

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

September 1, 2026

A regular meeting of the Kirkwood Town Board was held on September 1, 2026 at 6:07 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
Duane Travis, Zoning Board Chairman
Karen Ferguson, Historian

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Done Prior to the Work Session

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 4, 2026 Town Board Meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Charles Fenson, Engineer, spoke to the Board stating he has a problem with code enforcement, specifically relating to Nowlan Road. Mr. Fenson jumped around from topic to topic and date to date, it was unclear at times what dates and times he was referring to, in summary he is unhappy that he cannot get a building permit from Chad Moran for a property on Nowlan Road and he feels Chad Moran is unethical and has destroyed pictures he took of the property proving he was trespassing. Joseph Patton was also in attendance on behalf of the Nowlan Road property. Supervisor Grubham pointed out that himself, Mr. McKertich, Chad Moran, Joseph Patton, Charles Fenson, and their attorney all met 3-4 years ago to discuss what needed to be done at the property. Patton/Fenson promised things would get done, but nothing was done, which ultimately led their own attorney to quit on them. Mr. McKertich stated that there were numerous court violations on that property, a plan was laid out to address all of those violations, and you didn't follow through on the plan. The Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) has been hired by the Town to enforce the code; the Town Board has delegated that task to the CEO. This Board does not review individual decisions made by the CEO on each property; a court of law does that. So, if you feel you are not in violation of the code you can make that argument to the judge. But coming here and bringing this to this Town Board, who does not have jurisdiction to overturn a CEO's decision is not proper. Joseph Patton asked about Chad Moran overstepping boundaries and claims there is a foundation on the property and Supervisor Grubham stated the judge can make the final decision on that when he is in court tomorrow. Some parts of this discussion were inaudible as many people were talking at the same time.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Sheriff Fred Akshar, Captain Ben Harting, and Nicole Leonard, Executive Assistant to the Sheriff visited the Town Board meeting to share some public safety data that pertains to Broome County and the Town of Kirkwood. Captain Ben Harting referenced a booklet he provided to the Board and all meeting attendees, highlighting the public safety data for the Town of Kirkwood. He covered several topics throughout the booklet, including Calls for Service, Calls by Priority, the Strategic Response Group, Broome County Correctional Facility Programs, and much more. Sheriff Fred Akshar addressed the room and explained that many of these programs are possible because of the support of the County Executive and Members of the County Legislature. Sheriff Akshar noted that the jail is currently full, with 52 inmates being federal detainees held on behalf of the U.S. Marshals Service, generating \$2.2 million in revenue, and none of those detainees are immigration or customs detainees. Sheriff Akshar discussed the lawsuit against the Governor and Attorney General involving immigration and suggested it was less about immigration but more about the sheriff being an independent elected person to serve the people because he answers directly to the people that live here. Councilmember Legg thanked Sheriff Akshar for his leadership to our community. Councilmember Wasson praised the Discharge Specialist positions for helping set inmate releases up for future success. Sheriff Akshar thanked everyone for their time.

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COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dog Control Report.

Councilmember Legg reported numbers from the August 2026 Dog Control Report. A copy is filed in the Town Clerk’s office.

Youth and Recreation Report.

Councilmember Latini reported that fall soccer is underway with 5 total teams. Winter basketball registration will begin mid-September, once school begins. A full report is filed in the Town Clerk’s office for review.

Historians Report.

Karen Ferguson gave an update on the progress of cleaning up the Grange. She explained some of the items that were salvaged are going to be sold and a percentage of the sales will be donated back to help with the restoration efforts. She's also working with the NYS Grange President. Karen focused her monthly article on School #9/Grange and included a request for members. If they can get a minimum of 11 members, then the Grange can officially take the lead on the project.

OLD BUSINESS:

119:26
Broome
County Dog
Services
Terminated

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution ratifying a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the termination letter with Broome County for Dog Control Services, effective June 30, 2026, in accordance with the attached letter. Councilmember Legg seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

120:26
Education
A.Glover
M.Loftus
W&S

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution authorizing Al Glover and Matt Loftus to attend the Operator Training on September 24, 2026, at the Vestal Elks Lodge, at a cost of \$50 per person, with all reasonable expenses paid. Councilmember Latini seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

121:26
Liquor License
30-Day Waiver
The Bar

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution approving the request from The Bar for a waiver from the Town of Kirkwood from the 30-day waiting period regarding their liquor license application. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

122:26
Schedule PH
Mining Permit
Renewal
Gorick Const.
Track Drive

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for the renewal of the Mining Permit granted to Gorick Construction Co., Inc., for the Klepfer Elkay Mine on Track Drive, under Article X, Section 1001(J) of the Zoning Code to be held on September 29, 2026 at 6 PM. Councilmember Latini seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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123:26
Schedule PH
Extending
Solar
Moratorium
LL#4

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for September 29, 2026 at 6:02 PM regarding a proposed Local Law Affecting a Temporary Moratorium Within the Town of Kirkwood on the Development and Construction of Solar Energy Systems, extending the moratorium for an additional six months. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

124:26
Education
C.Moran
Code

Councilmember Wasson moved to adopt resolution authorizing Chad Moran to attend the Southern Tier Home Builders & Remodelers Association training on September 9, 2026, at the Neptune Hose Company, Dryden, NY at a cost of \$35 with all reasonable expenses paid. Councilmember Legg seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

AUDIT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

125:26
Audit/Pay

Councilmember Legg 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 claim #26000974 through #26001093 the total amount of \$295,135.19, which includes prepaid claims as authorized by resolution adopted January 6, 2026. Councilmember Latini seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

126:26
Executive
Session

Councilmember Latini moved to adopt resolution to adjourn this meeting to conduct an Executive Session, pursuant to Public Officers Law section 105(1)(e), to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the Civil Service Law. Councilmember Wasson seconded.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk