

**Greig Town Board
Regular February Town Board Meeting Meeting
February 11, 2026**

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Councilmen Mallette, and Bailey-Swisher are present. Also Town Clerk Gunn and Attorney Gilbert were present. Assessor Mace, RACOG Circuit Riders Dietrich and Cowell, ZBA Member Stratton and Residential Owner Mr. William Cartier were also present.

Councilman Councilman Olmstead and Mayhew and Superintendent Alfano were absent.

MINUTES From Last Meeting

Supervisor called for a motion from the Board to accept the minutes from the January Town Board Meeting. These minutes have been emailed in advance to the Council members. Councilman Bailey-Swisher wished to comment on requests made to her to have more detail of speakers comments at the Public Hearings included in the minutes. Supervisor Johnson said he would request this be done.

Motion 26-02-01 made by Councilman Bailey Swisher Seconded by Mallette
Approve the January 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: Bailey-Swisher, Mallette and Johnson - Yes

Motion approved.

ASSESSOR, PB, ZBA and RACOG REPORTS

Assessor Mace reported the Data Collector will start working in Greig March 1st. Mr. Mace also noted the tentative equalization rate for town values will be 59% this year. The number of exemptions have gone down by two to 194.

There will be exemption workshops for seniors at the Town Hall at New Bremen 2/13 9-11am, Denmark 2/17 1-3pm, and Turin 2/26 9-11. If you are 65 or older and have annual income less than \$30,700 you may qualify for an exemption.

There are new guidelines for NY STAR participants. Everything must be done on-line with the NY State Department of Taxation. "tax.ny.gov" website If you have questions, please contact the Assessor at 315-634-5790 x 4 and leave your name and phone number with the question. New STAR rules and methods of application are shown on the Town Website under the "Government / Assessment Information" tabs.

RACOG (Tug Hill River Area of Governments)

Director Micky Dietrich gave a brief review of other Towns completing their Comprehensive Plans. He also reported on the upcoming March 19th Visioning Meeting to be held at the Glenfield BOCES. This gives Townships in the area a chance to meet and share in plans and activities.

ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals)

Jim Stratton, member of the ZBA, reported on their recent meeting. A resolution was presented that speaks against NY State Senate Bill S5506, relating to the siting of qualified energy storage systems. The ZBA members suggested this be worked on by the Town Board at their next meeting.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Gilbert discussed the issues associated with recording and live broadcast of Town Board Meetings. The Town has already passed a Local Law allowing the broadcast of meetings and associated requirements for board members who attend the broadcast meetings from a remote location.

Discussions about the response time required by the Planning Board for a permit application. The Planning Board has 60 days to act on the request. A Public Hearing adds 62 days to this time.

Mr. Gilbert reported a that a utility like National Grid only has the right to bill for only 6 months in arrears. The Justice that heard the Zoning Citation case against Mr. Valenti will make a ruling within 2 weeks.

Mr. Gilbert recommends the Town begin to look for a specialist attorney to assist with any legal issues surrounding an application for siting a BESS within the Township. This Attorney would assist the Planning Board separate from the Town Board Attorney. Supervisor Johnson will pursue this action and report back to the Board.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Town Park

Supervisor Johnson has submitted an application for the Grant for a Town Park Enhancement. He has included a plan for a Welcoming Kiosk, Pickle-ball Court, Volleyball Court, Dog Park, Fencing Work, Improved size of the Pavilion and additional equipment for an older group of children. These were items mentioned in the recent survey from the Comprehensive Plan. As a part of the Grant request, the Town needed a SEQR on record. Mr. Johnson requested a Board Member make a Resolution for the SEQR.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-01

RESOLUTION DECLARING TOWN PARK UPGRADE ACTION WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Greig is planning to make specific additions to its Town Park and

WHEREAS, this project is subject to environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greig Supervisor prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) for the Town’s planned park upgrades and that such upgrades are in keeping with the purpose of the park and the prior upgrades that have been made to the park, the Supervisor recommends that the Board conclude that the planned upgrades will not have a significant environmental impact and that as a Type II action, no further procedure under SEQRA is required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows: The Town Board of Greig determined that the planned park upgrades constitute Type II actions as defined by the regulations promulgated under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) of the State of New York; that the project will not have significant impacts upon the environment; and there is no further procedure required under SEQRA. Section 2.

