

TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA

March 19, 2026

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Livonia, County of Livingston and the State of New York was held at Livonia Town Hall, 35 Commercial St Livonia NY 14487

PRESENT: Eric Gott, Supervisor
Joseph Breu, Councilmember
Michael Dougherty, Councilmember
Andy English, Councilmember
Jake Stevens, Councilmember
Hayley Woodruff, Clerk
Jim Campbell, Attorney, Town of Livonia

OTHERS PRESENT: Several Residents.

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gott at 7:00 PM XX led the pledge.

DISCUSSION: SUPERVISOR GOTT ON THE ASSESSMENT UPDATE

At this point we all received letters from the assessors office. While frustration is understandable, he commented, that full value assessments are reality. Although some of us don't agree with those values, there is a process to go through to see if anything needs to be corrected. While full value assessment makes the Town Board job more difficult, everyone should be aware that the Town Board spoke the night that the letters were sent and made an agreement to do their best to lower the tax rate. Unfortunately, the Town Board is only one taxing entity. On behalf of the Town Board, "we will do our job again and drop the rate substantially so the impact on TOWN tax will be minimal to no affect". The Town of Livonia has provided quality services and will continue to do that, in a way that the taxpayers do not feel the impact as much as everyone fears. Again, he stated, "I can only can speak for this board, but participation when it comes time for the budget is pertinent, and this board is always open for discussion". Essentially, there is nothing that the Town can do, re-assessments happen every 4 years. The only option is to push it down the road another year. A resident asked how to do that, Attorney Campbell advised that IS possible, under certain circumstances. Attorney Campbell stated he can't tell them the process because he has never done it. If the Town Board wishes to direct him as the Town Attorney to do that research, he can. However, it is just really kicking the can down the road and the assessor will be under similar constraints whether it is this year or next. Supervisor Gott expressed he would rather see towns lower their tax rates instead of pushing the inevitable. After informal hearings are complete, letters should be sent 10 days prior to grievance. Should residents still not agree with their new assessments they can then attend a grievance night with the Board of Assessment Review. Attorney Campbell reminded everyone that this is a push from the state level and like so often is the case, downstate is looking for us to fund them. Mike West asked for clarification on

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the 2% tax cap. Supervisor Gott clarified that that came down from the state level and it is near impossible to stay within. Unless cuts are made substantially somewhere, you're always going to be over 2%. With the cost of living increases alone, the town will be over 2%. There has been about four times in the past 15 years that the Town Board has had to override the tax cap. That is only because of how well the Town budgets. Again, it is unrealistic. Another resident asked when the towns can start pushing back against the state level. Supervisor Gott advised they could talk to constituents in Albany, but unfortunately when they get downstate they are ignored. He went on to express he would not want to be in our senators or assembly women's shoes, as they are constantly cornered on making any affective change. Another resident asked if the Town Board could help with other taxing entities to assure they not be able to get this influx in tax money. Supervisor Gott stated he would be going to school board meetings as well.

RESOLUTION 26-2026

TOWN OF LIVONIA

RESOLUTION HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CRAIG EMMERLING, RECREATION DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the Town of Livonia is proud to recognize the dedicated service and outstanding contributions of its Recreation Director, Craig Emmerling, who began his tenure with the Town on March 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of service, Craig Emmerling has demonstrated unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents of all ages through innovative, inclusive, and well-managed recreational programming; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in building and expanding the Town's Summer Recreation Program, creating meaningful opportunities for youth engagement, enrichment, and community connection; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and adaptability were especially evident during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which he successfully navigated evolving public health guidelines to ensure the continuation of safe and accessible recreational opportunities for the community; and

WHEREAS, Craig Emmerling played a vital role in the development and growth of youth sports programs, including baseball, softball, and wrestling, fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal development among Livonia's youth; and

WHEREAS, he diligently managed the Town's public swim programs, ensuring safety, accessibility, and enjoyment for residents while maintaining high operational standards; and

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WHEREAS, his dedication, professionalism, and passion for service have left a lasting impact on the Town of Livonia and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Livonia hereby expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Craig Emmerling for his many years of exemplary service and congratulates him on his well-earned retirement; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official record of the Town of Livonia and that a copy be presented to Craig Emmerling in recognition of his retirement and in appreciation for his dedicated years of service.

