

Mexico Town Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Held August 11, 2025, at the Town Hall 64 S Jefferson Street Mexico
Commencing at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Eric Behling, Supervisor
Hadwin Fravor, Councilor
Russell Partrick, Councilor
Jeanne Revette, Councilor
Graham Seiter, Town Attorney
Ron Marsden, Code Enforcement Officer
Russ Marsden, Highway Superintendent
Shannon Bigelow, Park Manager
Diane Chepko-Sade, Friends of Mexico Point Park
Nancy Weber, Planning Board Chairwoman
Ned Waterbury, ZBA Chairman
Terry Grimshaw, Water Commissioner
Marcia Delong, Ag/Mkt Committee
Gary Toth, Comprehensive Plan Committee
Mike Jantz, C2AE
Nicole Wild, Town Clerk

Absent: Vacant, Councilor
Heather Garner, Assessor
Jack Spriggs, Dog Control Officer
Carrie Bond, Mexico Point Park

And 1 in the audience.

Supervisor Behling opened the regular Town Board meeting at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes- A motion was made by Councilor Revette and seconded by Councilor Fravor to accept the July 14, 2025, regular Town Board meeting minutes and the July 21, 2025 public hearing Town Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, 0 nays.

Communications

- AG & Markets July 2025 Report
- Williamson Law Software Increase Notification

Public Comment

Concerns were: none

Reports

Town Clerk/Water Clerk-

July disbursements were as follows:

Supervisor for General Fund - \$3,735.00

NYS Animal Population Control for Dog Licenses - \$40.00

NYS Health Dept. for Marriage Licenses - \$67.50

Water Payment Collection Total- \$4,285.82

A motion was made by Councilor Partrick and seconded by Supervisor Behling to accept the July reports as presented. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, and 0 nays.

Dog Control- Supervisor Behling read the report: July – 6 notices of unlicensed dogs were issued; no dogs were picked up and taken to the shelter. Officer Spriggs will be out of the country and out of communication August 15 – September 1.

Code Enforcement Officer- Officer Marsden read his report: 12 building permits were issued for the month of July, 13 property violations, issued an operating permit for Mexico Point Park fireworks, inspected a manufactured home in Central Square that is to be moved into the Town.

Highway Superintendent- Superintendent Marsden read his report: general maintenance on equipment; patching potholes throughout the town; mowing roadsides, cemeteries, Mexico Point Park, and Town Office; paved Larobardiere Rd and Munger Hill bridge; chip sealing throughout the town.

Community Park Manager- Superintendent Marsden read his report: mowed and used weed eater, serviced mowers, picked up a lot of trash, and fixed light in the restrooms. Marsden said he had been working with another town for shared services for the extra football field at the park. Marsden suggested budgeting the creation of a football field for next year with some quotes from contractors. Behling asked if he could get estimates from contractors. Marsden said he could.

S. Bigelow said leagues are starting up (soccer, football, and fall little league); she is getting questions about the football field and when it will be ready; suggested doing something differently with the far side parking lot; wants to continue the conversation about how to best use the space available and added that a dedicated softball field and football field would be helpful. Behling said he isn't sure how far to get into building fields if there's a possibility of changing the whole layout of the park eventually. Marsden said the new trash cans are in and installed.

Mexico Point Park- Diane Chepko-Sade said the fireworks event held on the rain date was very successful; thanked the town and said the cones are still at the park. Behling said he would pick them up. Chepko-Sade said they are hoping for volunteers for sweeping branches off the roof of the cottage; she said she needs more board members, their secretary resigned. Councilor Revette inquired about switching the beaches for dogs and people. Partrick said the west side swimming beach is easiest for lifeguards to take care of and monitor. Partrick said the beach sign should not say "swim at your own risk" because people should not be allowed to swim at all.

Planning Board- Weber said they've had several permits at once to review; a recent permit was for a private solar array and the board found that the current energy law is extremely

out of date and technology has changed so that what was germane then, is not today; the planning board would like to work with the ZBA to review the law to suggest updates for the Town Board's review. Weber said land use planning needs to also be considered; there is no kind of periodic review schedule. Weber shared the example of home businesses and that they have no provision for a home business in the local law. Weber said the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals are recommending two volunteers from each board to review the land use and renewables law.

Zoning Board of Appeals- Chairman Waterbury read his report: next Monday, they are working on an application for The Space Place mini storage for adding two new structures for larger storage and brought the board up to speed with the application, stating there will be a public hearing for the project next Monday evening. Waterbury said he wants to echo Chairwoman Weber's remarks regarding the renewables law review; expressed support of a temporary moratorium for renewables.