The Town of Greig Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute SEAF Part 1 form and any other SEQRA documents to give effect to this negative declaration. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Move by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, seconded by Councilman Mallette

Vote:

Councilman Mallette	Aye	Councilman Olmstead	Absent
Councilman Bailey-Swisher	Aye	Councilman Mayhew	Absent
Supervisor Johnson	Aye		

Adopted and Certified on the 11st day of May 2026

Thomas Gunn, Greig Town Clerk

Supervisor Johnson noted the opportunity for the Town to adopt the 2025 Lewis County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He is requesting a Board Member move the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-02
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GREIG ADOPTING THE 2025 LEWIS COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS the Town of Greig recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Town of Greig; and

WHEREAS the Town of Greig has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as 2025 Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Town of Greig from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Town of Greig demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2025 Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF GREIG, NY THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with General Town Law S 41, the Town of Greig adopts the 2025 Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan, approved by the community, may be edited or amended after submission for review, but will not require the community to re-adopt any further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the community from updating the plan in 5 years. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Move by Councilman Mallette , seconded by Councilman Bailey-Swisher
Vote:

Councilman Mallette	Aye	Councilman Olmstead	Absent
Councilman Bailey-Swisher	Aye	Councilman Mayhew	Absent
Supervisor Johnson	Aye		

Adopted and Certified on the 11st day of May 2026

Thomas Gunn, Greig Town Clerk

Supervisor Johnson noted the request from the Zoning Board of Appeals that the Town Board submit a resolution to New York State representatives showing our Town's opposition to a State Law placing ORES in authority over Townships for siting Battery Energy Storage Systems. If passed Supervisor Johnson will provide each identified State leader a copy of this resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-03

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GREIG OPPOSING NEW YORK STATE SENATE BILL S5506 RELATING TO THE SITING OF QUALIFIED ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, New York State Senate Bill S5506, sponsored by Senator Kavanagh, and Assembly Bill A8378, proposes to amend the Public Service Law and the Labor Law to expand the authority of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) to site and permit Qualified Energy Storage Systems across New York State; and

WHEREAS, while the stated intent of Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, is to advance the State's renewable energy goals and reduce emissions, the bill would significantly limit local municipal control over land use, zoning, and public safety decisions by transferring permitting authority from local governments to a centralized state agency; and

WHEREAS, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) have been shown to pose serious risks to public health, safety, and welfare, including but not limited to fires, explosions, toxic smoke, thermal runaway events, and the release of hazardous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the dangers of such systems are not theoretical, as demonstrated by three separate battery storage fires in Warwick, New York, which resulted in documented health hazards to nearby residents, emergency response challenges, and ultimately led the local municipal government to condemn the site for safety reasons; and

WHEREAS, these incidents underscore the reality that battery storage facilities can overwhelm local emergency services, expose first respondents and residents to toxic conditions, and render surrounding areas unsafe for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, would enable the siting of large-scale energy storage facilities through ORES in a manner that may override local zoning laws, emergency preparedness standards, and community-specific safety concerns, despite the fact that local governments are most familiar with their infrastructure, population density, environmental conditions, and emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the bill acknowledges that many local jurisdictions have enacted moratorium on battery storage systems due to safety, staffing, and expertise limitations, yet instead of addressing these legitimate concerns, Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, seeks to circumvent local authority rather than strengthen local oversight and protections; and

WHEREAS, protecting residents from known and demonstrated hazards must remain a priority over expedited development timelines or statewide permitting uniformity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Greig Town Board formally opposes New York State Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, in its current form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this governing body affirms that local municipalities must retain full authority over the siting, permitting, and regulation of Battery Energy Storage Systems to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of their residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Senate, the New York State Assembly, Senators Kavanaugh and Walczyk, Representative Blankenbush and all relevant state and regional representatives, urging them to reject or substantially amend Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, to preserve local control and prioritize public safety.

Move by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, seconded by Councilman Mallette

Vote:

Councilman Mallette	Aye	Councilman Olmstead	Absent
Councilman Bailey-Swisher	Aye	Councilman Mayhew	Absent
Supervisor Johnson	Aye		

Adopted and Certified on the 11st day of May 2026

Thomas Gunn, Greig Town Clerk

Supervisor Johnson asks the Board to review a new town policy for reimbursement to a claimant for damage caused by an accident with Town Equipment He will ask for a vote on the new policy at the next Town Board Meeting

Purpose

This policy provides guidance to the Town Board on requests from residents for reimbursement for damage to their property caused by Town employees.

