

MARATHON TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Marathon Town Board was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at the Marathon Town Hall with the following present: Supervisor Timothy Elliott, Councilmembers Patricia Willis, David Cross, Kenneth Lango, and Jefferson Adams; Highway Superintendent Joshua Ensign; and Town Clerk Doris Adams. Also present were County Legislator William McGovern and Town Historian Laurie Tebbe.

The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the November 11, 2025 monthly meeting were emailed to members. Councilman David Cross made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Councilman Jefferson Adams seconded it, and the minutes were approved with all voting AYE.

Councilman David Cross made a motion to close the regular monthly Town Board meeting and open the Public Hearing on granting a cable television franchise agreement by and between the Town of Marathon and Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications. Councilman Jefferson Adams seconded the motion and it was approved with all voting AYE. Town Attorney Donald Armstrong reviewed the contract and recommended that we only approve the franchise for 5 or 10 years. Spectrum representative Hanna Walier said they won't do a contract for less than 10 years. Councilman David Cross brought up some other concerns regarding the proposed agreement. He also noted he is against said agreement. The Board decided to table any action until our concerns are addressed. Councilman David Cross made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Charter Communication's cable television franchise and reopen the monthly meeting, Councilman Kenneth Lango seconded the motion, and it was approved with all voting AYE.

The following November 2025 monthly reports were reviewed: Town Clerk, Town Supervisor, and Justice Court. There was no report from the Dog Control (SPCA) or Building Code Enforcement Officer. County Legislator William McGovern was here to report in person. Bank balances were also reviewed.

Laurie Tebbe is here to report in person as the Town Historian. She shared copies of her extensive, detailed report for 2025 and reviewed it with the Board. It's obvious she enjoys the work and we thanked her for her thoroughness.

County Legislator William McGovern shared the following County Legislature news:

- The Town of Marathon should be receiving the Third Quarter Sales Tax check in the amount of \$84,101.84 soon. Year-to date sales tax figures are up 3.7%.
- In an effort to crack down on occupancy taxes, the County has hired someone to go out and collect these taxes on short-term rentals which include motels and Air B & Bs. The Legislature tabled how much they will charge until their January 2026 meeting.
- The County Jail or what will now be referred to as the Cortland County Public Safety Building is again being discussed. The earlier design plan now needs to be updated to address current codes. Nothing will happen in 2026, but they will work on a plan, where to build it, and how to cover the costs. He noted that property has been donated for such a building out by Tractor Supply on Route 13.

In regards to Local Law #3, we have already held the Public Hearing on said law and the Cortland County Planning Board approved it at their November meeting so we are ready to adopt it. Councilman Kenneth Lango made a motion to adopt proposed Local Law #3 regarding the seven proposed zoning map amendments as Local Law #3 for the Town of Marathon for 2025: Amending the Town of Marathon Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. Councilman Jefferson Adams seconded the motion and it was approved with all voting AYE. The Town Clerk will sign and seal the State filing letter and return it the attorney's office for them to file with NYS.

Councilman David Cross made a motion to rescind part of the motion from the February 11, 2025 Town Board minutes to put Building Reserve money in the new NBT Intrafi account, Councilman Kenneth Lango seconded the motion, and it was approved and rescinded with all voting AYE.

Councilman Jefferson Adams made a motion to move the 2025 bridge money in the amount of \$40,000, from Highway Account DA 5120.4 to the new NBT Intrafi Account. Councilwoman Patricia Willis seconded the motion and it was approved with all voting AYE.

Councilman Jefferson Adams made a motion to accept the 2026 MAVAC contract in the amount of \$93,400.00 and authorize the Town Supervisor to sign said contract, Councilwoman Patricia Willis seconded it, and it was approved with all voting AYE.

The Board reviewed the 2026 Fire District Contract. Councilman David Cross made a motion to accept the 2026 Fire District Contract in the amount of \$130,249.00 and to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign said contract, Councilwoman Patricia Willis seconded the motion, and it was approved with all voting AYE.

As noted at our November 2025 meeting, Fire Commissioner Harold White is retiring after about 35 years as a Fire Commissioner with the Marathon Joint Fire District. The Town needs to appoint a new member to fill this position. Councilman David Cross made a motion to appoint Edward Lopresti as a Marathon Joint Fire District Fire Commissioner to a term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030. Councilman Jefferson Adams seconded the motion and it was approved with all voting AYE. Mr. Lopresti will need to be sworn in at our January 2026 meeting. Other serving Fire Commissioners include Donald Bliss, Craig Braman, Eddie Daugherty, Steve Potter, and Norman Forrest.

Town Supervisor Timothy Elliott shared the following miscellaneous information:

- He requested a raise in our credit card limit from Elan Financial Services. He just received a letter denying the increase. He will continue work on that with Elan.
- He attended a MAVAC meeting at the end of November. He noted that the number of calls is down from a year ago.
- He called T-Mobile about the extra charge showing up on our monthly bill. It is because of the extra antenna line on the building. This is still less than what we were paying Frontier.
- He reported that the Village of Marathon and the NYS Police have come to an agreement for the State Police to continue to use Corporation Hall as a satellite office for the NYS Police in Marathon.
- The 2026 Organizational Meeting will be held in conjunction with our regular January Board meeting on Tuesday, January 13th. We will also swear in the two councilman (Patricia Willis and Nicholas Huizinga) who were elected in November.

Highway Bills of \$7,103.47 were presented by Highway Superintendent Ensign and General Bills of \$6,419.07 were presented by Town Clerk Adams. Councilwoman Patricia Willis made a motion to pay the bills, Councilman Kenneth Lango seconded it, and it was passed with all voting AYE.

Connie White sent the Board holiday greetings via son Jefferson Adams which included a cinnamon-nut coffee cake and a packet of herbal tea. Ms. White enjoys showing her appreciation to us as community servants.

The Supervisor and the Board would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and thanks to Councilman Kenneth Lango for his community service to the Town of Marathon these last four years serving as a Town Councilman. We want to wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Councilwoman Patricia Willis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doris Adams
Marathon Town Clerk