Water Commissioner- Grimshaw said phase one of the village water project should be completed by the end of the month. Grimshaw said he is hoping for more information by the end of the month, but they have been meeting with BCA regarding failed well #4. Grimshaw said two hydrants were repaired and one was replaced; they completed dead end flushes on Sage Creek and Green roads; a new service was installed on Pumphouse Rd, and three new meters were installed in July. Grimshaw said there was a span of four days where the town tank served both town and village water demand while the new village tank was filled and came online.

Supervisor's Report Acceptance-

Supervisor Behling reported that July balances stand as follows:

General Expenses - \$119,494.84

Highway Expenses - \$138,685.26

General Balance - \$2,649,040.11

Highway Balance - \$1,648,396.10

A motion was made by Councilor Fravor and seconded by Councilor Partrick to accept the Supervisor's July report as presented. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, and 0 nays. Partrick asked if the board can know the obligations out of each water district fund so that they know exactly where we stand with those water accounts. Behling said he could have that information for the next meeting.

Assessor- the report was not read aloud and there was no discussion by the Board.

Historian- Sue Vaughn read her report: Vaughn would like permission from the Board to return the following items to the Historical Society which were found in the Historian Office and are not part of the Museum collection:

- 2010 Archaeological Survey and Assessment/Starr Clark Tin Shop Stabilization study
- Mexico Abolitionist Petitions, 1835-1845, prepared by Dr. Judith Wellman
- Workshop material from 1998 "Researching the Freedom Trail in Central New York" presented by Oswego County Freedom Trail Committee
- Mexico Historical Society scrapbook from 1982 and 1983 containing photographs of meeting and celebrations of that organization.

- Locked metal box containing Historical Society cancelled checks, bank statements, and reports dated 1998-2002. No key available.

Vaughn shared estimates for painting and repairs for the Museum. Vaughn said she opened the museum on July 16, 30, and August 6, and has set up new exhibits of MACS items in anticipation of their 200th anniversary celebration. Vaughn invited MACS reps to come in to see what is in the collection. Vaughn said she is planning a monument cleaning workshop with the Historical Society on August 16 at Mexico Village Cemetery. Vaughn said she updated town cemeteries descriptions on mexicony.org; spent approximately 25 of in office work, museum, and home, still sorting and cleaning; responded to several inquiries from the public.

Revette asked if there are grants available to cover costs of renovations. Vaughn said she didn't know but that researching and applying for a grant would take longer than she prefers because the museum needs attention soon. Grimshaw asked if the plan is to rehab the building and asked if it is worth saving. Vaughn said her opinion is that it's worth saving. Partrick said we have money in the building reserve fund and there are a couple good references for Overton. Vaughn said the dumpster now has a new assigned space and does not bother the museum at all. Superintendent Marsden said they can weed whack the museum and that the town should contact Key Bank or the owner of the parking lot to ask them about putting up guard rails to protect the building from snow plowing during the winter.

Resolution 2025-43 Paint and Repair Museum

A motion was made by Councilor Partrick and seconded by Councilor Fravor to accept the following resolution. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, and 0 nays.

Resolved the Mexico Town Board approves the museum painting and repair estimate from Overton Contracting Inc in the amount of \$10,500, subject to the Town's Contractor Requirements.

Fire Department Update- Edwards gave his report; 44 total calls for July and 407 calls for the year to date, annual field days were a success. Edwards said the town should feel free to reach out to the fire department if they need assistance as we work with the new state fire inspector. Edwards said they are working on engineering front of station addition. They plan to continue to host field days for the time being; there are only two in the county now. Behling expressed support for the Fireman's field days and wants to ensure the town provides support to continue the event.

Water District Update- Mike Jantz said we are approved by USDA for bid and they are working on bid documents and suggesting a bid date of earliest of September 23rd and asks the town what date they would like bids to come in. Jantz said on July 31st, G&G Municipal Consulting submitted a Community Development Block Grant application for \$2M. Jantz said they be asking contractors to hold bids for 90 days so that the town can receive word on CDBG and/or WIIA grant funding. Jantz said that C2AE is estimating bids coming in \$2-2.5M higher than what is already earmarked; Jantz said that the grant applications would cover the difference but the town won't find out until mid-December; Jantz said if they get the bids back end of December or first of the year, we can start the cost overrun procedure

but that cannot happen until bids come in. Jantz said the town will either begin construction in the spring or determine that the project isn't possible; the first of December, the town will know more if ground will be broke in the spring. Jantz said Q1 of 2026 is when paperwork for grant acceptance takes place and funds are available. Partrick asked if we could use some of each, the CDBG allows for use of connections for low-income families to connect. Jantz said they'll be in communication with EFC and USDA-RD regarding bids.

CEO Marsden left the meeting at 8:13pm.

McAuslan Hall Update- none

Comprehensive Plan- Gary Toth said the plan is progressing well, they're on schedule and draft sections will be available for review this fall; reminds the room that the public is invited to attend. Sept 24th 5-8 Mexico high school auditorium public meeting/presentation. S. Bigelow left the meeting at 8:18pm.

Toth thanked Chad Bigelow advocating for the usage of the auditorium with no usage fee for the town. Toth said climate smart communities needs to be included in the comprehensive plan and there is a resolution that the town and village need to adopt for certification with a 10-step action plan; the advantage is funding opportunities. Toth said he is hoping to have a climate smart resolution to the board for the September meeting. Toth read a statement that echoes the sentiments from Weber and Waterbury regarding the renewable energy temporary moratorium.

Ag/Mkt.- Marcia Delong said they are making progress with maps and the audit from the consultant for local law review for ag-friendliness; she echoes the sentiment of needing a renewables moratorium not to exceed one year, stating that our current renewables energy law is insufficient. Delong said there are numerous laws since 2003 that update the 2003 zoning law and she would like to update the 2003 law and consolidate zoning into one local law. Delong said the farmer's market is going well and they've been kicking around new ideas like establishing a budget with a plan of expenses and revenue for 2026. Delong said the Climate Smart community designation brought her concerns but she feels the town should pursue the climate smart community designation; the main area of concern is that the town will need someone to take care of administration of plan. Delong's second concern is the creation of a taskforce; there is phenomenal participation in community so far but new people need to come in and be part of the task force. Behling said he understands that volunteers do get burnt out. Grimshaw said that the clerks and deputies do not have the time to apply for grants but they use a grant writer with a budgeted amount to pursue grants. Delong said the village and town could work together to use the village's grant writer. Delong said that the farmer's market has received permission to use the school for their market for 2026 without a fee. Behling asked C. Bigelow if the board had concerns; Bigelow said the school board is supportive of the market. Toth said he did specifically ask for any items that need to be addressed for 2026 and Ms. Runner said there were no concerns. Delong said they are hopeful to have a market manager next year. Delong said the Comprehensive Plan has to be reviewed and a final draft has to be brought to a public hearing by the Town Board and the document steers the town in the future.

Cemetery Update- Superintendent Marsden said has met with officials at CiTi and the ball is rolling; a plot is cleared, top soil is ordered and it should be outlined this fall. Behling

invited Historian, Sue Vaughn to the project. Vaughn said she spoke with Sean Doyle and he will want to know about it at the county level. Behling said that he wants to make sure any veterans are recognized.

Resolution 2025-44 Payroll

A motion was made by Councilor Revette and seconded by Supervisor Behling to accept the following resolution. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, and 0 nays.

Resolved the Mexico Town Board approves the July payroll.

S. Bigelow returned at 8:44pm.

Resolution 2025-45 Consider Town Board Vacancy

A motion was made by Supervisor Behling and seconded by Councilor Fravor to appoint Chad Bigelow to the Mexico Town Board, effective immediately. Behling said Chad will be the only candidate that he knows of on the November ballot. Partrick asked what Bigelow's plans are for continuing service on the school board. Bigelow said he does not plan to seek an additional term after his current term expires in June of 2027 because he is obtaining his administration degree. Behling asked Bigelow if he is on the board at CiTi. Bigelow said no and explained why he is not eligible to volunteer on that board. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, and 0 nays.

Resolved, the Mexico Town Board appoints Chad Bigelow to the Mexico Town Board effective immediately.

LL 1 of 2025: Temporary Renewables Moratorium

DeLong said the local law governs solar and wind but it's all renewable energy law. Behling said there are a handful of private windmills but the town is not overwhelmed with them. DeLong said we run into difficulties because the law was written so long ago that the information used to write it is now outdated. Weber said you can do a lot with solar and agriculture now. Seiter said this is just up for discussion and it can be modified. Toth said the current law is ambiguous in how it's written and they want to review and re-write it to make it better. Weber asked for time to have the planning board and zoning board review the moratorium before the board schedules the public hearing. Seiter suggests Schroepel, Volney and Richland as examples who all re-did solar laws that are very comprehensive; Seiter suggests examining the fees they're charging for permits determined by megawatt. DeLong agreed with a one-year timeframe. Seiter reminded the board that we are headed into fall and winter so applications for these may slow down; the town needs to put the final draft out for a public hearing.

DeLong thanked the board members for sitting on the various town boards.

Other Business

Resolution 2025-46 Audit Claims

A motion was made by Councilor Revette and seconded by Councilor Fravor to approve the following resolution. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, and 0 nays.

Resolved the bills for Abstract 8 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General A Fund	voucher #192-220	\$	35,945.68
General B Fund	voucher #61-70	\$	20,399.01
Highway Fund	voucher #151-162	\$	20,046.15
Water Fund	voucher #12-13	\$	30,190.62
Special Districts Fund	voucher #13	\$	493.11

A motion was made by Councilor Partrick and seconded by Councilor Revette to adjourn at 9:00 pm. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes: Behling, Fravor, Partrick, Revette, and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Wild, Town Clerk