Adopted this 19 day of March 2026, by the Town Board of the Town of Livonia

ANNUAL UPDATE FROM AMBULANCE STAFF:

Scott Domerocki presented. The ambulance staff ended the year with 1328 calls, 100% were first responding ambulance coverage. 50% of the calls, Livonia ambulance was the 2nd coverage. One crew delivered a baby this year, they started doing interfacility transfers from Noyes and that is working out well. Our ambulance has top of the line equipment including three power loaders, which assists loading patients into the ambulance, which is safer for all. Medication pumps, to ensure staff are always giving correct dosages. There is an ambulance on order with an expected delivery date of 2028. They are always seeking grants to keep up to date equipment. Supervisor Gott spoke and stated “if any of you haven’t listened to a scanner recently, you should. We have the absolute best EMS service in county; it cannot be stated more clearly”. The County has a good ambulance crew but Livonia has a better one. He went on to explain that the ambulance commission has worked with the town for the last 2 years to plan for the long-term future. 30 years from now, the town is going to still see them serving Livonia residents. Livonia will have 24/7 paid staffing without breaking the bank and costing taxpayers additional funds. The Board thanked Scott again, and all our ambulance staff. Councilman English stated that most towns bail on services like this when times get tough, and Livonia town does not. Councilman Breu advised he’s been around the county for a long time, and Livonia EMS is hands down the best.

RESOLUTION 27-2026

SEQR RESOLUTION FOR PLAYGROUND PROJECT

On motion of Councilmember Stevens seconded by Councilmember English the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays – 0

SEQRA RESOLUTION

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At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Livonia, Livingston County, State of New York, held at the Livonia Town Hall on the 19th day of March, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Livonia has determined that there is a need to renovate and expand the existing playground facilities located at Vitale Park in the Town of Livonia, County of Livingston and State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has authority to undertake such actions pursuant to New York State Town Law §64; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Livonia has conducted a review of the proposed action pursuant to 6 New York Code Rules and Regulations §617, the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (hereafter “SEQRA”); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board specifically identified the following relevant information with regard to the proposed application for which the SEQRA review was being conducted:

Lead Agency: Livonia Town Board Project # (if any) none
Address: Livonia Town Hall
35 Commercial Street
Livonia, New York 14487

Title of Action: Livonia Playground Project at Vitale Park

SEQR Status: Type 1 _____
Unlisted X

Description of Action:

The action involves the design and construction of a safe and updated outdoor playground space (to be located at Vitale Park) with equipment that will serve children of various ages, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, after due deliberation and consideration of all information received concerning the proposed project and after a thorough review of the regulations contained in 6 New York Code Rules and Regulations §617.4(b)(9) and after completing the Short Environmental Assessment Form, the Town Board of the Town of Livonia hereby RESOLVES:

FIRST: The Livonia Town Board designates itself as lead agency for purposes

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of reviewing the project/action in accordance with SEQRA;

SECOND: The Livonia Town Board finds and determines that the project/action is an unlisted action pursuant to 6 New York Code Rules and Regulations §617.4(b)(9);

THIRD: The Livonia Town Board finds and determines that the project/action will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- 1. The action authorizes renovation and expansion of current playground facilities at Vitale Park in such a way that will be in harmony with the area in the immediate vicinity and which will not cause any negative impact on the environment; and
- 2. The action will help preserve and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the public by preserving and increasing the ability of the Town to provide important recreational and social opportunities to the young inhabitants of the Town; and

FOURTH: The Livonia Town Board directs that a negative declaration be prepared consistent with this resolution and in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA.

DATED: March 19, 2026

VOTE OF THE BOARD:

Eric Gott, Supervisor	aye
Joseph Breu	aye
Andrew English	aye
Jake Stevens	aye
Michael Dougherty	aye

**BY ORDER OF THE
TOWN BOARD OF THE
TOWN OF LIVONIA**

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Hayley Woodruff, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION 28-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE NEW YORK PLACES FOR LEARNING, ACTIVITY, AND YOUTH SOCIALIZATION (NY PLAYS) INITIATIVE

On motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember Stevens the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays – 0

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Livonia, Livingston County, State of New York, held at the Livonia Town Hall on the 19th day of March, 2026.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE NEW YORK PLACES FOR LEARNING, ACTIVITY, AND YOUTH SOCIALIZATION (NY PLAYS) INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), in coordination with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), administers the **New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS) Initiative**, a competitive grant program supporting the design, construction, expansion, and renovation of public playgrounds across New York State; and

