

# Town of LeRay

## Town Board Minutes

November 6, 2025

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### Call to Order

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Proceedings of a Town Board Meeting held at the LeRay Town Municipal Office on November 6, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carpenter who led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Open Regular Meeting

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Leland J. Carpenter – Supervisor, Melissa L. Verne – Town Clerk, Nathan Toutant – Director of Finance/Clerk to Supervisor, Board Members in attendance: Samuel Biondolillo, Michael Gracey, Merle Otis, Patrick O'Donnell, James Burrows – Town Attorney – **Absent**, Debbie Biondolillo – Planning Board Chairperson – **Absent**, Lee Shimel – Zoning Enforcement Officer, William Vargulick – Town Assessor, Bruce Shawcross – Highway Superintendent, Mike Altieri – Town Engineer – **Absent**, Tony Goodrich– DANC – **Absent**, Lindsay Hess – DCO

### Approval of Minutes

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The minutes from the meeting held on October 6, and 9 2025, were reviewed by the Board Members. A motion to approve the minutes as drafted was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter.

The vote went as follows:		
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Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
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The motion passed.			
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### Comments from the Floor

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#### Report from Town Dog Control Officer – Lindsay Hess

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DCO Hess submitted her monthly report. Mrs. Hess discussed with the Board possible Townwide enumeration for next year.

Supervisor Carpenter asked Clerk Verne to read the Public Hearing Notice as published in the Watertown Daily Times on October 21, 2025. This Public Hearing Notice included all Three (3) Public Hearings relating to the Town Budget for 2026.

<p><b>Public Hearing scheduled at 4:10 p.m. the Town Board of the Town of LeRay will consider contracts with the Evans Mills Volunteer Ambulance Squad - \$62,000 and the Black River Volunteer Ambulance Squad, Inc.- \$55,400, for ambulance service within the Town of LeRay.</b></p>
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Supervisor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing at 4:12 p.m. Supervisor Carpenter then asked if there were any comments from the floor. No comments were made.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Otis to close the Public Hearing.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

**Public Hearing scheduled immediately following the Ambulance Service Contracts, the Town Board of the Town of LeRay will consider contracts with the Black River Fire Department, Inc.- \$139,172 and the Pamela Volunteer Fire Company - \$22,658 for fire protection within the Town of LeRay.**

Supervisor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing at 4:13 p.m. Supervisor Carpenter then asked if there were any comments from the floor. No comments were made.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman O'Donnell to close the Public Hearing.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

**Public Hearing scheduled immediately following the Fire Protection Contracts the Town Board of the Town of LeRay will meet and review the Preliminary Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026.**

Supervisor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing at 4:14 p.m. Supervisor Carpenter then asked if there were any comments from the floor. No comments were made.

- This Public Hearing was not closed and will remain open until the adjourned meeting on November 13, 2025.

**Public Hearing @ 4:10 to consider Local Law #3 of 2025 – establishing a Six (6) Month Moratorium on Renewable Energy Facilities and Battery Energy Storage Systems**

Supervisor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing at 4:19 p.m. Supervisor Carpenter asked Clerk Verne to read the Public Hearing Notice as published in the Watertown Daily Times on October 21, 2025. The Supervisor then asked if there were any comments from the floor. No comments were made.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman O'Donnell to close the Public Hearing.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

**RESOLUTION # 14 OF 2025**  
**ADOPTING LOCAL LAW #3 of 2025**  
**Establishing a Townwide Six (6) Month Moratorium**  
**for Renewable Energy Facilities and Battery Energy Storage Systems**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of LeRay recognizes that there is potential that person(s) might proceed with an application seeking approval for Renewable Energy Facilities and Battery Energy Storage Systems. As part of, or in addition to, an application for renewable energy located within the boundaries of the Town of LeRay; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of LeRay upon review of the Town of LeRay Zoning Law, familiarity with lands within the Town, considering concerns expressed by some area residents, and in recognition of an obligation to promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public within the Town of LeRay, deems it to be in the public interest to stop and temporarily suspend the processing of any application(s) that may include Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town of LeRay ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board anticipates undertaking steps to potentially update, revise and/or amend its Zoning in regard to Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town and has determined that providing for a temporary moratorium is appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, this action is considered a Type II action under SEQR per 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(36).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a Public Hearing regarding a possible moratorium for six (6) months was conducted on November 6, 2025 and such information and comments have been considered by the Town Board; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that adoption of a six (6) month moratorium to provide adequate time to fully consider and potentially amend its Zoning Law and/or Solar Energy Law within the Town of LeRay regarding Renewable Energy Facilities and Battery Energy Storage Systems is appropriate and the Local Law establishing the Moratorium is approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately and the underlying Local Law shall become effective upon filing with the NYS Department of State.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by **Supervisor Carpenter**, and seconded by **Board Member O'Donnell**, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Leland J. Carpenter, Supervisor	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Michael J. Gracey	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Samuel J. Biondolillo	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Merle Otis	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick O'Donnell	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Dated: November 6, 2025

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Melissa L. Verne, Town Clerk

**Report from DANC – Tony Goodrich – Absent**

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**Report from Highway Superintendent – Bruce Shawcross**

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Mr. Shawcross gave his monthly report. Discussed meeting with Indian River School District and that Fort Drum has a shortage of drivers which will most likely result in many school delays. A letter is being drawn up for a plowing agreement with the Town and Indian River School District for Calcium Primary Drive .

**Report from the Zoning Enforcement Officer – Lee Shimel**

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Mr. Martin Schrodt, owner of the properties at 25587/686 US Route 11, that were deemed Unsafe Building Structures by the Town Board spoke on behalf of himself. Mr. Schrodt asked the board if he could have more time to teardown and secure the structures.

A motion was made by Councilman O’Donnell and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo to require Martin Schrodt to secure the buildings identified in the BCA report as the North Pole Barn, the West Dairy Barn, and the South Structure by December 21, 2025, and, if he fails to do so, the Town will proceed with BCA to secure the buildings and Mr. Schrodt will be responsible for reimbursing the Town for all associated costs.

The vote went as follows:		
Ayes:	5	Nays: 0
The motion passed.		

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to require Martin Schrodt to tear down the buildings identified in the BCA report as the East Structure and the North Structure (not visible) by April 15, 2026, and, if he fails to do so, the Town will proceed with BCA to demolish the buildings and Mr. Schrodt will be responsible for reimbursing the Town for all associated costs.

The vote went as follows:		
Ayes:	5	Nays: 0
The motion passed.		

**Report from the Town Assessor – William Vargulick**

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Mr. Vargulick discussed equalization rates with the Board for next year.

**Report from Planning Board**

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Mr. Shimel reported on planning board projects.

**Report from the Town Clerk – Melissa L. Verne**

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A motion was made by Councilman Otis and seconded by Councilman Gracey to reimburse Adolfi Real Estate \$192.00 for their payment on account number 10005, which was payment on the wrong sewer account.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

**Report from Nathan Toutant, Director of Finance/Clerk to the Supervisor**

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A motion was made by Supervisor Carpenter and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo to approve and have Supervisor Lee Carpenter sign the Consolidated Water Extension Project change order No.1 in the amount of \$7,506.00

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Gracey and seconded by Councilman Otis to approve and have Supervisor Lee Carpenter sign the payment application No.1 for the Town of LeRay Consolidated Water District Extension project to North Country Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$182,594.75.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Gracey to adjourn the meeting until November 13, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., and the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Respectfully given:

*Melissa L. Verne*

Melissa L. Verne, LeRay Town Clerk