

March 2, 2026 – WORK SESSION

The Work Session of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 2, 2026 at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York.

The members of the Town Board present were:

**Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor
Stephen M. Gardner, Councilperson
Sharon M. Exley, Councilperson
Danny F. Morabito, Councilperson
Thomas J. Burns, Councilperson**

Also attending:

**Keegan Coughlin, Esq., Attorney for the Town
Wendi Evans, Town Clerk**

Also in attendance:

Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Doyle, Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie

CHAIR

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

March 2, 2026 Town Work Session

1. We will be considering the adoption of the resolution that I talked about last month regarding Home Rule. Many towns are doing the same thing
2. As we do every year, there are a number of budget adjustments/journal entries for the 2025 budget that need to be made and approved by the board.
3. Please send me any articles that you would like to be considered for the town newsletter. I have Kyle's, Joel's and Wendi's. I am doing a Looking to the Past pictures.
4. There is no new information regarding the Marchuska project.
5. The Annual NYAOT Annual Conference went extremely well. Steve, Sharon and Darrell can report to the board, as well as myself, about their experiences either tonight or next week.
6. I received a few calls from residents asking about people going door to door in their neighborhoods. I reminded them that those are people trying to get petitions signed for the various levels of local, state and county positions.

March 2, 2026 – WORK SESSION

COMMENTS:

Supervisor Marinaccio requested that the board members that went to the NYAOT Conference tell a little about what they had learned and their experience at the conference. Councilperson Gardner and Councilperson Exley each spoke and were pleased with the conference and all the information they received and learned from it. Councilperson Gardner introduced the board to a program called EPIC that the board will be researching and will be discussing further at the next board meeting.

ATTORNEY

RESOLUTION 2026-5

Town of Dickinson

Resolution No. 5

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOME RULE AND RESTORATION
OF MUNICIPAL STANDING AND STANDARDS IN THE SITING OF
MAJOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
FACILITIES**

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson held at Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York on the 2nd day of March, 2026, the following resolution was offered and seconded:

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("CLCPA"), which established statewide goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to renewable energy, and promote environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the CLCPA, New York State has enacted a series of laws that increasingly curtail the authority of municipalities over local land use and development decisions; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, New York State significantly altered the process for siting major renewable energy facilities and the 2025 New York State Budget included legislation commonly known as the "RAPID Act," which further restructured the State's energy siting laws; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these changes, host municipalities are no longer parties to energy siting proceedings as of right and must instead satisfy procedural thresholds to obtain party status, thereby limiting their ability to meaningfully participate in proceedings that directly affect their communities; and

March 2, 2026 – WORK SESSION

WHEREAS, even when a host municipality raises concerns about a project's compliance with local laws, the review process may be limited to a public hearing without meaningful examination of disputed issues; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to State law have made it easier to override local laws by replacing a long-standing, balanced standard with one that prioritizes development; and

WHEREAS, local land use laws are adopted through a democratic process to balance environmental protection, public safety, community character, infrastructure capacity, and quality of life, and environmental goals alone should not be the primary or determinative metric for overriding carefully crafted local legislation; and

WHEREAS, the erosion of automatic municipal standing and the weakening of the standard for overriding local laws undermine the principles of home rule enshrined in the New York State Constitution and diminish the ability of towns to protect the interests of their residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson calls upon the New York State Legislature to revise the State's energy siting laws to restore meaningful municipal participation in decision-making and control over local land use decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town calls upon the New York State Legislature to halt the continued adoption of renewable energy laws that strip municipalities of their constitutionally protected home rule authority.

CERTIFICATION

I, Wendi Evans, do hereby certify that I am the Town Clerk of the Town of Dickinson and that the foregoing constitutes a true, correct and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson at a meeting thereof held on this 2nd day of March, 2026. Said resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Supervisor Michael Marinaccio	<u> Aye </u>
Councilperson Sharon M. Exley	<u> Aye </u>
Councilperson Thomas J. Burns	<u> Aye </u>
Councilperson Danny F. Morabito	<u> Aye </u>
Councilperson Stephen M. Gardner	<u> Aye </u>

Town of Dickinson Seal

Dated: March 3 , 2026

Wendi Evans, Town Clerk
Town of Dickinson

March 2, 2026 – WORK SESSION

- Attorney Coughlin also commented that regarding the sidewalk districts that was discussed in the work session. He received a lot more information about the procedure and how we can do that. We can do it on the town's own initiative subject to permissive referendum and notifying everyone but there is a lot of homework with map and reports so he will be meeting with Commissioner Kie regarding that information. It will be a 4-to-8-month process. Our biggest concern is what kind of impact it will have on the residents in that area.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Commissioner Kie commented that we are still having issues with the sewer being plugged up at the Sunrise station. He has a gentleman coming to look at it and it may be an easy fix, or we may have to change the pumps that we are currently using to be able to handle the capacity. There is no way to prove exactly where it comes from or what is causing it. He is going to get an estimate and maybe just replace one pump to do as a trial and if it works then replace the other ones. He recommended sending out a letter to the commercial facilities to make sure the staff are not flushing their cleaning rags. Attorney Coughlin recommended commercial facilities to get grinder pumps. Maintaining it may be the issue. He believes the pumps we have are obsolete. Commissioner Kie will update us once he talks with the gentleman coming to look at it.

CODE

- The second solar site is in the last phase and should be finishing up. No complaints have been made recently.
- BOCES – Officer Doyle commented that there is nothing we can do regarding the lights. He took pictures of all the lights on the building, and the lighting is all directed downward. Councilperson Exley commented that the light goes all the way out to Glenwood Rd. Officer Doyle was told the lights were on a timer 6:00 am to 10:00 pm so he will check it once again to make sure of the times that they have them set for. Most of the trees have been taken down so Commissioner Kie recommended that we request them to have trees be replanted in that area. Officer Doyle is going to check on the concerns.

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned by a motion from Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Burns at 6:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Evans
Town Clerk