven – to Include E-Bikes and Scooters

- A. Set Public Hearing
- B. Correspondence – Planning Board
- C. Correspondence – Economic Development Advisory Board

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Councilwoman Diehl to set a Public Hearing for Monday, August 3, 2026, for the purpose of hearing anyone who wants to comment on Local Law Intro #4 of 2026 – Amend Chapter 386 of the Town Code – Vehicles, Motor Driven – to Include E-Bikes and Scooters.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

COUNCILWOMAN – RHONDA G. DIEHL:

Resignation – Economic Development Advisory Board

A motion was made by Councilwoman Diehl, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Digati to accept the resignation of John Faso from the Economic Development Advisory Board with regret. A certificate of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Faso.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

Appointment – Economic Development Advisory Board

A motion was made by Councilwoman Diehl, seconded by Councilman Garcia to appoint Jason Bartz to the Economic Development Advisory Board as an Alternate with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

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Resignation – Crossing Guard

A motion was made by Councilwoman Diehl, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Digati to accept the resignation of Katherine Petersen as a Crossing Guard effective July 12, 2026, with regret. A certificate of appreciation will be sent to Ms. Petersen.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

Authorize Supervisor to Sign Letter of Intent, Energy Savings Performance Contract – Veregy Energy Solutions

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Councilwoman Diehl to table the Letter of Intent, Energy Savings Performance Contract – Veregy Energy Solutions.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

Municipal Review & Coordination Procedure

A. Refer to Town Advisory Boards

B. Request for Review and Supporting Documentation

A motion was made by Councilwoman Diehl, seconded by Councilman Garcia to authorize the circulation of the “*Municipal Review & Coordination Procedure – Working Draft*” with the memorandum and Advisory Board & Department Comment Form to all the Advisory Boards and pertinent Town Department Heads for review and comment. All comments are to be returned to Councilwoman Diehl no later than August 21, 2026, to allow for the preparation of a revised draft and incorporating the recommendations received for future consideration by the Town Board.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS:

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING & WATER RESOURCES – ROBERT H. WESTFALL:

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades – WIIA Grant Authorizing Resolution (2026) – Job # M-205-2021

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Digati to adopt the following Municipal Resolution for 2026 NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act:

WHEREAS, the Town of Grand Island, after thorough consideration of the various aspects of the existing conditions, problems and review of available data for the Grand Island water system, has hereby determined that certain work, as described in the map, plan and report for the Grand Island Water System Capital Improvement Project, is required to address the repair and maintenance of the Grand Island Water Treatment Plant Filter Building. The Grand Island Water Treatment Plant Filter Building, herein called the "Project", is desirable, is in the public interest, and is required in order to implement the Project and address said compliance requirements; and

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WHEREAS, the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) authorizes State assistance to municipalities for drinking water quality improvement projects by means of a contract, and the Town of Grand Island deems it to be in the public interest and benefit under this law to enter into a contract therewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Grand Island Town Board, that:

1. Supervisor Peter J. Marston, or his representative or successor in office, is the representative authorized to act on behalf of the Grand Island Town Board in all matters related to State assistance under the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and/or any applicable State grant provisions.
2. Supervisor Peter J. Marston, or his representative, is authorized to make application for 2026 Drinking Water WIIA funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 (49% of the total project cost), execute the State Assistance Contract, submit Project documentation, and otherwise act on behalf of the Grand Island Town Board in all matters related to the Project and to State assistance;
3. The Grand Island Town Board agrees to fund \$5,131,250 of the \$10,131,250 total cost of the Project, having already authorized and passed a bond resolution in 2018 based on 2018 Project costs, and the Town Board will amend the existing bond resolution to make the appropriate amount of funds available to initiate the Project efforts within 12 months of written approval of its application by the NYS Department of Health and the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation authority;
4. The one certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and submitted with the electronic WIIA grant application to the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation; and
5. This Resolution takes effect immediately.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

RECREATION SUPERVISOR – JOSEPH MENTER:

Status Changes and Rate Changes

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Councilman Kilmer to approve the following status changes with pay rates effective July 18, 2026:

Salvatore Santospirito	Recreation Attendant – Yr. 1 Instructor	\$19.20/hr.	Seasonal
Hope Sedita	Recreation Attendant – Yr. 1 Leader	\$17.70/hr.	Seasonal

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

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CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE:

Special Use Permit Application – Jennifer Klima, 2101 Fix Road – Home Occupation – Bakery – Set Public Hearing and Refer to Planning Board

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Digati to set a Public Hearing for Monday, August 24, 2026, at 8:00p.m. to hear anyone who wants to comment on a Special Use Permit Application – Jennifer Klima, 2101 Fix Road – Home Occupation – Bakery and to refer the matter to the Planning Board.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

Special Use Permit Renewal – Sandy Beach Yacht Club, 1851 Winter Road – Parking Lot

A motion was made by Councilwoman Diehl, seconded by Councilman Kilmer to renew the Special Use Permit for the Sandy Beach Yacht Club, 1851 Winter Road – Parking Lot. The site has been inspected, and it is unchanged.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

TOWN ASSESSOR – JILL M. MURPHY:

John and Ginger Bedell – Request to Split/Merge Property – Cox Road,

SBL #'s: 64.15-2-46 and 64.15-2-45

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Councilwoman Diehl to approve the request by John and Ginger Bedell, 1534 Cox Road to split 70 x 131.33 back land of lot and merge with the adjacent vacant lot owned by the same owner. 2 Lots will be created. Recreation Fees are required and there are no objections from the Town Engineer, Code Enforcement and Zoning Inspector. The split will be approved upon filing the required paperwork with the Erie County Clerk's office.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

PARKS MAINTENANCE CREW CHIEF – TOM CECERE:

New Hire

A motion was made by Councilman Diehl, seconded by Councilman Garcia to approve the hiring of Michael Specht, Laborer, Seasonal, 2nd Year Worker, \$19.50/hr., effective July 21, 2026, with start date to be determined upon completion of the onboarding process.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl
 Noes 0

PLANNING BOARD:

Planning Board Agenda

Correspondence was received and filed.
No Action by the Town Board.

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REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia, seconded by Councilwoman Diehl to pay

Vouchers #153206 - #153342

General \$ 57,521.99

Highway \$ 12,281.23

Sewer \$ 46,246.98

Water \$ 10,124.69

Trust & Agency \$ 450.00

Capital Fund \$365,704.71

Total \$492,329.60

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl

 Noes 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

This is an opportunity for residents to comment on any matter regarding Town government on any subject.

Speakers:

Bill Daniels

FROM THE BOARD:

- Proposed Battery Energy Storage Systems Law
- Radiation “Hotspots” on Grand Island
- National Night Out – August 4th – Town Commons

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Diehl, seconded by Councilman Garcia to adjourn the meeting at 9:11p.m.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Digati, Kilmer, Garcia, Diehl

 Noes 0

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the following:

Mary Ann Crowe

Karen Piershalski

James Dotson

Terri Murphy

Joseph Segarra

Respectfully submitted in the absence of the Town Clerk,

Karen M. Cooney

Deputy Town Clerk

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