Background

It is possible that during the performance of their duties, town employees may inadvertently cause damage to a resident’s property. Public law (need reference from Ian) exempts the Town for paying for that damage except for incidents of gross negligence. Because of this exemption the Town’s insurance carrier will not cover such damage. In such cases the resident would need to file a claim with their insurance carrier if they have one.

Definitions

Road Line: Right of way line of a road as dedicated by a deed or record. Where the width of the road is not established, the road line shall be considered to be twenty-five (25) feet from the centerline of the road for Town-owned roads and thirty-three (33) feet for County-owned roads.

Deductible: The amount of money a resident must pay for a covered loss before their insurance will pay.

Board’s Discretion: The majority of the Town Board agrees that a payment should be made.

Proof of Expense Incurred: A bill from a contractor showing the itemized cost and the fact that the bill was paid. If the resident performs the repair themselves then an itemized list of items purchased and receipts showing the cost of the items purchased is required. If the resident pays a deductible to the insurance carrier then documentation from the insurance carrier showing the deductible was paid is required.

Policy

While the Town is generally exempt from paying for damage to personnel property caused by an employee performing their duties, there may be times where the Town Board feels that it is appropriate to reimburse a resident for some portion of the expense required to repair the damage.

Any reimbursement is at the sole discretion of the Town Board.

The maximum amount the Town will reimburse a resident when the damage is not covered by Town insurance is \$1000 or the resident's insurance deductible, whichever is less, regardless of whether the resident chooses to submit a claim to their insurance carrier.

The Town will provide the reimbursement after the repair has been completed and proof that the expense has been incurred is provided.

Under no circumstances will the Board entertain a request for payment for damage to any item within the road line or road right of way.

The resident shall notify the Town Highway Superintendent or Town Supervisor of any damage claims within 15 days of its occurrence.

The Town employee shall report any damage to resident's property to their supervisor the day the damage is incurred and the supervisor shall investigate the potential damage within 24 hours.

Effective Date

The policy is effective when passed by the Greig Town Board.

Review

The Board shall review this policy every five years.

Electric Bills

Mr. Johnson said he is still working on the issue with National Grid. The issue is that the Town went for a large number of months without receiving an invoice from National Grid following the installation of "Smart Meters". This issue should be resolved by next month

Electric Light Replacement

Mr. Johnson says we are still going forward with "energy efficient light replacement" grant program. This should be complete by the end of February.

Door Security

The door to the Highway Garage has been forced open at some point. There are two fixes possible, one for \$800 and the more complete repair is \$1700. Decision will be made soon.

Brantingham Lake Dam Maintenance

Two bids have been received for the Dam Repair. First bid was to re-use the existing gate and was for \$15,000. The second was to replace the entire water control structure for \$28,000.

Motion 26-02-02 made by Councilman Bailey Swisher Seconded by Mallette

Accept the Dam Repair bid submitted by Hodge Creek Earth & Site Development LLC for \$15,000.

Vote: Bailey-Swisher, Mallette and Johnson - Yes

Motion approved.

Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Johnson reported the Public Open House was a success. We had a good attendance and a large contribution of ideas towards the final product. The presentation details have been added to the Town website (townofgreig.gov) under the heading of ComprehensivePlan. The survey will remain open until the end of February. The finished Plan must be presented to the Lewis County Planning Board for review upon completion. One member of the original CP Committee has resigned, and Shellie Marks has been added as a new member. Supervisor Johnson would like start the re-write of the Zoning Law in parallel with the completion of the Comprehensive Plan. He is putting a committee together to take on this effort. Members of the ZBA, Planning Board and community will be asked to take part. We are expecting to have professional help in this effort.

Public Outreach

Mr. Johnson noted his attempt to contact other Town Supervisors currently using the TextToGov application has not been completed due to lack of response from other towns. He presented the cost proposal from the provider and needs more information before committing the Town to this expense. A meeting with the application provider is planned.

New Fund

Mr. Johnson noted there is a requirement in most grant submissions for a share to come from the community. Each time an opportunity arises to apply for the grant, the issue of where the dollar share will come from presents itself. He feels that a "Reserved Fund" created for the purpose of funding these shares would alleviate the problem. Mr. Johnson will put a resolution to create such a reserved fund together for the next meeting.