WHEREAS, the NY PLAYS Initiative provides grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$2,500,000 for eligible playground projects that promote youth physical activity, outdoor recreation, and community wellness; and

WHEREAS, municipalities applying to the NY PLAYS Initiative must demonstrate project readiness, planning efforts, and local support as part of the application evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Livonia has identified the need to enhance recreational opportunities and playground facilities for residents and youth within the community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Livonia desires to submit an application to the NY PLAYS Initiative for funding assistance for the **Lakeside Playground Project-Located in the Hamlet of Lakeville in the Town of Livonia** and

WHEREAS, the governing body of Town of Livonia supports the development and implementation of this project and acknowledges the planning efforts undertaken to advance the project concept;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of

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Livonia hereby authorizes the submission of an application to the New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS) Initiative for funding assistance for the **Lakeside Playground Project-Located in the Hamlet of Lakeville in the Town of Livonia** and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit all necessary documents, forms, and certifications required to apply for and administer NY PLAYS grant funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Livonia acknowledges its responsibility to comply with all applicable program requirements should the project be awarded funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Livonia has approved and committed \$200,000 towards the construction of the Lakeside Playground Project.

DATED: March 19, 2026

VOTE OF THE BOARD:

Eric Gott, Supervisor	aye
Joseph Breu	aye
Andrew English	aye
Jake Stevens	aye
Michael Dougherty	aye

**BY ORDER OF THE
TOWN BOARD OF THE
TOWN OF LIVONIA**

Hayley Woodruff, Town Clerk

**DISCUSSION: MAYOR GENTHNER ON THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF AMERICA:**

The Village and Town of Livonia, along with the Livonia Public Library, are teaming up to

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celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of America. Events are already underway, including the library's collection of quilt squares for a community quilt, the children and teens' America 250 scavenger hunt, and the 250 historically themed books reading challenge.

Other highlights include:

- July 1st Summer Reading Kick-Off with a variety of activities
- August 19th Summer Reading Finale

Dougherty Funeral Home has donated a time capsule that we will fill and bury to be opened in 2076.

Elementary and high school students will contribute some items to the capsule.

The Livonia Historical Society will assist with an oral history project, interviewing and preserving stories of growing up in Livonia in this century and the last.

If you'd like to participate, please contact the Village office at 346-3100.

Please stay updated through the Town/Village website and the Livonia Public Library Facebook page!

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jason Molino to discuss more on the Big Tree project and the Hemlock pump stations. As stated before, there will be a need for follow up signatures. Clerk Woodruff has been sitting in on meetings with the authority and CDBG. These documents will be ready at the April meeting. The Big Tree water line as discussed last month, is an unanticipated opportunity. Jason advised he worked with town to get an estimate from lu engineers. The authority reviewed it and felt it was a little out of touch for what was needed to design it. \$105,000 to design seems excessive in their opinion. After speaking with Attorney Campbell, he reached out to CPL for a proposal. That proposal was much more realistic and design time was about cut in half. At this stage, it is not in the best interest to work with lu engineers. Still, the total cost of design and construction is about half a million. Attorney Campbell stated that if the Town Board is committed to moving forward with the project-which would make sense; he suggests to move forward at the next meeting, to be cautious not to jeopardize funding for the pedestrian project. Attorney Campbell is Confident that CPL can carry it forward and work with LU engineers as well. The Town Board should plan to take action at the April meeting.

RESOLUTION 29-2026

AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY CAMPBELL TO REQUEST FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM CLARK PATTERSON LEE FOR DESIGN SERVICES ON BIG TREE PIPE

On motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember Dougherty the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes -	5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
	Nays -	0

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Resolved to authorize attorney Campbell to request formal proposal from Clark Patterson Lee for design services on big tree pipe.

DISCUSSION: VITALE PARK STAFFING NEEDS

Councilman English advised that Moe Watson has run the park for a very long time doing an incredible job the time has come that he is ready to retire. He never wanted full time, he just wanted to be at the park; and did the job flawlessly and beautifully for our residents. He maintained the park all throughout the covid pandemic as well. Unfortunately, Moe will be impossible to replace. This day and age, part time employees are difficult to come by. Especially part-time employees willing to do what Moe did. Right now he has 2 younger employees he's taken under his wing, and Councilman English has met with a few of them. For now, Jeff Yew will be working toward taking the next steps to fill Moe's shoes, and work toward full-time employment. Given that the park is open 24/7, the job description and needs will be a challenge, but he is confident that Jeff will work to fulfill the duties. Moe will stay on in some capacity.

