

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

December 2, 2025

A regular meeting of the Kirkwood Town Board was held on December 2, 2025 at 6 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Lewis Grubham presiding.

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilmember Marc Latini
Councilmember Katie Legg
Councilmember Sandy Wasson

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
Poe Williams, Highway Superintendent
Karen Ferguson, Historian

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

SPECIAL STATEMENT:

Supervisor Grubham took a few minutes to acknowledge the absence of Councilmember Diffendorf, better known as Bill, after his passing on November 19, 2025. Supervisor Grubham said that our friend Bill was involved with the Town and the Town Board for well over 40 years. I have been involved with the Town in different capacities for about the same amount of time but had been on the Board with Bill for 23 years. Everyone understands that Bill was considered the rock here. He knew what had happened 40 years ago or longer, he would speak up and say that. If we were trying to do something he didn't consider right, he wasn't afraid to stand up and say that too. He was a good man, and it is going to be really difficult for quite a while to work without him being there to tell us if we are doing something right or even doing something wrong. We are really going to miss him, and I am sorry he is gone and I know the Board members are too. When we can't ask him how that happened and why did it happen and not having that kind of information is really going to be difficult. I know I would stop at his house many times and we would talk about some things that were coming up because I didn't know how or why it happened and he did and it was very helpful. I just wanted to make sure that we recognized that it is going to be a difficult situation for a while. We really appreciated him and we're sorry he is gone. Thank you.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 3, 2025 Town Board Meeting and
(3) November 25, 2025 Public Hearings

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Del Austin of Route 11 spoke to the Board regarding his concern about a house next door to his property that will soon be vacant. He is concerned the pipes will freeze with the possibility of flooding since no one will be there to monitor the situation. The owner of the house is out of the country until spring. Supervisor Grubham explained the Town has no control over what happens to the house itself, the Code Officer is not allowed to force the owner to put heat in there. Del Austin proclaimed if the pipes break and the house floods, it does become the Town's problem because it would be using town water. Supervisor Grubham agreed the water would be turned off at that point. Mr. McKertich confirmed that a municipality cannot enter private property without permission or a search warrant. The Code Officer has talked to the owner of the property to make him aware of the situation.

John Finch, Jr. of Route 11 asked Poe Williams about the necessity of purchasing a new 2026 Ford F-350 truck, which is item #7 on the agenda under old business. Poe Williams explained that the current truck he is driving is just a show truck and useless. John Finch questioned spending \$75,000 on a new truck when there are plenty of trucks in the fleet to use, suggesting getting this new truck will leave one truck in the garage doing nothing. Poe Williams rebutted that the new truck will be used to haul fuel and plow, which is much more useful, more of a work truck. He also noted the current truck will be sold for \$30,000 - \$34,000 and that money will go towards the new truck, bringing the total cost down.

COMMUNICATIONS: Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Appointment Letter

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dog Control Report.

Councilmember Legg reported numbers from the November 2025 Dog Control Report. A copy is filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Historians Report.

Karen Ferguson showed a video that she recently had produced for the Town of Kirkwood regarding the Town's namesake. This video will be accessed by the public via a QR code that will be displayed on a sign outside the Town Hall and at the museum.

Karen Ferguson also talked about her efforts in saving the Grange on Johnson Road. The original structure is former School #9 and almost 200 years old. The building was recently condemned. She and Chad Moran, Code Enforcement Officer, will be meeting a contractor on site to see if it can be salvageable. Councilmember Legg asked if the Town would become owners of the building now that is condemned. Supervisor Grubham and Karen Ferguson explained the property would retain its current owner, which is the NYS Grange.

Cedarhurst Road Culvert Project.

Supervisor Grubham reported the Cedarhurst Road Culvert Project has been completed and seems to be working well.

Wells #1 and #3.

Supervisor Grubham reported that Well #3 has been repaired and is working better than it was according to Al Glover. Well #1 should be completed this week. Supervisor Grubham noted it has been a long time since these wells have been cleaned so he is hopeful it helps the water system. If the grant money doesn't come through for the water plant upgrade, then getting the wells on a cleaning schedule might be necessary. There has been no word on the grant money as of yet for the entire water plant upgrade.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting Local Law No. 12-2025 entitled "A Local Law Amending the Sewer Rents", in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Legg seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilmember Wasson	- yes
	Councilmember Legg	- yes
	Councilmember Latini	- yes
	Supervisor Grubham	- yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting Local Law No. 13-2025 entitled "A Local Law Amending the Water Mains Law Regarding Water Meter Testing Fees", in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Latini seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilmember Wasson	- yes
	Councilmember Legg	- yes
	Councilmember Latini	- yes
	Supervisor Grubham	- yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution directing an update to the Town of Kirkwood Comprehensive Plan with Regard to Solar Development and Establishing the Town of Kirkwood Comprehensive Plan Special Board, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilmember Wasson	- yes
	Councilmember Legg	- yes
	Councilmember Latini	- yes
	Supervisor Grubham	- yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution in support of Congressman Nick Langworthy’s Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S 1945) and in opposition to Government-Mandated Natural Gas Bans. Councilmember Legg seconded.

169:25
Support of
Energy Choice
Act – Oppose
Gas Bans

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Latini - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$16,750 and \$25,900 to Layne Christensen Company for Emergency Repairs to Municipal Water Wells, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilmember Latini seconded.

170:25
Authorize
Expenditures for
Well Repairs

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Latini - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign an agreement with Municipal Solutions, Inc., to provide assistance for General Financial Services, in accordance with the attached agreement. Councilmember Legg seconded.

171:25
Agreement
Municipal
Solutions

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Latini - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2026 Ford Super Duty F-350 XLT truck and plow at a cost of \$75,000. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

172:25
Purchase
2026 F-350
Truck
DPW

Discussion. Councilmember Wasson verified with Poe Williams that the truck would not be sitting in the garage, not being used. Poe Williams explained he would use the truck every day because it is an all-around work truck. The truck he has now is not that useful and will be sold.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Latini - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

AUDIT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution authorizing the audit and payment of the following claims: General and Highway Funds, Special Districts (Fire, Light, Water and Sewer Districts), Professional Services, Capital Projects and Reserve Funds claims #25001333 through #25001432 the total amount of \$130,006.60, which includes prepaid claims as authorized by resolution adopted January 7, 2025. Councilmember Legg seconded.

173:25
Audit/Pay

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Wasson - yes
 Councilmember Legg - yes
 Councilmember Latini - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Wasson seconded. All voted in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk