

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF LIVONIA

February 24, 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: Ambulance Commissioners

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gott at 6:00 PM and led the pledge.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Attorney Campbell advised since last meeting the Town Board has had many discussions and the ambulance commissioners have sent proposals as well. The discussions have been about how we guarantee longevity as it relates to the ambulance and the most important goal that the Town Board and Ambulance Commissioners share is to keep the ambulance local, and the Town Board thinks the best way to do that is to create a department for the ambulance. To staff the ambulance with paid personnel, with the commissioners determining needs, economic factors that they are already overseeing. These are all things they are already handling and may be difficult and expensive for an outside staffing agency to handle. The Town is willing to commit to paid staff as employees of the Town. The ambulance would be run like other departments, including the budgeting process for the costs and future expenses, staffing, and all other components. Like the library, the ambulance will rely on its board of directors, who then will run things through the Town Board. Essentially it will be done principally with the guidance of the board of directors for what it needs to continue to function properly. The Commissioners will be key in running the ambulance as it always has, and the hope is that the ambulance will run as is, on a more permanent basis. Additionally, the hope is that we will have people who are able to take on lead roles and integrate what has been built and capitalize and move into a structure that is a long-term obligation of the Town and budgeted just like everything else the Town does. A major benefit will be avoiding administrative costs of an outside staffing agency and unexpected expenses. The Town Board understands they need to be thinking about the next 30 years, and that includes a designated space for the ambulance, staffing and training, and for the ambulance to be run just like any other part of the Town.

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Councilman English expressed he has been here for 23 years, and the Town of Livonia is a model for other towns who would like to be like us. We have something good here, we don't want it to change, we want to integrate it for our residents' long term. It is understood we need staffing but most importantly we need to make it work as a whole. He expressed concern about paying the fire dept all this money to house an ambulance for our same community, and we need to figure out how to change things like that.

Councilman Breu stated that when this first started, he said from the jump we do not want to lose this service for our residents. He believes this is the best option for the future of the Livonia ambulance and the residents of the Town of Livonia.

Attorney Campbell also stated that it does not make sense to spend three to five years' worth of resources, for a short-term result. He stated the Town of Livonia has always led the other towns in this county with making "think ahead decisions". He also stated that to make this work, the Town Board must be all in. Supervisor Gott stated that all of them have always had the same goal. How do we get there was the question, stipends are not an option, and the Town can handle this. "Volunteers don't come easily. Paid staffing is a must" he said.

Attorney Campbell also stated that this will open opportunities to get staff that we might not otherwise get now. This also may be an example to other communities as well. There are benefits that will make this attractive from a recruitment standpoint. The base of people does not need to change. He went on to say that from a practical standpoint, January 1st 2027 may be a good date to shoot for. HR, payroll, leases, licenses, billing etc all need to be turned over to the Town and accounts need to be set up and we will need to work collaboratively to make this happen.

Matt Cicero stated that 20 years ago Livonia was one of the first established as TLAD and hopes that this will be the same 30 years from now and hopes the objective will be the same then.

Attorney Cambell states he has watched successes and failures in a lot of communities but is continually watching success in Livonia. He states the Town of Livonia is run with courage and loyalty and there are not a lot of communities that would undertake something like this. Those towns aren't getting all in commitment and as a community, Livonia should be proud and should share this with their residents and constituents. This is unique and bold. Livonia has long term board members who think about long term solutions, and the residents of this Town are lucky to have forward thinking board members.

Supervisor Gott reiterated that this is bold. He referred to the Livonia and Hemlock fire

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districts. For 30 years the Town Board wanted them to merge, but when the Town stopped bringing it up, the two districts realized that in the long term they need to support the community they serve. “Look what they have done. It’s a complete collaboration that will support their residents for many years to come. It is remarkable”. He also stated he hopes this is a model that will attract and retain.

Attorney Campbell asked the commissioners to create a list of what needs to happen and to prioritize it. He stated he may need assistance from someone with more expertise than him, and he will work to do whatever is necessary to make this a smooth transition into a lasting result for the residents of Livonia. The Commissioners and the Town Board will meet again on March 23rd at 6PM at the Town Hall.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Stevens seconded by Councilmember Dougherty the meeting was adjourned at 6:38PM. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hayley Woodruff
Town Clerk