DISCUSSION: APPOINTING FIRE COMMISSIONERS IN THE FUTURE

Supervisor Gott advised there has been conversations for years about consolidating Hemlock and Livonia fire departments. When the topic was brought up by the Town Board it seemed it always fell through, but now the commissioners of Hemlock and Livonia are having conversations amongst themselves, and were able to get over that hump to get to a consolidation. If we change the way the commission is selected to elected, he fears we are likely to have 5 elected Livonia fireman, and not so sure that is the best alternative. There is a need for representation from Hemlock as well. It will be the Town Board's intention to make an appointment from the hamlet of Hemlock should a qualified candidate be available to serve on this joint commission. Lakeville unfortunately is not interested in this effort and collaboration. This is an effort that's been led by the commissioners and that's the reason its come as far as it has. If Lakeville would get on board, it would be a win for the entire municipality. PJ Dwyer spoke and advised that Norb Holderle has decided not to run again to open a seat for someone from Hemlock. A resident asked if Conesus was approached and Supervisor Gott explained they cannot be included as they're their own municipality.

Hemlock fire hall will stay open and keep its identity. They will be able to hold their events and keep tankers there so that homeowner's insurance does not get messed up because of tankers being too many miles away. Howard Teed spoke and advised it's not fair for the taxpayers that Lakeville is taking a free ride on Livonia and now the joint districts. PJ Dwyer agreed that it seems all options have been exhausted to try and get Lakeville on board for consolidation at this time.

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RESOLUTION 30-2026

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Paid to Supervisor for the General Fund	\$3,904.73
Paid to County Treasurer for Dog Licenses	\$105.00
NYS Comptroller's Office (Bingo and Games of Chance Licenses)	\$0.00
Paid to NYS Ag & Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program	\$36.00
Paid to NYS Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses	\$51.96
State Health Department (marriage licenses)	\$67.50
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$4,165.19

Tax Collection is going well; we have collected 93% so far. 957 in Person Payments, 2,383 Mail Processed Payments and 154 Online Payments totaling \$9,885,605.57 collected so far.

Clerk Woodruff will be holding and electronics collection on April 18th in conjunction with the Bulk Cleanup Day

IT Services-Clerk Woodruff advised that she has listened to the proposed assistance for IT services from the County. While this service is great for identifying and scanning all programs and safety features currently in place, and what is needed; this is not the fix for the town and will not provide all requirements for cyber security. The main concern being that if something gets blocked, that should not be, it is a very lengthy and gruesome process to get assistance from the state level. Clerk Woodruff will be clarifying a quote that was sent by Hurricane Technologies and working collaboratively with Hurricane and the County to be sure that we have the required safe guards, software, and protection in the most cost-effective way. This will be something that will need to be budgeted for.

On motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember English the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays - 0

Resolved to approve Clerk Woodruff's Monthly Report.

RESOLUTION 31-2026

APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR 2025

On motion of Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember Stevens the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays - 0

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Resolved to approve budget transfers for 2025.

RESOLUTION 32-2026

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES 02/19/2026

On motion of Councilmember Stevens seconded by Councilmember English the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays – 0

Resolved to approve the Meeting Minutes from 2/19/2026.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

A resident asked if there are there any plans for fixing the crosswalks in the village. Supervisor Gott states he is told it would be blacktopped and re-painted.

RESOLUTION 33-2026

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

On motion of Councilmember Breu seconded by Councilmember Dougherty the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays – 0

Resolved to pay claim number 168-169 in the amount of \$32,145.81 from the Abstract dated February 26, 2026.

RESOLUTION 34-2026

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

On motion of Councilmember English seconded by Councilmember Stevens the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays – 0

Resolved to pay claims 170-198 in the amount of \$108,927.13 from the Abstract dated March 5, 2026.

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RESOLUTION 35-2026

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

On motion of Councilmember Stevens seconded by Councilmember Breu the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes - 5 (Gott, Breu, English, Dougherty, Stevens)
Nays – 0

Resolved to pay claims 199-232 in the amount of \$104,107.72 from the Abstract dated March 19, 2026.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Stevens seconded by Councilmember Dougherty the meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM . Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hayley Woodruff
Town Clerk