Lobby Update

Councilman Bailey-Swisher distributed the wall hanging time line showing the history of the Town of Greig. The Board felt she has done an excellent job of collecting the images and data and placing them in such an attractive display format. Discussion was had about which walls within the Town Hall building should be lined and discussion about painting the interior walls prior to mounting them. Supervisor Johnson stated he would head up a volunteer team to paint the walls.

Councilman Bailey-Swisher also discussed the Hero Honor Flags project. It seems that 20 flags would cost about \$17,000. Cheaper flags would need a two year replacement time, while the better flags should be good for 5 years. She would like to have a "kick-off" discussion at the next meeting.

Audit Board

Mr. Mallette reported that Mr. Robertson and himself have completed an audit of the Justice, Tax Collection, Clerk and Supervisor Departments. They were pleased with the commitment these departments made to the rules regarding the handling of town monies. Reports will be turned over to the Supervisor. He noted that Mr. Stratton had volunteered to be on the committee, however his schedule did not allow him to participate in the audits.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Conversations were brought up by Mr. Stratton and Mr. Cartier. Topic was the proposed BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) the is to be Sited within the Town of Greig. Mr. Stratton added more results of his on-going study of what other townships in New York are doing to oppose the siting of a BESS within their township. Both speakers discussed the importance of a specialist attorney being contracted to guide and assist the Planning Board when this application is dropped.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Supervisor Johnson discussed a visit that Superintendent Alfano and he made to Viking-Cives (The firm located in Harrisville NY that mounts the Road Plows and other winter equipment on all Highway Trucks ordered by Municipalities.) They were impressed by the number of trucks (over 400) on back order and the amount of work that goes into each truck. However, we have two trucks sitting there waiting for the finish work to be done. The cost of repairs on our existing fleet is large, and the two trucks we have waiting would reduce these costs and provide a more reliable fleet. Unfortunate that their visit was a learning experience and did not result in an improved schedule of delivery. We hope to have at least one truck by July. Mr. Johnson reported the Highway Dept. is using special blades on the plows that reduce costs and improve plowed road surfaces.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Supervisor Johnson regretfully reported that, while we are now receiving \$50,000 in interest on our banked money, the money must be deposited in the Reserve Funds Accounts that generated that interest. In our 2026 Budget, he placed the revenue in our General Funds. This may have us scrambling near the end of year. He also reported that Community Bank is having trouble issuing checks to some of our vendors. That is why you will see what appears to be a double check to some vendors. Be assured the Bank credits this situation. Financial details were displayed on a screen and discussions were held regarding each account.

Motion 26-02-03 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Bailey-Swisher

Accept the Supervisors Financial Report as presented

Vote: Bailey-Swisher, Johnson, and Mallette - Yes

Motion approved.

CLERKS REPORT

Clerk Gunn distributed the January 2026 Clerk's and Collector's report by email. Report contained details of the following financial actions:

Town Collections

There were general fund collections of:

4 Dog License	\$ 31.00
1 PB Fee	\$ 75.00
Total Collections:	\$ 106.00

The expenditures were:

Town Supervisor as Revenue	\$102.00
Animal Population Control	\$ 4.00
Total Payments	\$106.00

Tax Collections

Payments Collected	\$ 1,732,821.02
Interest	\$ 60.09

The expenditures were:

Town Supervisor	\$ 984,440.88
Credit Card Service Charge	\$ 1.85

Balance in Bank \$ 748,438.38

Mr. Mallette asked about how much Dog License Fees were and are they in line. After a brief discussion, Clerk Gunn said he would ask other townships in Lewis County what their fees were and respond at the next meeting.

Motion 26-02-04: made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Approve Clerk's financial report as presented.

Vote: Bailey-Swisher, Johnson, and Mallette - Yes

Motion approved.

VOUCHER REPORT

Highway Abstracts	\$24,194.65
General Abstracts	\$94,611.40
Trust & Agency Abstracts	\$ 623.96
Total paid in February Abstracts =	\$119,430.01

Motion 26-02-05: made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Approve Vouchers

Vote: Bailey-Swisher, Johnson, and Mallette - Yes

Motion approved.

Motion 26-02-06 made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Motion to adjourn 8:55PM

Vote: Bailey-Swisher, Johnson, and Mallette - Yes

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted

Thomas Gunn, Clerk/Collector