

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

September 29, 2026

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
Julie Wyatt, Budget Officer
Michael Mucci, Town Justice

1. Discussion – 2027 Tentative Budget. (JW)

Julie Wyatt presented the Town's 2027 Tentative Budget. She noted that the Town is well under NYS's 2% tax cap with a proposed total levy increase of 1.01%. This total levy includes all special districts, such as Fire Protection Districts and Lighting Districts. General Fund and Sewer Fund taxes are both proposed to be flat, while Highway Fund taxes are proposed to decrease by 1%, and Water Fund taxes are proposed to increase by 10%. She explained that although a 10% increase seemed high, it amounted to just less than \$9,700. These funds will be used to help the Water Fund with the increasing cost of managing an aging infrastructure. Julie pointed out that the Water and Sewer Budgets are now reformatted due to the consolidation of the eleven sewer districts into one consolidated district earlier this year. Supervisor Grubham mentioned what a great job Julie Wyatt has done on the budget and has worked with him all the way through it. He noted that it is a really sound budget and the good thing is little or no tax increase for the Town.

Supervisor Grubham reported one question that needed to be addressed before the Board was the requested salary increases for the court clerks. Justice Mucci was in attendance to answer questions from the Board regarding this matter. Supervisor Grubham expressed that he did not support an additional increase for the clerks, in his opinion their salaries are where they should be, and he referenced the paperwork that was included in the Board's packet. Supervisor Grubham referred to the court as a business in the Town, you have an income

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

September 29, 2026

and an outgo. The income is the tickets that are written and the outgo is the money that it costs to run the court, which is the judge, the clerks, and other expenses. Courts are not very good for towns because they don't take in enough revenue to cover anywhere near what the cost is. We have to do it because it is state law but, in the end, we don't come close to what it cost to run the court. Councilmember Legg asked Justice Mucci questions regarding the current digitizing of their records and how this impacts their workflow. Justice Mucci explained that going paperless is the best thing for the Town, it still involves the same amount of work but will save the Town money on paper and mailings.

Julie Wyatt pointed out that the Tentative Budget is on file with the Town Clerk and that an additional copy will be on display for the public on September 30, 2026.

- 2. Discussion – Resolution Approving the 2027 Tentative Budget and Directing a Public Hearing for October 27, 2026 at 6 PM. (LCG)**
- 3. Discussion – Resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for October 27, 2026 at 6:02 PM on the Year 2027 Fire Contracts. (LCG)**
- 4. Discussion – Resolution authorizing Alan Glover to attend the Southeastern NY Water Works Conference on October 8, 2026 at the Sidney American Legion, at a cost of \$50 with all reasonable expenses paid. (LCG)**
- 5. Discussion – Resolution to purchase a CAT PC305 Cold Planer, purchased off the Sourcewell contract, from Milton CAT, at a cost not to exceed \$23,000 in accordance with the attached quote. (LCG)**

Poe Williams explained that the cold planer is for patching blacktop, also known as a milling machine. In the past the Town has had to rent a planer, and that is if one is available, so it would be nice to have one on hand so that any time patching is needed it can get done. Councilmember Wasson asked if there is a warranty on the planer and Poe Williams expected it to have at least a one-year warranty.

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

September 29, 2026

- 6. Audit of Claims.**
- 7. Executive Session – Resolution to conduct an Executive Session in accordance with Public Officers Law Section 105(e) to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law.**

Councilmember Legg moved to adopt resolution to conduct an Executive Session in accordance with Public Officers Law Section 105(e) to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law. Councilmember Latini seconded.

127:26
Executive
Session

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

MOTION CARRIED.